

Date: 30 January 2023
Time: 7:02 PM

Attendees:

Kelsey Doolaar
Cindy Galligan
Dona Gylander
Mark Baxendale
Navneet Rondeau
Karen Hunter
Anna Blanchard
Linda Pecora
Sheila England

MINUTES:

1. Approval of Agenda / Additions

Navneet Rondeau made a motion to accept the agenda and Dona Gylander seconded. Everyone accepted the Agenda as read.

2. Approval of Minutes (Sent via email)

Dona Gylander made a motion to accept the minutes as sent via email and Cindy Galligan seconded. Everyone accepted the minutes as read.

3. Principal's report

- Kelsey said the Semester 2 started with new courses for Grades 10-12 on January 30th. Grades 8-9 have full year courses but they will have new electives in semester two.
- Report cards are coming out next Thursday, February 9th. The school is in the process of reviewing them now.
- Exams for Gr. 10-12 students are complete. Capstone project (CLC) for grade 12 students also took place during exam week. The Capstone project is where students investigate what they are passionate about and present to the group. Students chose to make Apps, Rebuild Cars, or completed a research projects in order to learn new skills for their future. The presentations are about 10 minutes long, but the required time usually put into their project should be around 30 hours. Todd Wilson is the teacher for this course that is required for all Grade 12 students on the path to receive their Dogwood. Dona G asked if special needs students need to take this course and Kelsey said no only the students working on their Dogwood are required to take Career Life Connections 12.

- Core competencies were also completed by students. Linda asked if the kids who missed the core competencies have to complete them? Kelsey said yes Mike will take those students and have them complete the competencies.
- There were Pro-D sessions for grades 8-9 during Thursday and Friday of the exam week. we have various presenters doing different sessions.
 - Doctors from Clinic
 - Dentist
 - Ken Thompson and John Denham from the Youth Center
- Linda asked if the students who attended the sessions will have some questionnaire to answer which sessions they liked best. Kelsey said that will happen soon.
- There was a Drama Production last Thursday and it was great. The students wrote the play themselves and it was funny.
- Grad photos took place last week.
- We also have 8 new international students starting this week.
- There is a breakfast cart available with fruit, granola bars, cheese and juices for students every morning. It has been used by all students and they are loving it.
- Student Family Affordability Fund--Kelsey said we need to spend more money from this fund. There is talk of some gift cards from the food stores for families in need.
- Dona suggested why not give everyone \$100 cheque. Kelsey said it was discussed at the District level and it was not an option that was preferred as it was deemed less equitable.
- Karen suggested about doing hot lunch for all students. Foods class can cook it and all students can benefit from it. Kelsey said we do provide lunches to students in need all the time.

4. Kerri Isham's Sessions (Linda Pecora)

Here is the information Linda sent via email to review prior to the meeting;

Possible topics:

Talking About Consent
Talking About Relationships
Talking About Safer Sex
Talking About Sexting
Talking About Pornography
Talking About Gender and Sexual Orientation Talking About Sex Trafficking Each workshop would be \$350 per hour (or whatever the length of the block is)

Linda said Kerri will book sessions in Golden at first come first serve basis, She is open all Monday through Thursday during her visit to Golden from April 24-27. There was a discussion about topics the parents preferred to be discussed at the session we book.

It was decided that we will send our top two choices to Linda so she can let Kerri know. A motion was made by Dona to book Kerri Isham for a 2 hour session for parents and students while she is here. Navneet seconded the motion and said we will commit to spending up to \$600 for Kerri's session. Everyone agreed to book Kerri and the motion passed.

5. Homework?? (Karen Hunter)

Here are some thoughts from Karen that were discussed in our meeting.

"Homework (not talking about what they didn't finish in class if they were wasting time) is detrimental to students' curiosity and learning. It takes a spark of curiosity and turns it into drudgery. I've seen it in both my kids; one who struggles academically and one who does well, as well as all the kids I've talked to about it. It blurs the lines between work and home and teaches a poor work/life balance, which they will later have to unlearn if they are to have a healthy lifestyle and successful relationships. It occupies valuable time that they should be using for other worthy pursuits like having a job, learning an instrument, sports, sleep, etc. It creates tense and stressful evenings at home instead of relaxation and connection. Many families feel this as a boundary violation with the teachers dictating how we must spend our time in the evenings and on weekends as a family, dangling the kids' grades as a carrot to get them to perform. They're kids and should not be forced to work a longer day than their parents! It also can deepen the divide between the kids who are supported at home and those who are not; this effect should not be overlooked.

I could tie this to the survey that was done by the district asking kids if they feel they belong at school. I know that being overloaded with homework can create a negative feeling about school in general. By removing the regular assigning of homework it could help turn school from a slog into a place where their curiosity gets sparked.

The book, *The Homework Myth - Why Our Kids Get Too Much of a Bad Thing* by Alfie Kohn explores the effect homework has on kids' learning and curiosity and overall academic performance. It cites many studies and meta studies on the topic. I believe it's high time to drag homework in for some sharp scrutiny. The stakes are high. If it's damaging to kids' love of learning, or even possibly damaging, why would we continue the practice? I am offering to buy a copy of this book for any teacher who is willing to read it.

Note: I realize many teachers do not assign homework regularly but it's definitely still there. I also know that the teachers care about the students and are doing the best they can with the resources they have. This is not a critique of teachers, rather of an archaic policy that needs to be updated as we seek to instill a love of learning and a focus on core competencies. "

Karen

6. Inclusion (Dona Gylander)

Dona brought forward a need to bring in an outside agency about what inclusion means to everyone. She said we need to learn to accept students with diverse ability and a school wide presentation about what inclusion means. It would teach everyone to treat each other kindly and be caring.

Navneet asked if there was an agency she had in mind who can come and do these presentations.

Dona said Inclusion BC is one of the advocacy groups that does these.

Navneet asked Dona if she could bring more information on this or any other group for next meeting so we can discuss if this is something we could support financially.

7. Treasure's report (Jackie)

Jacquie was not available for the report so I have attached report from her.

8. PAC Bursaries (Navneet)

Navneet said that we have the criteria that we have been using for GRAD bursary from PAC and would like everyone to give any input on if we need to make any changes to it. Everyone accepted the wording. Kelsey recommended that we should say two students instead of one male and one female student at GSS. Everyone agreed with this change and we will make these for the upcoming Graduates.

9. New business arising from the Agenda

Dry Grad

Dona asked if the school is not supporting Dry Grad?

Kelsey said we are having a dry grad it will start at the spirit square and go to KHMR from there. The last Gondola will be set for 11pm instead of 9pm like last year.

Vaping

Cindy brought forward an issue about vaping in schools and that her children have reported many instances where students are vaping in the washroom, classroom and inside/outside school. She also heard that the students are selling vapes to grade 8 and 9 students.

What can be done about this??

Kelsey said we are giving education about this to students.

Homework

Anna Blanchard said she would like to do a study about homework with teachers and students. Something like PAC survey on homework.

Navneet made a motion to end the meeting at 8:09 pm and Mark Seconded. Everyone agreed! :)

Next meeting: Monday, March 6th 2023