



MINUTES OF THE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE PARKLAND SCHOOL DIVISION CENTRE FOR
EDUCATION IN STONY PLAIN, ALBERTA ON 15 MARCH 2011

ATTENDANCE:

Student Representatives from:

Blueberry, École Broxton Park, Duffield, Entwistle, Graminia, Greystone Centennial Middle School, Memorial Composite, École Meridian Heights, Muir Lake, Spruce Grove Composite, Stony Plain Central, Tomahawk, Wabamun, Woodhaven

Irene Goebel, Trustee and Co-Chair of Student Advisory Committee

Richard Gilchrist, Board Chair

Dorcas Kilduff, Trustee

Ron Heinrichs, Trustee

Elsie Kinsey, Vice-Chair

Eric Cameron, Trustee

Kelly Wilkins, Deputy Superintendent

Bob Bruce, Principal, Blueberry School

Sharon Smith, Teacher, Duffield School

Darlene Marcinkevics, Acting Principal, Spruce Grove Composite

Christine Janewski, Principal, Wabamun School

Shauna Boyce, Acting Principal, Memorial Composite High School

David Bridgeman, Principal, Entwistle School

Carolyn Cameron, Principal, Greystone School

Bill Sykes, Principal, École Meridian Heights School

Donna Waterman, Principal, Stony Plain Central

Scott Johnson, Principal, Tomahawk School

Regrets:

Kathleen Linder, Trustee

Tim Monds, Superintendent of Schools

Emilie Keane, Acting Associate Superintendent

Ben Beil, Associate Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Goebel at 9:05 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting began with the singing of 'O Canada'. Trustee Goebel extended regrets from Co-chair Christie Kobailko, Superintendent Monds, Trustee Linder and guest MLA Doug Horner, who were unable to attend today's meeting.

Trustee Goebel provided information on "Encounter with Canada"; a program that offers students ages 14-17 the opportunity to participate in a week long program in Ottawa during the summer. Interested students are encouraged to collect registration information.

TEAM BUILDING

Participants were lead through a Team Building activity call "Snowball Fight".

Participants wrote a question to learn something about a person. The papers were scrunched up and tossed at each other in a "snowball fight". Each participant ended with a "snowball" which gave him/her a question to answer.

SPEAK OUT

Ms Marcinkevics and Ms. Boyce provided a summary of results from the Speak Out forum that students participated in November 2010. They shared statistics, data and information that was gathered from Parkland School Division students. Students were then asked to provide feedback on four questions:

- 1) What motivates you to attend school?
- 2) Why did only 14% of the students at the forum, report that they were involved in extracurricular activities?
- 3) What would be some reasons for 58% of the students at the forum reporting that they are not doing any homework?
- 4) What does flexibility in learning “look like”?

EDUCATION PLAN

Trustee Goebel provided students with information on Parkland School Divisions Education Plan and the Goals and Strategies that the school division and schools work with to develop their Three Year Education Plans. Students were broken into groups and given the opportunity to review the goals and strategies and offer feedback using the “Titanpad” program. Students used the Satisfaction Survey results, Accomplishments and Trends and Issues, Goals – Outcomes – Strategies as resources for this activity. See attached sheet for comments.

SYSTEM REVIEW

Chair Gilchrist gave an overview of the System Review and a summary of the Open Houses that have been held to date. Students were asked to review the storyboards and provide feedback.

LAST WORD – STUDENT COMMENTS

Trustee Goebel asked students to share their comments from the morning’s meeting.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Trustee Goebel, thanked all participants for attending the meeting. The next Student Advisory Committee meeting will be held at Memorial Composite High School. The Board of Trustees will host a BBQ lunch at the May 17, 2011 meeting and students will be asked to bring a student guest in the hopes of increasing interest in the Committee and in beginning to think about transitioning school representatives for next year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**Student Advisory Committee Meeting
15 March 2011**

EDUCATION PLAN

What can we do to increase success relative to the goal and outcomes you have discussed?

- Greystone has a blog.
 - Blogs can help get information to parents faster.
 - We don't use enough technology.
 - We could do more projects involving laptops/online learning.
 - Treat FNMI students like normal students.
 - Don't be prejudice.
 - Be welcoming.
 - Befriend them.
 - Take an interest in their culture.
 - (Goal 3) adapt teaching methods for their home situations, like if a student wasn't able to provide for a poster project or such.
 - More active learning within classes.
 - More one on one time with smaller classes.
 - No split classes they're too confusing for work.
 - All schools should have equal technology ex. Meridian Heights lacks in smart boards and no –laptops
 - Teachers should be educated with their technology
 - Students need to use technology because our world is advancing and some students are being left behind
 - Dropout rates are lower and the return rate is the highest it has ever been in the past five years because you now NEED a high school diploma to get anywhere in life
 - More people realize that they need to complete high school; the five-year high school completion rate is at its highest it's been for the past five years. It jumped 5 percent in one year.
 - Smaller classes, because then the teacher would get more one on one time with the students.
 - More demonstrations, because it would make more sense if the teacher explained it to you than if you had to read it out of a text book.
 - One of the outcomes that is hoped to be achieved by goal two is "students are well prepared for employment" to achieve that outcome the curriculum needs to be more related to employment and getting students ready not just for post secondary schooling but also for the workforce.
 - Studying and Review sessions before tests, fun, and interactive reviews such as jeopardy. Improving class learning by changing the classroom environment. Encouragement. Flexible learning throughout the year. Someone new to help you to prepare instead of having the same person all the time. School should start later in the day to optimize learning ability. Online blog for test schedules between teachers. Longer breaks during school. NAP TIME. Comfy Chairs.
- **What other suggestions do you have for the Board of Trustees?**
- Smaller classes provide the opportunity for you to learn at your own speed.
 - Teachers help you when you miss time, can't skip to much class because it takes up teachers time to help you catch up and the other student's time.
 - If you miss too much class time you can use breaks for catch up instead of wasting other students and teachers time.
 - Students should take more responsibility to keep up to date with their work especially when they know they are going to miss class time, so they don't take up the teacher's time.
 - Make class work more interesting so the students not paying attention will get more involved.

- Don't stop social networking in schools, but when students need to pay attention they cannot be on it.
- More technology at schools and equal technology
- More student's participation
- Games
- Discussions
- Debates
- More teacher participation
- Teachers need to dress more professionally
- The curriculum shouldn't just focus on getting us to do the work. It should be teaching us good study habits and focus on ensuring we have good study habits before we get pushed into all the work otherwise students will just get behind.