

Ecole Innisfail Middle School
School Council and Parent Society Minutes
January 5, 2016

In Attendance: Ley-Anne Mountain, Lisa Jacobs, Janette Charlton, Kathy Hetherington, Holly Bilton, Carolynne Muncer, Danica Martin, Kari Fox, and Trina Westman.

Meeting called to order at 6:33pm.

Trina Westman approved agenda with additions: 7a. IMS Ski Trip to Canyon and 7b. Honorarium for Art Club. 2nd - Lisa Jacobs

Trina Westman approved minutes from December 1, 2015. 2nd - Lisa Jacobs

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES: Nothing to Report

PRINCIPAL REPORT: Danica Martin / Carolynne Muncer

New York Trip: Administration has cancelled this trip considering that CESD may cancel all international travel due to current travel risks and only having 7 families commit to the trip, three from Innisfail. Families have been notified. Zac Smith, an IMS student, had raised \$500 toward his travel fees and has donated them to the Innisfail Food Bank.

Staffing:

- Stephanie Miller will cover Mrs. Chalaturnyk's personal leave for 6 weeks beginning mid January.
- Mrs. Jensen has resigned. The interview process will be complete by mid-January.
- Mrs. Chatwood, who is covering Mrs. Neilson's maternity leave, will also be going on maternity leave. No plan is in place yet to cover this position.

Accountability Pillar Survey: A copy of the 121 page Accountability Pillar report is online and is a compilation of PAT results and surveys completed by parents, staff, and students at IMS.

Education Plan: Although there were many successes, the Accountability Pillar results indicate that improvement is needed on the PAT and Program of Studies. Key strategies for achievement have been identified based on research provided from a variety of sources, including the instructional strategies and practices in place at the Ron Clark Academy and John Hatte's work on Visible Learning.

The Ron Clark Academy is a non-profit middle school based in Atlanta that accepts a wide range of students from all socio-economic and academic backgrounds and excels by using highly effective teaching strategies. The Academy provides educator training which Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Muncer, seven teachers and 2 EA's (including Kari Fox as a Parent Council representative) will attend in February.

John Hatte has researched the top 10 things that impact student achievement. IMS will evaluate which strategies are being used and how they may be more effectively and will begin to implement those strategies that are not currently being used.

The Education Plan is available on the website and Administration will be presenting to CESD Board of Directors on February 24th.

Provincial Achievement Tests: The PAT is the only standardized test for rating student achievement in the province. Most IMS students wrote the PAT. Accommodations were made for those students requiring assistance with reading, writing, or allowing extra time or quieter spaces. IMS has shown a downward trend on all areas of the PAT over the last 5 years, in some cases registering below the provincial average. Review of the Grade 9 PAT results indicate that the trend is starting to turn upwards. Administration will evaluate instructional practices to ensure that the most effective methods are being used.

Administration Evaluations: Both Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Muncer will be evaluated by the Board as new administrators of IMS. Honest feedback is requested. Performance surveys will be sent home.

CHINOOK'S EDGE SCHOOL DIVISION UPDATE: Holly Bilton

- In response to the Accountability Pillar, the Board will be diligent in demanding action plans for improvement for all areas showing as orange or red on the report.
- International travel will be discussed on January 13th. CESD considers travel agencies' risk assessments before allowing any international travel and strongly advises that cancellation insurance be purchased.

NEW BUSINESS:

Canyon Ski Trip: Trina Westman will look into organizing a ski day at Canyon Ski Hill for all IMS students. Once dates are available, Mrs. Martin will request teacher feedback. If the majority is in favor of the trip, Trina will organize the event.

Art Club Honorarium: Betty Hobbs will be instructing two pottery lessons on March 2nd and 9th. Ley-Anne Mountain requests PAC support for an honorarium for time volunteered. Supply costs will be covered by the student.

Janette Charlton motions: PAC will reimburse Ley-Anne Mountain up to \$50.00 for an honorarium for Betty Hobbs. 2nd - Lisa Jacobs

Breakfast for Learning: Our grant application for \$6200 has received late consideration and approval. Michelle Martin and Kari Fox continue to coordinate with supplies being purchased from Loblaws in Red Deer.

Grade 8 Waterton Trip: The Grade 8 Farewell field trip is tentatively booked for June 22 to 24, 2016. Students will travel to Waterton and will spend a day at Calaway Park. Money raised from cookie dough sales will offset student expenses.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.