

# **School Community Council and Home and School Association**

## **Meeting Minutes**

Aberdeen Composite School

Wednesday April 14, 2021      Meeting conducted on **ZOOM**

**In Attendance (via zoom):** Amy Orth, Jodi Levy, Brandi Tomy, Jamie Wright, Carla Beulac, Bonnie Doige, Rachelle Regier, Grace Wudrick, Barkley Twidale, Chelsea Baron, Shari Chelak, Kelli White, Lana Pearson, Scott Simonson, Gloria Simonson, Mac Mercjilla, Barb Hagele

**1. Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.**

**2. Roll Call:**

**3. Reviewed Agenda:** Agenda emailed out and reviewed prior to the meeting.

**4. Review last meeting minutes:** Brandi read the meeting minutes from the March meeting.

**5. Committee Reports**

**School Report:** Amy reviewed the school report (see handout)

-Enrollment and Staffing Update, Enrollment Projection Chart, Upcoming events, Safe Schools Update, Grad, Learning for Life, Extra-curricular, student voice and Awards Program.

-There is an invite extended to anyone who would like to attend the Learning for Life talk, held online this year. The interview is scheduled for May 14 at 9:30 am. Please let Amy know if you would like to join.

-Mac: Escape room for grade 7-12 postponed until later in the week. They have been adding things to make it better and more challenging. The room looks great!

-Awards Program: Based on the feed back from SCC, a Community Service Award has been added. Would the SCC like to participate in selecting the recipient each year? SCC agreed to select the recipient.

-The funding for this reward would come from fundraising not from the SCC money. Some criteria for this award would include: performance outside of school, contributes to improvement of Aberdeen.

-Students can nominate a student, they will then need to fill out an application form.

-SCC agreed the student will need one letter of reference rather than two. It is a small community, there may not be as much opportunity.

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-The school may not know what kind of contributions the student is doing, Leaders of organizations could nominate the student for this award. This should be publicized so leaders and town members know they are able to nominate a student.

-New Grade 12 scholarship for student going into the trades.

-Academic Award can't be based on the grade. Send in ideas for criteria for this award. Some ideas included most improved, trying hard to keep going, putting everything you have into it. It was brought up that this is similar criteria to the GRIT award.

-More ideas include a student who has always worked hard but is seeing a pay-off, Improvement in students work ethic.

-GRIT Award includes working hard, your own personal growth, respect for others, hard work, accepting feedback, growth in attitude and effort...

-Shari suggested another work 'Gumption' meaning spirited, resourceful etc.

-Getting the funding for the awards by the end of April, May: nominations.

-Amy will send out an email.

#### **Financial Report:**

-\$67.67 is an error. Total in SCC account is \$751.30

#### **Our School Survey Report:**

-Amy emailed the Report on student outcomes and school climate SK project Elementary survey and Project Secondary Survey Aberdeen School Highlights. We reviewed these outcomes together. For details on the survey see [www.thelearningbar.com](http://www.thelearningbar.com)

-There are some kids who do not take the survey serious and some that do.

-Higher anxiety in grade 6.

-Covid could affect answers this year. Students have more restrictions then normal.

-It was asked if the results are shown to the students. Some teachers may but it may not be consistent.

-It is a long survey, some students just pick answers to get through it or may not understand. It could be a good idea to do shorter surveys but more often.

-Gloria: Would like to see more formal career planning in Aberdeen School. This should be a priority. You can request to visit a career planner.

-Amy said we are unfortunately not funded for career planning. Herself and Mr. Meyers do the best they can with the resources they have but does agree with Gloria.

## **Division Trustee update - Grace Wudrick:**

-Grace emailed all SCC members her Trustee Notes...

Trustee Notes March 15, 2021

### **Blaine Lake – new school project**

- The Board approved the awarding of the Blaine Lake school project to 1080 Architecture.
- The new school at Blaine Lake was announced as part of the provincial government's stimulus funding initiative in June and is expected to be open for students in September 2023.
- This project moves to the design stage this week.

### **Prairie Spirit – Director of Education Recruitment**

- The Board is currently undertaking a recruitment process for a new Director of Education, following the announced retirement of Lori Jeschke, Director of Education.
- It is anticipated the new Director will begin their work on August 1.

### **Local Teacher agreement**

- The Board ratified the Local Implementation and Negotiation Committee (LINC) agreement with Prairie Spirit teachers. This new agreement covers locally determined benefits, such as personal leave, preparation time and professional development, etc.
- All teacher salaries are determined by a provincial collective agreement.
- This local agreement will be in place until 2023.

### **Update on school operations**

- Martensville High School moved to Level 2 in the provincial Safe Schools Plan on March 9. Martensville High School has an enrolment of 560 students.
- Warman High School moved to Level 3 in the provincial Safe Schools Plan in November and remains at that level. Dr. Shahab recommends that all high schools in the province with an enrolment of over 600 students remain at Level 3.
- All other Prairie Spirit schools remain at Level 2 in the provincial Safe Schools Plan.

### **Division pandemic funding update**

- The provincial government has completed three phases of pandemic funding for school divisions. Prairie Spirit submitted funding applications for all three phases of funding and received funding for Prairie Spirit schools in each phase.
- The Division's pandemic funding has been used for expenses including the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE), sanitization supplies (chemicals and cleaning supplies), the creation of our online school – Spirit eLearning – for teachers and technology, additional caretaking hours at school, etc.<sup>2</sup>

## **Public Section - Student Citizenship Awards**

- The Public Schools of Saskatchewan organization is offering student citizenship awards for groups of students at both the elementary and high school levels.
- There are three \$1000 awards for Grade 1 to 8 and three \$1000 awards for Grades 9 to 12. Schools are encouraged to apply for these awards! Information has been shared with all administrators and staff via Division emails. Nomination deadline: April 15

### **COVID-19 update Variants of concern (VOC):**

- The virus that causes COVID-19 has changed over time during the pandemic. There are now many variants circulating around the world.
- Variants that have made the virus more infectious or more likely to cause severe disease are called variants of concern (VOC).
- Public Health has identified a VOC in school settings in Saskatoon. At this time, a VOC has not been identified in a COVID-19 case in Prairie Spirit School Division.
- COVID response processes in our schools may be impacted if a COVID-19 case is a VOC (i.e., there may be changes to contact tracing processes and self-isolation timelines).
- It is believed that current vaccines are effective against the VOC. Rapid testing in schools (also called “point of care” testing):
- The purpose of rapid tests is to monitor the presence of COVID-19 in schools. This test uses a short nasal swab.
- This testing is considered to be another layer of protection for schools, in addition to the safety protocols already in place.
- This testing will be optional for staff or students, with test results available in 15 minutes.
- Parental permission will be needed in order for a student to be tested at school.
- The tests will be conducted by a third party (e.g., SHA staff, St. John’s Ambulance, etc.).
- If a person tests positive, they will be tested again using the standard COVID-19 test for confirmation.
- This type of testing has been done at nursing homes and group homes.

## **Old Business**

### **1. Social Media**

-Jamie will continue to make a post on social media when there is information to share.

### **2. ARC Lunches**

-Has been going very smooth. Nothing new to report.

### **3. SCC Family Engagement Action Plan**

- Continue to post articles pertaining to family engagement on social media
- Encourage families to continue to use #acsfamilylearns to post pictures of families being engaged with one another as well as parents engaging in their children's learning. Possibly create a poster to be posted once a week on social media reminding families of this fun thing to take part in
- Nearing the end of the 2 year family engagement goal. The work is never ending. How has it gone?
- Teachers are feeling more comfortable phoning parents.
- Very helpful for example, if a child is having a behavior issue, the parent knows what works and does not work for the child.
- Shari appreciates the one book one school, hashtags, emails with the links and family tree.
- Engagement looks different for every family. Would be nice to broaden the net to have more ways to engage.
- Amy will send out a short survey to parents so they can get some feedback on how it is working for the parents.

#### **4. National Congress on Rural Education Conference**

- Grace said it was a phenomenal conference and worthwhile to attend. Interesting that all over the world they have the same issues.
- Bonnie sent an email out, it is as follows....

Hello SCC Members, I thought with time constraints and the virtual platform I would send out a little report of the day I spent listening to the National Congress on Rural Education.

I listened to 5 – 45 minute presentations (a couple were actually only 30 minutes) and the 2 keynote addresses.

The following is a brief report on the sessions I attended.

Bev Busson – First Keynote – she was in the first class of RCMP that allowed women so was quite a ground breaker. Her keynote touched on how she was able to accomplish all that she has. The biggest theme was “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care”. She spoke a lot about forming relationships, acknowledging people along the way, showing you truly care and

walking through life with emotional intelligence. In programming for the community it was critical to learn what the community needed and tied her actions to that – no point in delivering a wonderful program that no one wants. She spoke like she always showed a great respect for those she was serving and said many times in the course of her life she chose her perspective. It is a conscious choice to take the high road and see the best in people and situations. In doing this it created more opportunities for her in her life and career.

#### Session #1 – Quality Early Childhood Experiences –

The shortage of teachers in rural areas is one of the roadblocks for early learning. One answer to address this mentioned was 2nd Career Adults. Adults that have worked in other areas for many years but are looking for a change. Teaching is a degree that can be added to other degrees fairly quickly.

The importance of early learning: I found this exert from Prairie Spirit Board highlights that explains early assessments.

Early Years Evaluation-Teacher Assessment (EYE-TA) The Early Years Evaluation-Teacher Assessment (EYE-TA) is a readiness screening tool that provides information about each child's development and learning with a focus on reading readiness skills. Results from the EYE-TA allow educators and school-based interdisciplinary teams to quickly identify children most likely to require extra support during the Kindergarten year, based on their levels of skill development in five key domains at school entry. This tool is administered each fall and spring. In addition to results for specific domains, children are also assigned a comprehensive score known as a Responsive Tiered Instruction (RTI) level. Responsive Tiered Instruction (RTI) is a preventive approach that allows educators, school teams and divisions to allocate resources early and continuously, rather than waiting until after children have experienced failure before responding Notes: Research shows early identification followed by a responsive, tiered approach to instruction from Kindergarten to Grade 3 can substantially reduce the prevalence of reading problems. Children who have Tier 2 or Tier 3 needs at Kindergarten entry are reassessed before Kindergarten exit, allowing school divisions to measure the impact of their supports and responses. Spring RTI data also serves as a leading indicator of the population of students who may need Tier 2 or Tier 3 instructional supports as they transition from Kindergarten to Grade 1 Research has been clear that the earlier a child can be assessed and interventions put in place the higher rates success and graduation. The importance of preschool interventions – even to get info to parents by age 2 and 3, the drive for ministry funded Pre K.

They spoke about effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences and to break the cycle they need early opportunity. They even talked about delivering learning packages to parents of under 2 years of age, just to try and help parents prepare kids for learning.

#### Session #2 – Universal Design for Learning

I saw a really good video on YouTube to describe this – its called "UDL at a glance". It is under 5 minutes and explains this session very well. It is basically because everyone learns differently as educators to try and offer as many avenues of Representation(showing info in different ways using multiple media), Action and Experience (allowing students different ways to show you what they know), Engagement

(options for students to keep them interested). The theory is by offering greater diversity in methods of teaching, materials, and diversity in assessment it will provide a learning experience for everyone.

#### Session #3- The Importance of Physical Literacy

This was one of my favorite presentations and I could talk all day about how much I believe in what was being said in this one. Physical Literacy is competence, confidence, and motivation to move. The stats are that during Covid less than 1% of grades 6-9 are meeting physical activity levels. He talked about the need for more outdoor risky play like climbing trees.

There has been some good things – those individuals who were embarrassed to participate in school have increased physical activity during covid through online classes and individual endeavors.

He has been trying to get Physed added back into the curriculum. Right now, in Grades 10-12 kids only need to take ½ year of physed to graduate. Under 40% take Physed 20 and under 30% take physed 30. Unfortunate when you are healthy and happy you learn better but the activity that increases both health and happiness is taken out of high school. He talked about trying to motivate kids by keeping a Physical Literacy Journey document – what kinds of things you like to do, what equipment you have, what you do regularly for movement. It's not about being great at any one sport its about gaining the fundamental skills for lifelong physical participation – running, throwing, swimming. Physical Literacy is FUN and kids would be much better off mentally and physically if we put more emphasis on it.

#### Session #4 Prairie Spirit Reconciliation Journey

Askiy-Kamik = Learning from the land. Learned about the land based school on Muskeg Cree Nation. Schools can take classes for the day to learn from elders. School tries to match curricula outcomes to elders knowledge. Very interesting, lots being done in Prairie Spirit.

#### Session #5 – Mental Wellness Support for Sask Schools –

Sask has higher rates of anxiety than national average and lower sense of belonging. Sask mental health needs help

### **New Business**

#### **1. SCC Elections**

- To be held digitally due to Covid. Returning Officer to run election (Amy or Kevin Cummings)
- Elections to be held on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 12 and 13<sup>th</sup>.
- SCC and School to advertise the election and the 5 positions to be filled.
- Jamie, Barb, Barkley, Chelsea and Carla are finishing up their 2<sup>nd</sup> year term
- School to email out SCC Nomination forms and SCC Elections- Candidate Information document to all families
- All parties wishing to vote must submit an email address to the Returning Officer (Amy or Kevin Cummings)
- School to email ballots out

**2. Presentation for highschool on mental health – brainstorm some ideas**

**3. Barkley to speak on behalf of parents regarding outcome based Ed.**

**4. Conversation on what the general feelings are on why a high number of families are choosing to leave our school next year.**

(A discussion was had on 2, 3 and 4 above, due to internet issues I have no minutes on them)

Tabled for now:

- Community Grants
- Recess Guardian Program (blue Cross)

**Next Meeting Date:** to be determined    **Meeting Adjourned:** 8:44 pm