

School Council Meeting Minutes - Feb 4, 2020

Attendance: Cathy Giesbrecht, Monique Aultman, Genevieve Gray, Helen Jamieson, Stacey Jost, Suzanne Morton, Ed Beerwart, Lori Beerwart, Shawn LeMay, Sarah Inglis, Sabrina Lalonde

1. Call to Order : 6:38
2. Welcome, Acknowledgment and Prayer : Led by Mme.Aultman
3. Review of the Agenda
4. Approval of the Minutes, as presented (OR as amended)
January 7, 2020
5. Designated Chairperson – Vice Chair: Suzanne Morton - no report
6. Student Representative Report - Jaden Babiuk

- Planning a school dance, likely sometime in March
- Some fun things planned for Valentine's week - crush cans as usual

(Adjust agenda as Greg had a problem accessing his report)

7. Administrator Report – Principal: Cathy Giesbrecht

- Per previous yearbook question re:price and hard vs. soft cover: the hardcover costs \$10 extra and typically schools choose either hard or soft with jr/sr high often choosing hard cover as ESSMY has.
- Leopard block began this week - adjusted afternoon schedule to add a 30 minute block for homework and homeroom teachers to touch base re: questions and past due assignments, etc. Attendance will be taken and no phones may be used. They will not be going to see other teachers for help, just homeroom teachers. Flex didn't seem to be used well as a lot of time was lost running between classes.
- Reconciliation will be available Mar.3rd. Forms will go home for students who are interested in participating.
- Shrove Tuesday pancakes with ESSMY and EMP will occur again this year.
- Mass at HFP for Ash Wednesday, also an assembly for pink shirt day that afternoon (Mar.26th)

School Council Meeting Minutes - Feb 4, 2020

- Open House is March 5th - hope to have school council set up a table at open house, school council is welcome to participate in short presentation at the beginning, planning is currently underway - open house focus will depend on board decision Feb.10th re: high school transfer.
- Cathy visited open houses at EMP and EFJ passing out info re: ESSMY open house.
- Cathy is looking into some presentations by Canadian Parents for French.

8. Trustee Report - Greg Schell

- Board will vote at regular meeting re: ESSMY high school transfer
- The vote is tough re: fiscal pressure
- Much feedback from ESSMY and other community members
- Board must reconsider all specialty programs and assess cost
- Looking at grandfathering vs. moving students
- Will recognize SACHS as bilingual school if ESSMY high is closed (add Ecole in title)

9. Unfinished/Business Arising

a)Parent/Student feedback re: FIOF Consultations on January 15 and 22

- Consultations were not what parents expected.
- Would prefer the district say that they are done with single track french immersion than to go through this months long, expensive and disrespectful process. It is offensive and angering.
- The problem with the consultation process is the way they have publicized things...ie: EFJ asbestos, now people don't want to attend. EMP is still in question which keeps people from wanting to register at our schools. We feel parents have been devalued and belittled and we work hard to volunteer and support these schools. We are concerned about the enormous consequences.
- Concern that since this proposal was rolled out nothing was done to talk to the gr.9 students.
- No true question period. What is the fear of the unknown? Someone with a valid question was shut down? Talked down to and belittled, this is not how you build up and connect with your parent community.
- Questionnaire was very open ended and vague.

School Council Meeting Minutes - Feb 4, 2020

Further comments by Trustee Greg:

- In 2013/14, 81/106 students from ESSMY left GSACRD
- If the concern with ESSMY has been a chronic problem then they have just been continuing the problem but they have tried many things...hired a consultant and followed all 40 recommendations to get things going at ESSMY but have been unsuccessful. We have put extra money into keeping ESSMY open.
- The board knows that turning EMP into a district office is a bad idea and that we cannot get a new school if we have turned a good school into DO. We need to fix utilization rates. Greg would rather fill schools before lobbying for a new school.
- We must address utilization or AB Ed will make decisions for us so the board is trying to come up with responsible ideas. Hearing different ideas from different stakeholders. Some want the school to stay open some see it as subsidizing a private school.
- You don't see single track french immersion at senior high level because it is hard to fund, hard to find teachers and the degree of competition in getting into university. Dual track gives more options for high school, if you are struggling in a subject you can move to english in that subject.

Further comments by Cathy:

- What keeps me up at night is can we really prepare students to write diplomas in a 10/20/30 cohort? We can't use the jr high to pay for sr. high. What will be the impact on the kids? Do they really understand what the cohort will look like?

b)ESSMY Open House

- Discussed within Admin report
- Cathy to reach out to Michelle Mackay re:open house.

Next Meeting: March 4, 2020

Adjourned: 8:26