

West St. Paul Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 15th, 2014

Attendance:

Cathy Horbas, Kim Winzoski, April Bertrand, Cheryl Rafur, Don & Shannon Petrie, Audrey Balgobin, Pearl Tomchuk, Lisa Davis, Shauna Poloway, Crystal Spence, Elana Spence, Donna Sokol, Sharon Church, Wendy Nachtigall, Carrie Azaransky, J. Carpenter, , Bryan & Kristin Buchalter, L. Yeo, Carrie Tanchak, Jean Foster, Dino Busceti, Joan ne Fadden , Rob Ens and Special Guest Brian O’Leary (Superintendent)

Call to Order and Greetings:

Meeting called to order by Elana Spence at 7:10 p.m.

- Elana Spence welcomed Brian O’Leary Superintendent of Seven Oaks School Division to our meeting.

Adoption of the Agenda:

Motion made by Crystal Spence, 2nd by Lisa Davis, Motion carried.

Adoption of the Minutes from February 11, 2014:

Motion made by Crystal Spence 2nd by Shauna Poloway. Motion carried.

Question and Answer with Brian O’Leary Superintendent Seven Oaks School Division

- Brian O’Leary acknowledged and recognized that families at West St Paul are feeling anxiety over the announcement that both David Ingram (already gone) and Cathy Horbas will not be back next year.
- He reinforced the plan had never been for West St Paul to lose both administrators in one year, but with shifts in the school division and career opportunities the decision was made that West St Paul will have new administration next year.
- Brian O’Leary posed the question to the group “What do you value in selecting administrators?”

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- He explained that when choosing administrators they look for individuals with different skill sets such as different teaching backgrounds, past experiences that will complement each other and the school
- Wendy Nachtigall asked if it was possible to have either the new Principal or Vice Principal shadow for the rest of this year to get a feel for the school and “how things run”
- Brian O’Leary and Cathy Horbas reinforced there will be minimal staff (teacher) turn over next year, so the new administrators will transition in following the teachers/students existing philosophy to provide continuity for the kids.
- Brian O’Leary also asked “What are we looking for?”
 - Points brought forward by parents included:
 - Someone aware of the wide age range of kids attending West St Paul, K-8.
 - Someone willing to acknowledge challenges we are facing and continue to look to solutions. (overcrowding, poor drainage)
 - Someone wanting to pick up and continue working with the PAC group with current project for play space development.
- Brian O’Leary shared future planning for the area includes 2nd Early Years school in Riverbend area in 2016 and a site for future school development in West St Paul.
- Dino Buseti pointed out he felt kids are resilient and will adapt, we need to keep communication a priority and it’s very important to keep staff aligned with current values we find important.
- Brian Buchalter expressed concern about the safety of the kids as Cathy Horbas and David Ingram know every child and what bus, which is going where and what kids use West St Paul as transfer point for bussing and this will be lacking as new administrators transition into to school.
- Wendy Nachitgall discussed importance of Parent involvement and the need to have someone engaged and wanting to participate.
- Jean Foster spoke of transparency; acknowledging what is being done well and acknowledging what is not and willing to make a plan for change.
- Kristin Buchalter who was a student from the “past” reinforced that West St Paul has been through transitions in the past and have upheld the values we all feel are important

Administrative Report:

Cathy Horbas reported:

- Introduction of Robert Ens, Vice Principal
- Baby Sitting Course is on. We don’t know the dates yet, but will let the Grade 6’s know when that is.
 - 4 hour course with written test requiring 80% pass mark
 - work experience/signed off then they receive their certificates

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- Safe and Caring Schools Presentation – what’s important to kids about being at West St. Paul School is:
 - Power of Being a Girl
 - Day of Pink
 - UNESCO Schools
 - Having an adult that you can go to. . . one you trust and know that you will be listened to.
 - Roots of Empathy
 - Babysitting Course
 - Buddies
 - Middle Years Camp
 - Take Care of Yourself, Take Care of Each Other, Take Care of this Place
- Spring Band Concert with guest performers Grades 2 & 3 students
- Grade 5’s to Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra/ Grade 5 Arts Camp
- Grade 4’s – last class to take swimming lessons is going on Thursdays
 - Divisional Science Camp
- Badminton, Marathon Club, Intramural Soccer, Slow Pitch. Cross Country, Track and Field
- UNESCO Schools Conference – Grade 4 students presenting- May 2
 - Middle Years Day with St. Emile School
- Staffing Update – few changes as per Brian O’Leary
- School PD Plans. – April 25 – Supporting Anxious Children; Using Google Sketch and Microsoft Excel in Math: Adolescent Literacy Summit.
 - May 9 Kevin Lamoureux is coming to speak about Aboriginal Perspectives in Education and the new Seven Oaks Aboriginal Education Policy.
 - May 12: Elder Mary Courchaine will be coming to share her experience as a residential school survivor and how that fits in with our curriculum. School Planning will be on the afternoon of that day.

Financial Report:

- Don Petrie reported he would like to go paperless. Next year he will bring reports and share on smart board
- Request that all receipts be in by June 15, 2014.

Hot Lunch:

- Decreased number of orders this time
- Kim Winozski is looking at forms and will pick top 3-4 ordered item
- Dino Buesti questioned whether we had reached saturation and kids were not interested.
- Brian Buchalter pointed out that “previous” cater is available, Kim Winozski aware and has received an email from them

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Fundraising:

- Looking for volunteer for booking tables at craft sale for next year, need someone by May to start process.
 - Role includes once date determined, ask for tables and chairs for the event.
 - Send letters out in June/July.

QSP:

- No new report. Balance \$0

Play Space Report:

- Draft drawings brought to meeting today.
- Cathy Horbas and Crystal Spence met with CeCe MacIntosh before spring break
 - 3 meetings to date (\$15 hr.)
- Dan Garcia offered fill and assistance with building and developing the “hill”
- West St Paul offered \$1000 contribution towards play space project, Lisa confirming donation of shelter
- Cathy Horbas checking with Municipality if they still require baseball and soccer fields located at school, both will need to be regarded
- Crystal Spence and Lisa Davis are meeting with Safety Inspector for playgrounds
- Lisa Davis was in contact with YMCA afterschool program as they also utilize the play space, waiting to hear back
- A presentation now needs to be done to School Board for funding
- A BIG THANK YOU to everyone involved in this process. Our kids will reap the benefits.

Other:

- Advertising on AGM in May newsletter.
 - Call for nominations will also be included in newsletter.
- PAC to make recommendation to school on company for school pictures next year.
 - Elana Spence presented both companies with question sheet that was circulated amongst group, discussion occurred regarding both companies
 - Suggestion of secret vote be done to avoid possible bias. Same occurred with the results of 16:1 to recommend Rd photo Corp to take school for next year

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- Cathy Horbas suggested we stay with planned company for yearbooks this year and can revisit changing companies next year if we would like to try someone new
- Concern expressed about parent notification when kids are going to be leaving the school, it seems that notes on the outing to the play did not go out for a few classes.
 - Importance of notification to be reviewed with staff noted that grade 4/5 was on school calendar and grade 2/3 had notes go home
- Teacher appreciation will be on May 9/14
 - Sharon Church and Wendy Nachtigall will take lead on organizing with cookie invitations for all staff
 - Sharon Church has been taking photos throughout year to put together slide show
 - Question asked “Should we be making a memory video for Cathy Horbas and David Ingram to take with them?”
 - Brian Buchalter will make a disc honoring Cathy Horbas and David Ingram with photos, videos and interviews with some of the kids to be shown at luncheon

Next Meeting:

- **AGM May 13th, 2014** with child care provided.

Adjournment:

- A motion was made by Sharon Church and 2nd Don Petrie to adjourn the meeting at 9 p.m. – motion carried.