

SWH School Council – March 22, 2022

Welcome and introduction

Treaty 6 Acknowledgement

Introductions

Approval of Minutes – no objections, carried.

Agenda – no amendments, carried.

New Business

a) Student Mental Health

- a. **Reset Room** - Situation where there were quite a few students who needed the “pause” room – students required some time and space to manage regulation. We were able to use some dollars and create what we call the – “Reset Room”. Discussion with School Council – how can we involve parents? Created a request list and have been overwhelmed with the response from parents. Students that are using it report that it is comfortable and a great space to take a minute when they need it. This is especially valuable in that the room is available to any student that needs it. It is located in the staff room currently, but we will likely look for another space next year. We will take a tour at our April meeting. There is a breadth of reasons why students are using it. Additionally, use of the room has identified some additional needs within the school community. It was a great opportunity for parents to be involved in the school.
- b. **School Fees** – Proposed fees for next year – we had 79 parents respond to the fees survey – mostly positive support for what the school charged. We took that approach to keep in line with those fees. We don't plan to raise fees much – charging more for Robotics – as it needs more funding to be a robust course. Fees for field trips and sports have gone up – primarily due to the increase in the cost of fuel and transportation. Well done to Candace for her diligence and professionalism in ensuring fees are paid so that SWH can continue to provide quality programming.

Question – Will we have Culinary Tourism next year?

Answer – Tandy will speak to possible options – Community Leadership, Science Challenge, Foods and Fashion, Creative Writing, Spanish, World of Sports, Learning Strategies– Life Skills, Film Studies, and more. Philosophy is that there are different ways to view subject areas. This is based on demand, so it depends on how many students subscribe to these programs. Most of the list came from suggestions from staff – if we were to add an option, what would you like to teach? Opened it up to Student Voice –

asked grade 7 & 8 students what they would like to learn; many of the options overlapped with the suggestions from staff.

Learning Strategies– Life Skills – how to create a resume, how to budget, how to grocery shop, study for your Learner's Permit; life skills that they might not get introduced to until CALM.

- c. **Save-On Foods Fundraiser** – Receipts keep coming in as are requests – we have the opportunity to support Mme. Fayed in her desire to create an afterschool group to focus on rocks, gems, and crystals. Additionally, the school purchase bleachers for the stage for sports viewing. We will also apply for the County Clothesline Grant and possibly another Strathcona County Grant or councillor's funds. Amit, Jacquie, and Lesley will work together. We will allocate \$3000 to the school for the bleachers and Mme. Fayed's group.
- d. **Sherwood Heights Replacement** – This has been a long journey and there are many folks who have been involved for many years in the work to get a new school. This is an exciting time and to get the official announcement of design funding. Usually it was one announcement, but this government has approximately 10 gates – we are through several of them. The board continues to meet with the mayor and Strathcona County, to continue the discussion of what the building will look like – will the County allow us to build adjacent to the existing school and then demolish and restore the old site. We have had these conversations ongoing and feel that our position with the County will allow us to hit the ground running once we get the design and tender. The county process is streamlined – all the stakeholders are at the table at the same time – which expedites the process. School will get new furniture – eligible for \$900,000 from reserves for furniture and equipment – with a high level of oversight. It will be a K-9 school with strictly French immersion K-6 and dual track 7-9. This allows us to reduce the transition for students and could encourage more students to stay in the French Immersion program.
- e. **Staff Recognition** – Spread the word! www.recognizeswh.ca is a great way to send a message to support our staff. There are many schools in EIPS who are participating in this program. Jacquie and Krista will present on this project at the ASCA Conference & AGM.
- f. **ASCA Conference & AGM** – Does anyone want to attend the ASCA Conference and AGM? The EIPS board approved the sponsorship of members to attend? Lesley Bowman will present on behalf of SWH.

- i. **PP22 – 02 – Considerations – 10% less than other HS exams, no reduction in cost with a reduction in weighting, grading Diplomas is good PD for teachers, not a significant cost overall, low weighting almost makes the exams not worthwhile, ‘in perpetuity’ is problematic.**
 - ii. **PP22 – 02 – A policy review would be beneficial, some issues with deferred maintenance – that can depend on the particulars of the school, not necessarily tied to enrollment or capacity.**
 - iii. **PP22 – 03 – Wholeheartedly support.**
 - iv. **PP22 – 04 – Support**
- g. **COSC Report – Tabled**
- h. **Program Updates**
 - i. Logos Report – Melanie Ryzuk
 - ii. Logos Chapel – Joe Battison from Park Church came to each Logos class for chapel – kids enjoyed the singing, games and inspirational talk
 - iii. Joe Battison will be coming in early Feb (Covid willing) to do series of talks for our Crossroads group – topics TBD.
- i. Family School Liaison Worker – Jessica Moen
 - i. DARE ongoing – the grade 7s are really loving the program. Ongoing support from our School Resource Officer – he is really getting into the school community. Really happy about the Reset Room and it is really exciting to see that room available for students.
- j. Principal's Report – Amit Mali
 - i. Thank you to Trina for the advocacy around the replacement for SWH. It has been a long time coming. We are going to visit our feeder schools with some information about SWH – we will see the students in the morning and host the parents in the evening. We will also be having our open house for all students and families. Basketball Season just wrapped – today was teachers versus students and it was awesome! Lots of fun and joking and it felt like the fun part of school. Moving forward with our Honours program. We will have an update soon. June 10 will be Grade 9 Farewell – we have booked SPAC – and then leaving it up to parents or to offer the facility open for after the formal ceremony. After spring break, we will see if there are any parents who want to form a committee.

Comment – Thank you so much for all the noon hour clubs, it is a wonderful opportunity for my student, and she gets to connect with other students and students in other grades.

Question – Can we get staff names back on the website?

Answer – It was a move from Central office – we will confirm that why and if we can have them replaced.

Comment – Really pleased that you are engaging parents in a different way to work on that transition from grade 6 to 7. This is a piece of moving forward to connections we plan to implement with the junior high schools and high schools. Also, Sal is hosting Back in Black & Red Event at Sal Comp – April 27th from 6-8 pm.

- k. Trustee Report – Trina Boymook, EIPS Board Chair
 - i. Board Chairs met with the minister throughout the month of February on changes to COVID protocols and the 2022 Budget. The overall Education budget is to receive a modest increase of 1.7%. Important note is the budget announcement uses dollar amounts over a three-year period which is not evenly divided. Given that they have delayed the release of the Funding Manual we don't have much to share at this time. What appears promising is a financial commitment to curriculum implementation, student wellbeing and student transportation. With so many variables on how this will be allocated out, makes it difficult determine what this all could mean or look like. Hope to have more details to share at our next meeting.
 - ii. The Board has a number of budget working sessions scheduled through the month of March and April as we work towards a May 31 deadline.
 - iii. Due to rising cost to busing the Board will be considering an increase to student transportation fees at its April meeting.

Adjourned at 9:09 pm