

Date: Tuesday April 23

Time: 7-8:30pm

Location: Fort McMurray Christian School

Present: Tunde O, Gayle N, Geoff B, Mary M, Jolene P, Colleen D, Elizabeth B, Oksana B (7:50pm), Julie B, Melissa W (online), Alanna H (Online), Clementina O (Online), Gloria (Online).

Regrets: Christine G

Chair: Mary Murley


Vice-Chair: Elizabeth Benner

Secretary: Colleen Dorchak

1. Welcome and Call to Order - Mary @7:34

2. Opening Prayer - Gayle Neil

3. Autism Awareness Month Presentation - Gayle Neil

- Reviewed the  April is Autism Acceptance Month presentation

Questions/Comments:

- Thanks for sharing this
- AHS has a new webinar series related to the 8 sensory systems. Elizabeth will share a link to Geoff who will send it out.

4. Education Plan - Geoff Bishop

- One of the biggest roles for School Council is to be advisory to the Principal.
- Have had conversations with teachers and this is what we are currently thinking/planning. We typically pick two things to focus on each year. (To be clear this is above and beyond the Christian Education aspect).
 - 1) Biggest thing being heard is that we want to keep literacy as a goal. There has been improvement, but still want to keep this a focus.
 - 2) Social Emotional Behavior Learning is the current umbrella of thought.
 - One part of this would be screen use:
 - There are large impacts for all ages that we are seeing with screens.
 - Cell phones have been a big issue in grades 5 and up. While they are not allowed, it's still an issue.
 - Need strategies and get parents on board with how to go about this.
 - Had a meeting with Johnathan Haidt from Let Grow. Talked about anxiety depression and suicide and how there is a high trend in these starting in 2012/2013, which is when cell phones became more popular. This company will provide a lot of the work for us and we just need to implement it.

- Basic premise - giving teachers homework to students where they do stuff at home. Want to help parents build resiliency.
 - Will be others under this umbrella.
- We need to collectively be on board with this so that it works.
- Geoff needs to have this finalized soon with all the wording right.
- Questions/Comment:
 - Would we also look at removing screens during lunch times and computer times?
 - This will be looked at also.
 - Is the internet at the schools regulated?
 - Yes.
 - A parent shared how they are sharing this information at their workplace and the impacts that screens have and how at the most kids should have 1 hour per day.
 - Is this something for all the grades?
 - yes

5. Short Mission Trip report - Geoff Bishop (7mins)

- Looking for 18k, still finalizing numbers but it looks like most if not all was fundraised.
- Kids did a good amount of prep work for the trip
- YWAM did a lot of work to make it memorable.
- Shared Video about the work done.
- Overall a very positive experience for everyone. We are looking to take our experience and continue the relationship with YWAM Fort McMurray.

6. FMPSD Report Cards

- switching from 3 to 2 reporting periods & report cards
- Because of Remind, Seesaw, Class Dojo and weekly emails it feels like the communication between teachers and parents are good.
- The goal would be for teachers to update Powerschool once a month for Elementary, send weekly emails and 1 other communication tool (Seesaw etc)

Questions/comments:

- Has this decision already been made?
 - Yes it was a division decision, not school.
- Report cards are still a challenge with the new 4 point scale of meeting/exceeding etc.
 - Its' going to take time to not for this transition to happen.
 - If parents have feedback/questions about the report cards please talk to the teachers about it, its important for the teachers to understand how the parents are reading the report cards.
 - Was this the first year of doing this?
 - Yes
 - If my kids went down in something, we are unsure if its the teachers reworking things, or they are actually not meeting things.

- 2 report cards might help because then you get to know the students better before the first report card.

7. Actions from Previous Meeting:

- register for next year, this is really important for how many classrooms and teachers we need.
- Currently projecting 316 kids, with a VP and ~14 ATA.

8. Important dates:

- April 29, Society Spring General Meeting, 7pm**
- May 29, Spring Christian Education Evening 7pm**
- June 5th will be Art and Culture night.**
 - i. Close to 40 ethnicities in the school, we want to highlight that.

9. Call to Adjourn - 8:58pm

10. Closing prayer - Mary