

Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 9th, 2021
Minutes taken by Melissa Jordan.

In attendance:

Laurie Andrews	Niquae McIntosh
Terri Fowler	Robyn Squires
Melissa Jordan	Paul Issahaku

Regrets:

Norma Aylward	Michael Whittle
Catherine Ward	

1) Welcome:

Robyn welcomed everyone on a snowy night and called the meeting to order.

2/3) Review of Agenda & Minutes:

Robyn moved to hold over approval until January as Paul had not received the minutes due to an email error. All agreed.

Niquae noted that her last name was misspelled throughout the minutes – lowercase ‘i’ should be a capital. Laurie said she would fix that issue. Melissa made note to change it going forward.

Robyn reviewed the agenda and noted a last-minute addition about cohorts.

4) Business:

a) School Development:

Laurie spoke about the new model for the School Development Plan (SDP). Patricia Emberley from the Department of Education visited during the PD Day last week to discuss developing a new committee for the SDP. Norma will be taking the lead on the plan for BFE. The Department may make one more visit before the plan is finalized. Once complete, the SDP will be shared with the School Council and posted for the community.

b) Vaccinations:

Robyn informed all that Eastern Health is hosting vaccination clinics in all K-6 schools. For those that chose this clinic, 1 parent/guardian per child is permitted during the needle following all Covid protocols. The clinic is taking place in the auditorium and the parent/guardian must leave immediately after the dose is administered.

Niquae asked if staff require proof or need to be informed if a child is getting the dose elsewhere. Robyn let everyone know that there is no need at all and that this clinic is good news and a step towards the new normal.

c) Sports Teams:

Robyn was happy to report that both the Boys and Girls Elementary basketball teams had started. They are being parent coached. Laurie expressed that the interest is high and that they would consider splitting the teams to make room for all to play. Robyn reinforced that all volunteers are Vulnerable Sector Verified through the RNC and Vax-Pass confirmed.

Paul asked if the teams were only for Grades 4-6 and Robyn confirmed that they are. Laurie noted that the Boys uniforms are in. The team is elated and they even commented on how much better they fit!

d) Breakfast Program:

Robyn reported that the program has been a “roaring success” and has been well received. The kids are loving it! Three parent volunteers come in on Mondays after school ends to carry out the plan from last month’s minutes. On Monday, Honorable John Abbott, Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development, came with his assistant to help the parents prepare!

e) Outdoor Play:

Laurie noted a slight change to the plan that the children will no longer be outside during recess or during winter weather at lunch. The time it takes to get the children ready to take outside is too long for recess with at least 15 minutes on each end to get the kids ready to go out and then ready to return to class. This results in too much instructional time being lost. Outdoor recess will resume in the spring. Teachers can still take their classes outside at their own discretion. Laurie also noted that the Kindergarten and Grade 1 classes are outside almost every day and this is mostly due to the play-based learning curriculum.

f) The Spirit of Giving:

Robyn informed all that information is in this month’s Feildian Family Flyer encouraging families who wished to support others that SPAN and The Salvation Army would benefit greatly from any donations. The school itself would not be taking part in any collection of donations the season. Laurie added that the faculty do not have the expertise to determine allocation of donations to help families in the BFE community and that any donations will be directed to organizations better suited to that in the future.

g) Holiday Fun Days – Spirit of Inclusion

Robyn noted that the days are listed in the December Feildian Family Flyer. She ran through the list of days, noting that they are aimed at respecting and acknowledging diversity of faith and celebration. They are very general in nature to not exclude any students from participating.

h) Cohorts

Laurie noted that the prefect activities in last month’s minutes have been ceased. Robyn added that this is due to health directives under Covid alert levels. Laurie added that classes cannot mingle and there will be no large assemblies. There is hope that with vaccine now available for K-6 students that these directives will change soon.

Melissa asked if this affects the recycling program and Laurie noted that it is not affected. Robyn added that the Grade 5 students don’t enter the classroom as the recyclables are laid outside the class doors during the pickup schedule.

Robyn opened the floor to Other Business:

- Niquae mentioned that her name is also misspelled on the school’s website and Laurie made note to change it.

5) Next Meeting:

Robyn suggested January 13th due to the 6th being the first week back after the Holiday break. All agreed

Robyn moved to adjourn the meeting and Laurie seconded the motion.