

FMCS
School Council Meeting Agenda
January 14th, 2020
Staff Room at 6:30 pm

1.0 Call to Order: 6:38

1.1 In attendance:

Crystal Genier
Kelly Street
Stefanie Brown
Kim Brown
Shane Lloyd
Marc Beland
Annie Seabrooke
Ashlie Garrett
Glori-ann Oster

2.0 Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None

3.0 New Additions: None

4.0 Reports:

4.1 Teacher Report:

4.1.1 Teachers are doing the Lucy Calkins units of study in writing. Teachers are noticing improvement in the skill and the confidence of the kids.

4.1.2 Triple T testing has started. This will be the grade 1s first round of the year. Grade 2 and 3 were tested in the fall. Teachers will be able to compare the results.

4.1.3 February 21st is the FMCS Science Fair. Notes will be coming home soon.

4.2 Principals Report:

4.2.1 Bus Cancellations - Parents may have noticed that busses were cancelled Monday and not Tuesday even though temperatures were similar. There was a board meeting on Monday and the policy was adjusted to be less ambiguous. Busses are cancelled when the air temperature is -40 or colder or the temperature with wind chill is -48 or colder.

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- 4.2.2** Two Maternity Leaves had to be filled after Christmas - grade 1 and ECS. We were able to fill the grade 1 position with an external candidate - Ms. Kari Dalke. However we had to shuffle staff internally to cover ECS. Ms. Cabezas will teach the morning students and Mrs. Lowe will teach the afternoon class.
- 4.2.3** Grade 1 students are continuing to receive the George Georgiou Method of Instruction in reading. They are part of a research project. Teachers feel it is effective. Within this program, students who are struggling will have the opportunity to receive a daily small group intervention. This will begin in February. On January 31st staff members will be trained to provide intervention.

4.3 Trustee's Report

- 4.3.1** There was a board meeting yesterday. The school board is operating with a \$700,000 deficit due to funding cutbacks and insurance increases. The board is making every effort to not have this affect classrooms. One area of savings is in bus purchases. Usually 8 busses are purchased a year to account for the busses that need to be rotated out of service. This year they only rotated 4 out. As well the board dipped into their reserves.
- 4.3.2** There are concerns about the upcoming April budget. Bigger school divisions have already seen this impact classrooms.
- 4.3.3** Were insurance increases due to the fire? Marc Beland - The NDP government had frozen insurance premiums and the new government lifted that. Rates across Alberta have skyrocketed. Shane Lloyd asks if all of the insurance coverage is absolutely necessary? Marc says it is for the buildings, the busses ect. Alberta School Trustee Council has been reviewing this.
- 4.3.4** Another issue has been teacher salary negotiations. Historically divisions would negotiate salary however this is done centrally now. Now only

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periphery things like leaves are negotiated at the district level. The salary negotiations went to arbitration and teachers were given a 0% increase. The school board does not have much say over this. Marc states that he recognizes how hard teachers work. The board is also fighting for the northern living allowance. Teachers are the only provincial employees that do not receive it. Stefanie reiterates that that this may be part of the reason recruitment is so difficult. The board will be continuing to advocate for this at the Rural School Symposium at the end of the month.

4.3.5 Yesterday the board reviewed a report on fundraising across the division. Schools have raised over \$1 000 000 with 34% of it coming from High Level Schools. Shane Lloyd asks about the possibility of Casinos however Friends of Flomac (the fundraising group) have lost their status as a society and therefore can't apply. Shane is interested in exploring how we can make this viable again.

4.3.6 FMCS Community Consultation is at the end of the month. It is an excellent opportunity to provide input to the superintendent and the trustees.

4.3.6.1 Last year topics such as a 4 day school week was discussed. Shane Lloyd feels that it would offer excellent cost saving measures. It would also have improved quality of life for those have to travel out of the north. Marc discusses that much of the student population does not have the means to travel out. Ashlie discussed that it could reduce sub costs.

4.3.7 Next year's school calendar is being worked on. With labour day falling so late, it looks like the kids will be back in school before Labour Day.

4.4 Friends of FloMac Report:

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- 4.4.1 Tried a different approach for the Holiday Gift Store - used the same company as Spirit. Better quality merchandise. No upfront cost. All items not sold are returned.
- 4.4.2 Monday - Mable's Labels fundraiser begins. This is an online fundraiser that is shipped to customers.
- 4.4.3 No Candy grams - instead a Valentine Disco.
- 4.4.4 Potential Fundraiser in the spring - Heirloom Tomatoes and Coffee (both online and Canadian).

5.0 Date/Time of Next Meeting:

- 5.1.1 March 10th @ 6:30

6.0 Adjournment:

- 6.1.1 7:32pm