

DRBS School Council Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:49pm.

Attendees

Jacqui Lund	Tessa Ethier
Nick Berdusco	Allyson Evans
Miguel Urrutia	Jeff Rosewarn
Mitra Zare	Laverne Mok
Chris Kozelj	Natasha Monk
Vladimir Deriabine	Chris Kozecj
Andrea Suarez	<u>Online</u>
Diana Lasso	Stephanie Mayson
Evelyne Lamontagne	Karen Wolton
Kim Howden	

Land acknowledgement given by Mr. Rosewarn.

Motion to approve January 16, 2023 School Council Meeting Minutes made by Jacqui Lund. Seconded by Andrea Suarez. Motion carried.

Motion to approve agenda for this meeting made by Jacqui Lund. Seconded by Chris Kozecj. Motion carried.

Grade 6 Teachers Presentation by Tessa Ethier, Allyson Evans, and Jeff Rosewarn.

Discussion about teaching math. Students are taught that there is more than just finding the right answer, it is important to explore how to think about the question and why things are as they are. Teachers work on encouraging other perspectives and having students explain why they have answered the way they have.

Grades 5 and 6 just started literacy groups like the rest of the school with classes splitting in half to do literacy groups and physical education at the same time.

Grade 6 students are learning about human impacts on habitats through their zoo project.

They are also doing a program called Inspiration Nation where kids get to be a teacher for a day teaching their unique skills to other students. The activity teaches community, responsibility, etc. as they practice communication and prepare for their lessons. Some examples are crocheting, piano, lacrosse, language, and baking cupcakes.

Students do Walking Wednesday weekly through the ravine to start the day.

In science they are learning aerodynamics.

Students are also working on narrative writing and research related to their zoo project.

In math students are learning algebra. The students sometimes work collaboratively on “vertical wall math”, learning from each other and communicating.

In social studies they are studying government and democracy.

The grade 6 teachers post updates on Instagram: [drbs_grade6_23.24](#)

Elderly Shirley has also come in and worked with the combined grade 6 class.

At a recent assembly 2 artists visited and had a question and answer period with the kids who were very engaged.

Upcoming events include outdoor school on May 6th – 9th at Camp Chief Hector (both grade 5 and 6), and Provincial Achievement Test’s in May and June. The tests are digital this year for the first time. Vincent Massey School will send a group to meet the students next week to discuss junior high and the transition from elementary school.

Principal’s Update

School Planning 2024

A survey will be sent out to the school community soon, this is a primer.

The school has received projections for next year of 605 students vs 594 this year. This equals 108% capacity, which is lower than many others at 120%+.

The School Development Plan is used to guide ongoing school performance assessment. Staff identify strengths and gaps then build a plan for how to address the gaps going forward. School performance data drives the decisions. The plan includes learning strategies, residencies, staffing, etc.

DRBS currently has 3 goals for the school: literacy, wellbeing, math.

Literacy: Teachers are using research driven systematic learning and teaching. There is a focus on decolonizing literacy, really incorporating the various types, styles, and perspectives on literacy at the school.

Literacy evaluations are good, 75-80 % of students have 3 or 4 in reading and the same for writing. The staff are working with those students who scored lower.

Math: Teachers are working on conceptual understanding.

85% of students are at a 3 or 4. A few kids are struggling but staff is working with them.

Q – Are results compared year over year? The results are close but they focus more on the progression of individual students over the year because different classes in different years have more variables.

Well-being: The focus is on diversity and inclusion overall, then well-being will improve and students will feel more belonging and connection.

Grades 4-6 are surveyed in October and May. In October 70% - 80% of students felt a positive sense of belonging. Broken out the grade 6 students reported lower scores, approximately 70%.

Q - Why are grade 6 students reporting lower scores? It's a transition year and the students can become more cliquey. Lots of variables and considerations and staff don't have a strong understanding of why this is.

DRBS scores are above the Canadian averages, and grade 6 students report lower scores across Canada too.

Q - What types of questions are on the survey? It's a longer survey with many questions designed to tease out nuanced results. Grade 6 students have a different, secondary survey.

School Budget

School received \$3,707,449 to operate the school. At least 75% has to cover teaching staff as per CBE policy.

Discussion of the school budget and the funding formula used to determine school funding.

Funding is both per student and there is a per school funding allocation determined by equity factors.

The school has 21.2 FTE teachers, 4.6 FTE admin staff, which includes the learning leaders who have teaching duties, leaving 0.6 FTE dedicated to administration. 3.9 FTE support staff including lunchroom supervisors, secretary, librarian, etc. as of September 30.

The school added 1.1 FTE teachers since then. 0.3 -0.4 FTE admin staff was also added. There are about 64 people across all FTE. The staffing total is \$3.5M, over 95% of the school budget. The school can have specialists like the learning leaders because the school is full so there is enough money to support the staff.

\$173.5K is budgeted for supplies/other. This includes art supplies, music supplies, notebooks, photocopying, utilities, interpretation, etc.

The school will consult with families about the proposed activities and the associated costs for next year. Watch for the school survey.

Fees cover class field trips like the upcoming Grade 3 trip to Drumheller. Other trips include the science centre, landfill, etc. The school tries to have 3 such activities for each class.

Fees also cover a portion of residencies with the majority covered by School Council. This year's residencies include Elder Shirley, Fitset Ninja in June (note: this will occur indoors and outdoors, with priority for outdoors), Clay for Kids, Mobile Escape, and Lana Skaug. Residencies have gone well this year.

Evelyn presented school fees from last year. The school ended with a \$440 shortfall due to some unpaid fees. Trips are booked in advance, so parents are charged even if their students don't attend.

Q - With inflation does the budget go up? The fees charged to parents do because the field trip costs have gone up and vendors are charging more. The school operating budget depends on the Government budget and CBE decisions.

Feedback is important. The school will send out the survey in the next week or so to all families to gather feedback on fees, the school development plan (available on the school website for reference), communications methods for school information, and activities and their costs.

This information is important for the school staff to understand how they're doing and how families feel about everything going on at the school. The survey will be open for 2 weeks from the go live date.

The results will be presented at the next school council meeting.

The next school development plan will be posted November 20, 2024.

Thank you in advance for your participation in the survey.

Q - Is the budget information public? Yes, it's on the website with parent fees too. The website is being redeveloped so all schools will have the information in the same place soon.

May 28th is the date for the school pancake breakfast.

Chair Update

We still need a virtual meeting coordinator and yearbook coordinator. Please contact Jacqui Lund if you are interested.

Vice Chair Update

No update.

Secretary Update

No update.

Volunteer Coordinator Update

The bookfair is in March, likely the week of March 18th. Laverne is determining dates and times with the school. We will need volunteers and details will be shared soon.

Council will also support staff appreciation meals during parent teacher conferences as usual, this will need volunteers as well.

Communications Coordinator Update

No update.

Work Bee Coordinator Update

No update.

Hug n' Go Coordinator Update

The team needs to replace the flags with something else as most are broken. The cost is \$500-700 per flag. Miguel is looking at sandwich boards similar to what is used in the parking lot. Guardian Angel School also uses the boards and they are more durable. The cost is estimated at \$180 per board and 1 is needed for Hug n Go and 1 for the bus loop. The team is still working on what information to put on the boards. Illegal parking in the morning is still an issue so the rules of Hug n' Go might be good to put on the boards. Perhaps they could also include a QR code linking to the Hug n' Go videos online. There is also a possibility of getting students involved in the design of the boards.

Yearbook Coordinator Update

No update.

Virtual Meeting Organizer and Moderator Update

No update.

Fundraising Coordinator Update

No update.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.