

Ecole Innisfail Middle School
Parent Council - September 5, 2017

In Attendance: Kari Fox, Heather Linski, Danica Martin, Lisa Peirson, Lisa Jacobs, Jena Rice, Erin Flewelling, Holly Bilton, and Trina Westman.

Lisa Jacobs approves agenda, 2nd - Erin Flewelling – Carried.

Lisa Jacobs approves minutes from June 13, 2017, 2nd - Erin Flewelling – Carried.

Meeting called to order at 6:31pm.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES: Nothing to report

ADMINISTRATION REPORT: Danica Martin and Heather Linski

Staff Updates:

- Heather Linski – Vice Principal: Mrs. Linski has a Master’s in Special Education and has spent the last 7 years as Principal at Horizons School in Olds. She has spent many of the last 25 years in middle school. Mrs. Linski is Kaawaan.
- Tracy Topping - Admin Assistant / Reception: Ms. Topping has 27 years experience in Ontario school divisions - 17 years in elementary office administration and 10 years in payroll. Paula Spiller has moved to Student Records at Division.
- Kent Wirtanen has accepted a position in a Division closer to his home. Mr. Bushell has been covering his classes but Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Linski will start, effective tomorrow. His replacement will hopefully be secured this week.
- IMS used money from their Classroom Improvement Fund to hire 2 additional EA’s:
 - Melissa Young will provide one-on-one EA support in Grade 5.
 - Oleysa Sedova will provide one-on-one EA support in Grade 6. This is coverage for Trish Jenks.
 - Dawn Peters has shifted to provide EA support in Grades 7 and 8.

Highlights from Start-Up:

- Staff has been getting prepped since Monday, August 28th.
- Grade 8’s were invited to an Amazing Race event on August 30th where they played games, had snacks, and discussed strategies for House Time. The event was successful with 40 / 97 students in attendance. The Grade 8’s then led these Amazing Race challenges for the entire school.
- Grade 5’s were inducted into their Houses on the first day of school. Grade 8’s did an awesome job welcoming the new students to their Houses and to IMS.

IMS Yearly Focus - Highlights: A more strategic plan will be announced at October’s meeting.

- IMS is one of several CESD middle schools piloting a new format for report cards. Using feedback from parents, teachers, students, and school trustees, a committee has created a new format that changes how student learning is evaluated and what/how information is reported. Student

achievement may be accessed on Powerschool. More information is available on CESD's Report Card Pilot Parent Site. Feedback will be required to make improvements. First report card - December 2nd.

- Literacy: Having completed one-on-one literacy assessments for all students last year, IMS now has data they can use to implement individualized strategies to improve student literacy. Teachers may share the students' strengths, weaknesses, and their action plan but the literacy "grade" will not be made public. Although the assessments are standardized, the results can be subjective based on who completes the assessment and may also be skewed by students' moods or other factors.
- Socio-Emotional Development: Through daily routines, teachers will dabble into student socio-emotional growth. More time will be devoted to this as the report card pilot and student literacy plans become less of a priority.

CHINOOK'S EDGE SCHOOL DIVISION: Holly Bilton

- Parents are encouraged to bring forth any issues they have.
- Trustees wish to be diligent in addressing concerns with the Minister of Education; however, with advance notice of meetings not being given, trustees are not always available to attend. There is often no clear purpose assigned to these meetings and/or trustees are given incomplete agendas for them, making it difficult to adequately research issues that may be discussed.
- Trustees are finding that the Minister of Education / Deputy Minister sometimes is more receptive to parent requests for meetings. If we learn of a parent group that has been granted a meeting, Holly requests that we advise her beforehand to ensure that issues brought forward are not counter-intuitive to trustee directives.
- Trustees are asking for more of voice in certain areas. They believe that some changes should not be made without their input or approval.
- Holly reminds us to be mindful that windfalls in one area often lead to shortfalls in other areas and Alberta Education is not always eager to divulge where funds are coming from. Schools received money to offset the loss of funds due to the elimination of school fees; however, almost to the exact dollar, the amount received was the amount reduced from specialized funds.
- There are many unknowns with this being an election year for Trustees.
- Holly will be submitting her nomination for trustee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Elections:

- Nominations for Parent Council executive will be put forward in October.
- With all her children moving on to IHS, Janette Charlton has resigned her position as IMS Parent School Council Vice Chair. (She will remain as Chair for the IMS Parent Society until after the reporting is complete from the last casino.)

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Next meeting - October 3rd at 6:30pm.