

Lorne Akins Junior High School

School Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 14, 2017, 7:00pm

Attendance: Dan Wiles, Heather Jeffery, Sue Havertape, Roger Scott, Donna Nilsson, Shannon Ruivo, Kim Armstrong

Regrets: Graham Jackson

- 1.0 Additions to agenda: Discussion of Rob Nash presentation requested by Donna Nilsson, discussion of Awards Night requested by Donna Nilsson, Discussion of tickets for Dr. Rich presentation requested by Heather Jeffery.
Approval of the Agenda with additions: Motion-Dan Wiles, second-Roger Scott
- 2.0 Motion to amend January minutes to read January 17, 2017 (from January 12, 2017).
Adoption of the January 17, 2017 minutes: Motion-Dan Wiles, second-Heather Jeffery
- 3.0 Teacher of the Month (Shannon Ruivo)
Shannon Ruivo currently teaches language arts and phys. ed. and has been teaching at Lorne Akins since 2001. She has received her 20-year teaching award.
Shannon talked to the council about the “Writers Workshop”, where the two initiatives “Everybody Reading” (ER) and “Everybody Writing” (EW) are implemented.
Students are taught the process of writing; prewrite, draft, revise, edit, publish. The goals process is instilled, with emphasis on the fact that writing takes time. Students are taught about tools and character development, and are given sufficient time to complete each step of the process, and time to finish the project.
In the past, classes started with 10 minutes of reading, but Ms. Ruivo now begins most classes with “quick writes” which is 3 minutes of writing “without fear”. The timer is set and the students are encouraged to write without stopping for 3 minutes. They can write around a model text or about anything they choose. There is no sharing required, and no marking. They can hand write, or use Google classroom on chrome books. Ms. Ruivo takes the journals home once a month and the students are given the opportunity to expand on one of their quick writes for marks. Students are invited to share, but not required to. Council members participated in a “quick write” session. Students really enjoy the quick writes.
- 4.0 District Initiatives and Policies (Kim Armstrong)
The board welcomes feedback from shareholders re. policies. Several policies currently in the works, package of new policies/policy revisions, and deadlines for feedback was distributed. Direction has been given for the final draft of the Trustee Code of Ethics policy, and the Role of the Superintendent policy. Disciplinary Hearing was added to the Suspension and Expulsion Policy.
The public board meeting was January 25, 2017, and there was discussion around enhancing structural practice. A literacy lead teacher is in place in each school and the board is now focussing on numeracy, and investigating how to include numeracy in

cross-curricular ways, and in every-day life. The math academy is part of the numeracy and is open to all teachers in all grades.

There is strong enrollment for the new Lois E. Hole public school, and staffing is ongoing. The public engagement plan/Thought Exchange had > 6,000 responses, and > 2,000 different unique responses.

In the budget the basis of allocation is site-based. The goal is always to get as much of the money as close to the student as possible, e.g., special ed. classes. Preliminary budgetary deductions have been approved for the 2017/2018 school year. Alberta Education has approved 7 modular classrooms.

At the February 8 board meeting a report was given on “English Language Learners and the need for increasing support for students whose first language is not English. E.S Gish and Muriel Martin need extra support in these instances. A report was given on the provincial curriculum development. There will be a new curriculum for grades 1-4 by the 2017/18 school year, grades 5-9 by 2018/19, and high school up to 2024. An update was also given on the St. Albert Choral and band enrichment program.

5.0 LA Happenings (Dan Wiles)-See attached pink

6.0 New Business

6.1 Registration Process 2017-18 (Dan Wiles). The grade 6 students will come over for a tour and band concert on Feb 23, and the open house is April 13

6.2 Timetable changes 2017-18 (Dan Wiles). The timetable will switch to a 2-day timetable, rather than a 6-day, starting next year. This should not cause a problem as the current schedule is a 2-day timetable, so there no structural changes will be required; the schedule will be the same on even days, and the same on odd days.

6.3 Reporting Periods Changes 2017-18 (Dan Wiles). Going forward there will be only 2 term report cards, PT interviews will remain the same. Marks and grades on PowerSchool will be “real time”, so every day students and parents will be able to see their current overall mark in each class on PowerSchool.

6.4 Rob Nash (Donna Nilsson), discussion in 5.0, LA Happenings. Presentation overall well received. Presentation not on any calendars therefore parents not aware (Sue Havertape). Must be diligent re. making parents aware of such presentations/activities in the future, especially regarding mental health issues.

6.5 Awards Night (Donna Nilsson). Suggestion to either change or choose new venue as very hot and gym very full. Leo Nickerson had Christmas concert at Servus Place, where there is much more space, and it was a success. No plans at this time.

6.6 Dr. Rich “Growing Up Digital” presentation (Heather Jeffery). There are 4 tickets still available. Unfortunately, coincides with Paul Kane High School Open House, and LA Gator Society casino fundraiser.

7.0 Topics for Future Meetings-March, Jennifer Fraser, Resource Officer

8.0 Adjournment: 8:25pm. Next Meeting March 14, 2017, 7:00pm