

Whycocomagh Education Centre School Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2017

Present: Val MacEachern, Joanne Ellis, Patrick Austin, Jim Austin, Danielle MacLeod, Fiona MacEachern, Rick Welton, Eryn Sinclair

Meeting called to order by Rick Welton

Motion to approve the agenda made by Rick. Seconded by Joanne.

1. Approval of Previous Minutes
2. Business from Previous Minutes
 - i) Fundraising
 - (a) Calendar – Over \$1600 has come in so far.
 - (b) Cookbook - Forms went home for recipes. These are expected back by October 26. Danielle has the recipes that were submitted previously. Books will be sold for \$15 each. Printing cost is \$4.35/book. 500 copies will be ordered. A photo of the school will be used for the book cover.
 - (c) Frozen cookie dough/muffins – A decision was made to go ahead with this as soon as possible in order to ensure delivery before Christmas. It will not conflict with the recipe books will be sold over a longer period of time. Buckets are sold for 10\$ with a 4\$ profit. Shelley found a version that falls under the nutrition policy. It takes 10 days for delivery after the order is passed in. Shipping is covered if 35 cases are ordered. A minimum order is 25 cases but then there is a \$75 dollar delivery charge. Joanne and Val offered to help.
 - (d) Other ideas such as Norwex in the spring or a Gift Card fundraiser will be revisited in January.
 - ii) Playground – Discussion around the need for a committee to work with students, staff and parents to decide what is needed and how to raise the funds. Shelley will be asked to Tweet out for any parents who are interested. Eryn will send out information about Natural playgrounds.
 - iii) Grade 8 graduation - Rick provided a history of overnight vs. one day trips. Danielle presented on behalf of the students who would like to do something bigger than last year. More will be considered in consultation with Shelley, students and parents.

3. Council Members – We are still in need of a chairperson or co-chairs.
4. Special reports or presentations
 - i) Principal's Report
 - (a) Attendance Policy – A note went home today with all students providing more details about the new policies. In elementary (P-8) schools if a student misses 5% of days, the teacher calls home with an inquiry regarding how we can support the student to be at school. When days away reaches up to 10-15% the administration gets involved in contacting parents and problem solving.
5. School Improvement – 3 goals are continued from last year. Three staff members will meet later this week to revisit these goals.
 - a. Restorative Approaches – use of circles for both teaching and classroom discussion
 - b. Math – students demonstrating understanding of strategies when problem solving
 - c. Literacy – organization in writing
6. Events at the School
 - a. Terry Fox Walk – October 4 – raised \$ 5190.55. Photo taken last week for the Oran of students who raised over \$100.
 - b. Provincial Assessments – Grade 6 wrote literacy last week, writing math this week.
 - c. Hosted SRSB meeting on October 4 - Mi'kmaw class presented and did a wonderful job. Only one parent in attendance. Next time we can extend a specific invitation to parents.
 - d. Mi'kmaw students attended the Moose Harvest Feast in the Highlands
 - e. Celtic Colours concert in the school – MacIsaac and MacKenzie
 - f. Cultural workshops – October 11 (P-3) October 18 (4-8)
 - g. Girls and Boys soccer
 - h. Volleyball starts next week – Rick Welton to coach boys and Sue Spears will coach girls.
 - i. Fluoride started last week
 - j. Upcoming events
 - i. Picture retake day October 18
 - ii. Will be practicing our evacuation to Cameron Hall sometime this month (note will go home)
 - iii. November 8 - Maritime Centre for African Dance – workshops at the school
 - iv. November 10 – Remembrance Day Ceremony
 - v. November 20 – Marking/Administration Day (no school for students)
 - vi. November 28 – report cards go home
 - vii. November 29 – Parent-teacher in the evening
 - viii. November 30 – Parent-teacher in the morning, inservice in the afternoon

7. New Business

- a. We Day – 18 students submitted expressions of interest and will be attending. They will work on local and international goals.

8. Report from Jim Austin:

- a. Numbers in the school and board are healthy this year.
- b. A review is being done of all school boards by Dr. Avis Glade. An interim report will be presented in November with a final report by the end of December. She will be investigating the following:

- 1) Roles, responsibilities and administrative structure within the education system.
- 2) Processes and management structure in all areas of administration and operations.
- 3) Increased accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency in decision-making including budgetary decisions.
- 4) Strengthening interagency service delivery for children, youth and their families.

Next meeting – 3rd Monday of the month – November 20 @ 6pm