

Ecole Innisfail Middle School
School Council and Parent Society Minutes
March 1, 2016

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

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

Lisa Jacobs approves the agenda with the addition of 5.c) Casino, and 7.a) Parent Ambassador. 2nd - Janine Gerrard.

Janette Charlton approves minutes from February 2, 2016. 2nd - Lisa Jacobs.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

Grade 8 Field Trip: We will wait to see the results of fundraising efforts before committing support.

Canyon Ski Trip: Mr. Adams has not been able to coordinate this. We will plan earlier next year.

Casino: Net proceeds from the casino were \$25,408.26 and we have 2 to 3 years to spend. We will review what AGLC considers allowable expenses and discuss where the money will be best spent at our next meeting. We expect our next casino in 2 ¹/₂ years.

Holly Bilton advises that we discuss Parent Society matters separately from School Council and keep separate minutes to avoid conflict with AGLC if we are ever audited.

PRINCIPAL REPORT: Danica Martin and Carolynne Muncer

Ron Clark Academy: Eleven staff members from IMS toured and received training at the Ron Clark Academy over Family Week. Although the Academy had many cool features: indoor slides, themed teaching spaces, etc; the main focus was on setting expectations, building relationships, and positive culture. The trip inspired those who attended to strive toward reaching their full potential as educators, parents, and members of the community.

Take- aways include:

- Ron Clark Academy was a place where every student wanted to be, not had to be.
- Amazing sense of family - Everyone loved, cared, and supported everyone; including students, staff, and parents.
- A very positive culture - School culture is controllable and can be changed by setting high expectations and rising to meet them - in academics, socially and emotionally.
- High expectations can be met with love, support, and encouragement and by not allowing obstacles to limit success - No excuses.
- Consistency is key - Set clear expectations and follow through with the consequences if they are not met. Make no exceptions.
- Everything is intentional; all interactions are critical; expect excellence!

- Constructive Criticism - Teachers and students were very honest with each other about the quality of one's work. If it was not completed to the highest standard and to the best of their abilities, it was called out. However, they were also very supportive and encouraging and truly believed that they could do better.
- Forgiveness - Students are more likely to excel when they feel unconditional love and acceptance. Each day is a new day and judgement is not placed on students for past actions.
- Music, Movement, Magic - Content was delivered through songs and chants and by using "magic" (room transformations - space ships for studying solar system etc). In lieu of raising their hands, students would stand to join discussions, and during lessons would often walk on the desks or stand on chairs. Active body, active mind.
- High energy - creative teaching strategies keep students engaged.
- When students are taught meaningful information that is experiential that connects to emotion, they will remember it.
- Fake it til you make it - Regardless of personal beliefs or attitudes, staff is expected to promote the Ron Clark Philosophy and to work collectively to reach the common goal.
- Students were extremely confident and highly respectful towards the staff, classmates, parents and themselves, and towards all educators visiting their school.

IMS Administration is hoping to implement many strategies learned at Ron Clark Academy and within 3 years to be the example Alberta schools strive to become. To achieve this, parent and teacher buy-in is crucial and involve:

- Strategic planning sessions - Everything from classroom logistics, creative lesson plans, and school wide culture is being considered.
- Critical Mass Engagement - By effectively communicating the RCA Philosophy, Administration is hopeful that the majority's acceptance of the new vision for IMS, will evoke change.
- Accountability - People unwilling to accept change will be held accountable. There will be pressure from administration and from peers to use new strategies.
- Parent Engagement - Parents need a clear purpose to bring them into the school. Volunteer hours do not have to be in the classroom or during school hours.
- Professionalism - Lead by example.

CHINOOK'S EDGE DIVISION UPDATE: Holly Bilton

CESD has approved its Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments Policy which follows the guidelines set by Alberta Education regarding the LGBTQ population in schools. This policy will be approved or rejected by Alberta Education sometime in March.

Administration procedures are still being drafted but will establish an appropriate line of contact upon discovery of LGBTQ issues. Although CESD's goal is to inform parents eventually, their primary objective is to provide a safe and accepting environment for students to come forward.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45pm.

Next meeting is April 5, 2016 at 6:30pm.