

NOTES

RMSS SCHOOL COUNCIL AGM - in person at Library

Tuesday, September 26th, 2023 at 7pm

MISSION: *Through a co-operative partnership, the school council will work through actively supporting staff, students, programs, school events, and the school division.*

Objectives of School Council:

- A) Support and enhance student learning
- B) Provide advice to our principal

Attendees:

Carly Evernden (parent)
Kennedy Lukan (teacher)
Natasha Kolibaba (teacher)
Stuart Adkins (parent)
Kris Herbert (principal)
Corey Hughes (trustee)
Murray Marran (Superintendent & CEO)
Joy McGregor (trustee)
Kyle Nichols (Communications officer)
Rosalina Lamason (parent)
Kathryn Adams (parent)
Marla Lee (parent)
Selina Noskiye (parent)

1. Call to order @ 7:02 pm
2. Welcome and introductions
3. Adoption of agenda
 - a. additional agenda items added by Trustee McGregor: 9) vaping; 10) cell phones; 11) volleyball

New Business:

- 1) **Superintendent's Address** (Mr. Murray Marran)
 - a. Accountability Pillar survey
 - b. Literacy & Numeracy goals
 - c. Obtaining a lot of data to make confident judgements in the future
 - d. Discussed post-pandemic reality and concerns
- 2) **Trustee's Message** (Joy McGregor & Corey Hughes)
 - a. Joy attended a national trustees conference in Banff over the summer, very beneficial
 - b. Alberta is in great shape in comparison to a lot of other provinces
 - c. Excited to welcome the new superintendent on board
 - d. Board is currently focused on governance and planning each month, visiting with the Minister of Ed. in October, meeting with various Ministers in November in Edmonton
 - e. Board meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2 pm
 - f. Looking at parental and community feedback
 - g. Reminder to reach out to trustees with questions or concerns (but also be aware of following the right channels before getting to the trustees)

- 3) **School Report** - what great things have been happening (Natasha Kolibaba & Kennedy Lukan)

Indigenous Education

1. Orange Shirt Day (September 29th for our school)
 - In honor of Truth and Reconciliation Day (September 30th)

Events Taking Place For Orange Shirt Day:

1. Morning announcements- Traditional honor song in replacement of O Canada & A small story on why we wear orange .
 2. *Optional* Walk during lunch hour to the Native Friendship Center (stew and bannock)
 3. *Optional ALL WEEK* Free virtual event during lunch hour (Lunch and Learn)
 4. Class sign up: Fire outside with an Elder and Smudging- not mandatory, but will be happening
 - Students and staff going will write a letter answering 4 questions and give them to Mrs. Gautier
 - 1 Minute of silence for Residential school victims & Optional smudge
2. Youth Council For Reconciliation *Poster*
 - First meeting was September 19th
 - Next meeting is October 3rd during lunch hour 11:30-12:30
- Goal:** *Awareness and promoting reconciliation among our school and students on Indigenous cultures.*
- Implement language across our school

- Create informational and awareness videos for our school
- Traditional beading and sewing classes
- Host events and fundraisers

Wellness

- Snack programs and classroom bins are being utilized and we are going through lots of snacks.
- This month's topic Community Resources and introductions to Wellness Program
- Grade 7 transition support presentations went well!
- Stress presentation delivered to CALM Class
- Rose Cantada Practicum student learning with Wellness.
- Volunteer Welcoming Committee established grades 7-12
- Monthly Mental Health Blitz happening tomorrow, September 27th
- World Suicide Prevention Day Bathroom Blitz
- Staff Wellness - Get to know you BINGO
- Food teachers are planning to meet with the Wellness team to make lunches that will be available in the cafeteria for students who need it.

Drama

- Junior High students (with support from HS Drama students) will be performing "Elf Jr" in December at the Legacy Centre.
- EGW have been invited to the dress rehearsal and the community will be invited to come and see the show
- Auditions have been done and the show cast. First rehearsal is Wednesday 27 September.

Fundraising for show:

- Drama students will be fundraising to cover the costs of putting on the show (costumes, props, etc)
- Also asking the community to purchase advertisements in the program as a donation.
- A chocolate drive is planned in conjunction with the sporting teams

Band

- We have 91 junior high students in band this semester, which is an amazing increase of students!
- At this time instrument use seems to be okay, but semester 2 might be tricky with having JR. and SR. high students both in band at the same time.

Band Performances:

- Performances are not scheduled yet
- winter concert, festival in May, and year-end performance at minimum.
- A calendar of band events will be created and shared with parents by October 18th.
- October 18th is the Roland Michener Music Support Society (RMMSS) meeting. At the meeting, dates will be announced and we will have an opportunity to appoint several vacant board positions.

Clubs

1. Sexuality and Gender Alliance (SAGA)

- up and running again in the next few weeks (just waiting for the weather to turn a bit as students prefer to be outside as long as they can)
- Our goal is to create a safe, welcoming space where all students are able to drop into and feel accepted.
- Donation from West Fraser that will help fund some fun activities which will be open to all students (last year we had a colouring contest, a Halloween party at lunch, and an ornament decorating challenge)
- Hoping to host some guest speakers to speak with the group on topics they are interested in learning more about.

2. Dungeons and Dragons Club

- First Meeting: was on Thursday Sept. 21.
- There were 8 students which is quite a bit less than last year's start up but this might be due to the BBQ and awards night being on the same day.

Athletics

Sr. High Volleyball

- 1 boys team, 2 sr high girls teams
- Tournaments in October / November

Jr. High Volleyball

- Girls team up and running

Cross Country Running

- Tryouts happening currently

Football

- Currently ongoing
- Practicing lots after school

Basketball

- Jr and Sr beginning in November

Curling

Beginning in October once we get thumbs up with ice and booking times.

4) **Election of New Executive:** All positions are open.

- Chair - Carley Evernden (nominated and accepted)
 - Vice-Chair - Kathryn Adams (nominated and accepted)
 - Secretary - Marla Lee (nominated and accepted)
- Stewart Adkins brought up needing to get school council information shared with parents better

- 5) **RMSS Attendance Policy - review**
 - a. Kris shared the school policy
 - b. Explained that coming out of Covid 2 years ago there was a need to make a solid policy for staff, students and parents
 - c. Kris wants school council to be aware of this policy and its importance because our goal is to have students in the building
 - d. Parents raised a concern about robocalls and their accuracy. Explained they go out 2x per day. If a student arrives late, it's not always changed to present. Sometimes there are errors or a teacher hasn't had time to fix attendance after a student enters in the middle of a lesson.
 - e. Carley asked about students that miss a significant amount of school and what happens with them. Kris explained there are different types of absences.
 - f. Joy brought up concerns with late students that she has noticed when she is present at RMSS. Asked some questions:
 - i. what are the consequences if a student is late?
 - ii. are students allowed to go into class if they are late?
 - iii. teachers shouldn't have to catch up students for walking in late
 - iv. RMSS should have a late policy
 - v. suggested that if students are more than 10 minutes late, they should have to go to an alternative location to learn, can't enter class after a certain amount of time
 - vi. do we have a formula for something like 3 lates = an absence or 3 lates and loss of a lunch hour?
 - Each item was discussed and clarified that we do have a late policy within the attendance policy but we will firm that up and discuss ideas shared at this meeting.
 - Once these items are reviewed and edited, we will share with Kyle to share with the school community
 - Discussed increasing the frequency of robocalls
 - Discussed possible consequences and what could be implemented with the resources we have?
- 6) **RMSS Student Code of Conduct - review**
 - a. Kris brought forward the Code of Conduct for review & discussion
 - b. School plans to update this with staff and students, put it in line with our RAMS values
 - c. Discussed definition of bullying, versus mean versus rude
 - d. Question about involving student council in this process, ask SH students questions in their classes (assembly wouldn't give very accurate or open answers)
- 7) **New bus lane, parking and drop off zones - feedback**
 - a. Murray brought up holding buses until a certain time before they can depart to alleviate some of the safety issues
 - b. Discussed going back to 1 way traffic around the school and reopening gate at the back
 - c. There will be a future meeting between school and transportation department to revise bus pick and drop off
- 8) **Vaping:**
 - a. Trustee McGregor asked if there are consequences for Vaping?
 - b. Kris reported we have zero tolerance for vaping as per the Admin Procedure 173
 - c. Shared Holy Family news article and how they've eliminated the issue of vaping in their schools with vape detectors
 - d. Board is looking into this for all of our schools
 - e. Parent question re: education around addictions and trauma, yes this is a part of our health and CALM curriculum
- 9) **Cell phones**
 - a. Trustee McGregor shared her concerns with students using their phones during class time, has observed this while doing presentations in classrooms, some rooms have strict policies, some do not, it is a major distraction, parents are also an issue because they are sending messages or calling during class time
 - b. Trustee McGregor said the board is considering a division wide policy
 - c. Asked about RMSS cell phone policy and consequences, Kris shared RMSS Handbook with Cell Phone and Electronics policy
 - d. Discussion re: updating this policy, too many steps and gives students too many chances
 - e. Kris will bring this back to the staff for feedback and update
 - f. Murray suggested this be done expediently
- 10) **Volleyball**
 - a. Trustee McGregor contacted by parents concerned about players chosen for the volleyball team
 - b. 39 students tried out, many disappointed girls
 - c. Trustee McGregor asked if we can prevent students who play outside of school from participating on school teams?
 - i. we are not allowed to prohibit certain students from playing because they have a higher skill level and more opportunities
 - ii. there were multiple adults/staff/coaches who were a part of the team selection process and due diligence was followed (there was no favouritism)
 - iii. students playing ASAA can not play on a private league team at the same time (it doesn't start until after school volleyball season is over)
 - iv. an extra varsity team was creating to allow for more students to participate (so approx. 30 of 39 students are participating)
- 11) **Set meeting dates for the year**
 - a. last Tuesday of every month (except Oct. 24 because the last Tuesday would be Halloween)
 - b. Meetings will be online for cold months (January, February, March)
 - c. In person October, November, April, May

Additions for October Agenda: not discussed

Next Meeting: Oct. 24, 2023 @ 7 pm

Adjournment: 9:47 pm