



Boundary Community School Association (BCSA)

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

Minutes of Meeting

February 27 2018

Attendees

Gillian Paton (Chair)	Sara Lockhart
Claire Ferrier (Vice Chair)	Angie Howden-Duke
Erin Holtz (Secretary)	Claire Arnold
Tim MacLeod (Principal)	Tina Szykowski
Jeeniece Chand (Vice Principal)	Karen Tinto

The Meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

A quorum was not declared.

Motion to accept the January 23, 2018 – Gillian Paton

First – Tina Szykowski

Second – Claire Arnold

Passed

Motion to approve the Agenda – Gillian Paton

First – Claire Arnold

Second – Claire Ferrier

Passed

Principal's Report (Tim MacLeod)

It's been a busy month with many happenings.

Some of the big events at the school:

Last year, the NV School District put out the Engagement Survey to employees and produced an in-depth report. Schools were asked to identify 2 'areas of action' on which to improve our working conditions. Some schools did not buy into this initiative, but Boundary staff were ready to participate. I received the results and went over it in detail to see if we were deficient in areas where we could improve.

Our staff identified Resources and Morale as two areas for improvement. We re-surveyed staff at the beginning of this year as we had new staff who had not had a chance to supply their input. Conducting this follow-up survey was a great action item, as it brought our staff together and helped foster higher morale. To address the topic of improving resources, we need to look into how to acquire resources to support the new redesigned curriculum. Items we are looking at include P.E. equipment, or resources for language arts. We are doing an inventory to see what we need to support the new curriculum.

Part of our school plan is to look at our math curriculum. We have done the DIBELS math assessment test this year and last year to assist in evaluating how our students are doing in math.

Part of our engagement survey was the Kindness Project. Cards were recently sent home to provide more information on this project. We are grouping classes together to allow teachers to have collaborative time while Jeeniece and I take the students. We focus on a pro-active approach to being kind, which includes suggesting to the kids that things like inviting friends to play, doing good deeds, etc. are ways they can show kindness to others. We also discuss bullying but our focus is teaching positive language and kindness to each other. We extended this to teach the kids 13 areas of kindness, which is a checklist they can refer to help them find ways to be kind. When they check off a box, they get to keep track of this and they are

positively identified and celebrated within the school. All our classes are using the Second Step program to enhance the Kindness Project.

We finished our Jump-Rope for Heart program that happened this month. Our focus was on heart health and physical activity, although there is a fundraising aspect to this program as well. The school has undertaken other fundraising projects such as the Terry Fox run, so for this project our focus was on the health aspect.

Tomorrow is Pink Shirt Day, we are having an assembly and parents may attend.

Triple Ball is wrapping up tomorrow and this was a great success.

Thank you to the PAC for Movie Night, it went really well and the formula is working. The kids had a lot of fun.

We had Duffle Bag Theatre on a version of Cinderella, partially in French and it involved some student actors from our school. This was funded by the PAC fundraiser, so thank you very much for the support.

Snow removal continues to be a problem but after this weekend's storm we hope this is the end of the snow!

Report cards and Parent-Teacher conferences are coming soon.

The Grade 4 students are heading for Outdoor School soon. Grade 3 went to a 1-day program at Outdoor School recently. These programs are voluntary for our staff and it can be hard for our teachers to leave their homes for several days to support these. With our Grade 3-4 split classrooms, our teachers are responsible for 2 sessions. The Grade 3s are not all ready for Big House; in the past it was overnight for Grade 4, but with the new curriculum this has been shuffled to Grade 3 now, so we did a 1-day program with no overnight this year. The teachers volunteer their time to make this happen but it can be a lot to ask to have overnight trips. The teachers learned that the 1-day was more similar to a field trip, but we will continue to look at options for Big House.

Today we had our Lockdown Drill, a scheduled event for the school. Our kids did really well and I was very pleased. In a Lockdown Drill, we explain to the kids what we're going to do, what the students do, what the teachers do, what language the Principal will do. We tell them its part of our Safety Plan, as with fire drills or earthquake drills.

Our grade 7s are in the transition process to Argyle. The transition includes learning how to use their lockers, getting the kids comfortable with how high schools work.

The Superintendent visited last week, classroom visits included Strong Start and French immersion.

We need a parent to participate in our School Plan Committee. This isn't a huge commitment but it would be very helpful to have a parent's input and include their perspective on the School Plan. We're asking for them to attend a few meetings in April. We are looking to share how far we have come with our school plan and we'd like to evaluate where we are right now and how we'd like to move forward next year as we enter full implementation. It is an evening meeting and will most likely happen in April. The meeting would be 4-7pm and dinner will be provided. There may be some follow up meetings after this dinner meeting, likely during the daytime on school hours. The total commitment would be about 5 hours for the total meetings time. Teachers, the administrators and staff are also on the committee for the school plan, and we would like a voice from each of the stakeholder groups in our school for balance. Our school plan is meshing well with our employee engagement plan. We have been getting student feedback through classroom surveys.

Chair's Report (Gillian Paton)

Movie Night was a success.

We've been meeting to discuss the front of the school in terms of look and function with the landscaping, etc. Some of the property is DNV and some is school property, each with different requirements to make any changes to that part of the property, such as having architects and permits, which is costly. We're just

going to address the school property only and on a smaller scale, but with developing a design that is still functional.

The Parent Social is being planned. The request for classroom baskets will go out next week; we'll be looking for volunteers for the classroom basket organization.

Carnival planning has started.

Our Hot Lunch totals for Fall and Winter terms are here for review. We're starting a Food Safe course for any volunteers who will be assisting with the Hot Lunch program in the next few weeks. One of our parents is a Health Inspector who has volunteered to run this course. We can have approximately 20-25 attendees, free of cost to our parents. The course is approximately 1 full day, likely to happen on a Saturday in the next few weeks, hopefully before Spring Break.

Other Business

Sara Lockhart:

I connected with Gillian to propose a fundraising opportunity. My idea is an Earthquake Kit, which we would make available for purchase to school families with a kickback to the school. I have contact with a supplier to come up with some different kit styles and pricing. The Earthquake Kit supplier can order packages online depending on your family size, and there are different packages, with an average for a family costing approximately \$200. The kickback to the school from this supplier is better than suppliers from previous years. Each premium kit sale will return \$50 to the school. This stands to be a good fundraising opportunity for Boundary. The options to order are done online. We need to provide a location where the general orders can be delivered, and each delivery will have the family's name on the kit.

I was recently doing some reading online to see how fundraising dollars are distributed and I learned about how schools in Canada support students with ADHD. Some schools provide stationary bikes to students in the classroom to support them. There is also a growing trend to bring these into more classrooms. There are many logistical issues such as where the bikes are located, how will they be monitored. One particular model costs approximately \$300. The feedback from schools that have implemented these have reported positive outcomes for students' learning abilities. I'm not sure what other options have been explored in the past such as fidget spinners, cushions, etc.

Tim MacLeod (Principal):

What I know from liaising with the schools in this District is that some have bikes, including bike-desks. I am not aware of how the schools obtained them and if they're used or what the feedback is on their effectiveness, but I will reach out to my contacts and try to learn more. We have other avenues and tools to help support students such as wobble stools, tension bands. Sometimes they're a distraction but often it's specific to the student, the classroom environment, and what works in that particular situation. I will reach out to Ms. Lipp to speak to her about this initiative and put her in touch with Sara for further follow-up.

There was no further business and the Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

/EH 2018-03-06