

Ecole Joe Clark School
Parent Council Meeting – meeting held via Google Meets
January 12, 2021 – 6:30 pm

Attendance: Sarah Clark, Christy Crowe, Michelle Slywka, Larry Albrecht, Shelley Zorn, Adrienne Lockton, Caley Jackson, Tricia Derakhshan, Nicole Wurz, Stephanie Burgess, Jenn Murray, April Hutchinson, Nikki Hamilton, Sarah Lee, Jenny Jones

Special Presentation from Shelley Zorn: Divisional French Services Facilitator

- three pillars: engagement, support and success for each learner
- parents carry curiosity and embrace the shift in education
- rich collaboration builds collective efficacy
- the overarching question for professional development in FSD: How do we best ensure meaningful transfer to life occurs through the way we plan for learning?
- Professional learning has been organized with a fall learning conference, collaborative mornings, lead teacher groups, and cohorts for new teachers, on line learning, and grade level groups.
- Additionally, there are design camps that teachers may join to support their practice including: literacy, numeracy, French immersion, foundations of First Nations, Metis and Inuit education, student wellness, inclusive education, career and technical studies -all are groups that allow for collaboration
- each school's plans connect to FSD plans
- Shelley shared with us the divisional leadership roles, and the good news that French immersion numbers in the division are up to 654 students from 639 last year.

*Shelley also said that our school council had the most participation of any meetings she has been to thus far! 😊 Shelley's Infographic is attached!

2. Jenn Murray approved December's minutes, Tricia D seconds

3. Additions to the agenda: Staff Wellness and Custodian Appreciation

Trustee Report: Larry Albrecht

- Milestones Celebrations and retirees were celebrated in November
- Dec 21, 2020 -FSD and AHS presented around Covid including a panel of four doctors: Dr. Hu, Dr. Vyse, Dr. Hatchett, and Dr. Lui. This was a very well-done presentation, but perhaps not as well advertised as it could be. Thus, another, more local presentation has been organized for our school council on Feb 9. Additionally, there is a second presentation on February 1. The COSC meeting will be opened up to all parents at 6:30pm. There is a Facebook page that parents can submit questions leading up to this presentation.
- considering the massive increase in insurance costs for FSD, the government has allocated \$869 000 as a one time payment for relief of these costs. That leaves still \$400 000 still owing to cover the cost of the insurance. FSD is lobbying to have this reduced and reviewed.
- Kevin Newman and Fawna Bews presented about mental wellness to the board.
- A change in policy has permitted that you can file your intention to run for school board trustee 10 months ahead of time. A reminder that High River currently has no trustee in case you would like to submit your name.

Administrative Report: Sarah Clark

- a survey went out about Covid questions parents may have. The results showed that EJCS is a large source of information for the community about Covid. This is a large responsibility for the school.
- EJCS Ed Plan: the three pillars that Shelley talked about above are echoed in the Joe Clark school plan:

Engagement	Support	Success
Develop systems and structures to ensure students are engaged in learning. Students will demonstrate ownership over their learning. Student’s knowledge will be built around the competencies.	Attitude and skills to deepen understanding of mental health awareness.	Each learner will succeed. Teachers are embracing the idea of “compassion before curriculum.” Numeracy, literacy, social/emotional competencies are area where EJCS will focus.

- during the next meeting Sarah will talk about the indicators of success for the Ed Plan. The [Ed Plan](#) is available to read on the [JC website](#).

Teacher Report: Michelle Slywka

- Thank you for the school council’s successful pancake breakfast and Christmas crafts right before the break – this was a blessing for teachers.
- Mrs. W.’s gym class was amazing that day, and it is interesting that Covid has brought some positive changes that stem from “thinking outside the box.” These are activities that will stay with staff for future years.
- Home learning the first week of January provided an opportunity for connection in a different way. Coming back to school after three weeks away it is clear that the students missed one another, and also need the routines that school provides.
- Joe Clark News Videos produced by Adrienne and the grade 5s – these are fabulous and a way for the grade 5s to feel that they are performing for their peers. The videos are popular with the kids. The videos highlight precautions to be taken with Covid.
- Valentine’s Day will be paper only – no treats to abide by Covid rules.

Treasurer’s Report: Nicole Wurz

- General Account is at \$2367.71, Casino Account is at \$17 742.93, and the Playground Account is the grant for \$5000.00. There has been an extension granted to enable the Fundraising Society to have 24 months to use the current Casino funds. Thoughts are that some should go to the swings.

Prior business:

a. One School One Book (*Mr. Popper’s Penguins*) – Start date will be January 18th, following a 20-day schedule. Caley is working on activities to accompany the book. Christy has a friend who may agree to read the first chapter of the novel from the penguin enclosure at the zoo. Other ideas include the *March of the Penguins* film, black and white dress up day, and tobogganing day at the Emerson Lake hill. Sarah Clark is going to look into whether students need to wear helmets for this activity.

b. Mr. Mike’s has offered to make some hot lunches for the EJCS kids. Discussion ensued about PayPal, paying by etransfer, and how parents on this council can help facilitate hot lunch for the kids at

school. Appreciation was shown for Mike Bliss's selflessness towards EJCS especially as he will not bill the school for the pancake breakfast.

c. Crossing guard – EJCS is still looking for volunteers to join the crossing guard roster. This is a volunteer program. Shauna Cuff has taken over facilitating the program.

New business:

Staff Wellness: Sarah Clark asks the school council for a budget to provide teachers and staff with some nutrition and treats on staff learning days. Sarah Lee proposed that EJCS council provide a budget of \$500.00 for this purpose. Steph seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The funds are to be used at the discretion of the principal.

Custodial Appreciation: Miss Christine has been doing a phenomenal job taking care of the school, particularly during Covid times. As her hours increased, she was able to take a Christmas vacation this year, and was presented a gift basket with treats and gift cards in appreciation from the students and staff at EJCS. Tricia proposed a motion to spend \$75.00 on the gift cards, which was seconded by Nikki. The motion passed unanimously.

Other discussion:

-Mabel's Labels -email change. Fundraising will be necessary to increase the general account. Possibility of a second pancake breakfast, this time perhaps to make a little bit of money.

-It would be nice to have a digital sign out front. An insider with Senator Riley said their sign cost \$50 000 and became contentious with school neighbours who did not appreciate the bright lights of the sign. It was decided that the swings are a priority over the sign out front.

-March 17 is St. Patrick's Day. Use of green....

-it would be interesting to hear Kevin Newman speak about mental health wellness initiatives in the division.

Meeting was **adjourned** at 8:28. The next EJCS council meeting is on **February 9**. Please note that there is a CPF meeting at 6:00 that night, using the same link. The presentation on Covid queries by the doctors will begin this meeting.