Belfast School Council Meeting

November 28th, 2016 6:30pm

Library Learning Commons – Belfast School

1. Call to Order *6:47 pm*

2. Approval for Previous Meeting Minutes

*Approved by Amber Anderson*

3. Chair Report

* + Teacher Appreciation set for Tuesday, February 7th, 2017

*Tabatha will start organizing food and volunteers after Winter Break*

* + JDRF Walk update approved

*It will be over the lunch hour as per CBE regulations and it will be organized in new year.*

* + Webpage under construction
    - check it out at <http://belfastcouncil.weebly.com>

*Robbie Lynn and Lori K worked on it together, it is still in the beginning stages so please anyone with content suggestions and feedback is appreciated.*

* + Performance concession: volunteers needed before show and intermission
    - 5 volunteers per show

*Robbie passed volunteer form around.*

1. School Report (30 min)

***School Development Plan:*** *Our school development plan is now online on the school web site. Our achievement goal is around literacy, specifically focusing on non fiction and expository texts through writing. This work will include topic specific writing in other content areas such as social studies and science. The instructional goal is around formative assessment strategies including:  
Criteria setting, using success examples, actionable feedback, self assessment, goal setting and peer assessment. Our professional learning will no doubt have positive effects across academic subjects even though we are intentionally targeting expository writing. Our School Development plan articulates one piece of the work our teachers are focusing on although there are many other things that are not documented in the plan that teachers are still taking up and focusing on.****Learning Through the Arts:*** *A group of our teachers, representing each grade group taking part in a year long professional inquiry in order to learn how to leverage Learning Through the Arts more fully in our school. Their participation and leadership will help us to continue to enrich what makes our school unique.*

***Mrs. Ayre, Mrs. Culig and Mrs Boud are taking part in this 3 year program and bring knowledge back to the school***

*Swimming and Skating  
After parent engagement a majority of our parents decided that a 5 day program was still preferred even though the price had increased to $136 this year, up from $100 last year. This program is being offered to grade 5 and 6 students in March this year.*

***March 6 th to 10 th – Jim spoke as to the excellent staff and program is well worth the experience and price.***

*The first round of swimming for grade 3 - 6 will happen Jan 27 - Feb 2. This 5 day program is approximately $32 being paid for from activity fees collected at the beginning of the year. K - 2 students will have a 5 day swimming program the first week in June for the same price.  
  
A Rockin’ Tale of Snow White:*

*We are about a week from production, the finishing pieces are coming together. A few challenges remain that we are working through. Our teachers have been working so hard and the students are still very excited. Tickets are available to be reserved online. The link can be found by going to the Weekly Update button on the web page and reading the message for last week.  
To date about ½ the tickets have been reserved. Any tickets not reserved by Thursday will be released to parent as of December 1st. All tickets need to be paid for in advance. Please see Kari in the office.*

*The cost is $5 per ticket.*

***We were able to listen to a preview of the 9 Dwarfs signing, parents enjoyed the preview. It was also mentioned that as the majority of the sets (back rounds) are digital images the school hit a glitch when the projector broke, but with a stroke of good luck Matrix is lending the school a projector for the production as ours can’t be fixed in time. Things are coming together nicely.***

*Parent Engagement - Building Security*

*The question of whether to lock or not lock our front doors has been tossed around for 3 years now. Many schools in the CBE have moved to procedures that have all exterior doors locked throughout the day. We recognize that there are very real concerns on both sides of the argument. We want to engage parent voice so that we can make the best decision for our school community and keep students safe in our building. Our discussion will help us to generate solution requirements that will allow school staff to understand as fully as possible all perspectives to this important question. There will be no decision reached this evening about this question as school staff and students still need to be consulted. It is very important to note that no decision has been made at this point. Whether our doors remain unlocked or secured, all visitors to the building must sign in at the office.*

*Conversation took place and we came with a* ***List of Solution Requirements and Comments to consider going forward in the discussions.***

***Solution Requirements***

***Keep in mind the Belfast Community***

***Respectful of Parents and Staff***

***Keep in mind Warmth ,Compassion School Culture and Community Culture***

***Must provide safety- first and foremost***

***Kids need to feel safe***

***Staff need to feel safe***

***Be consistent***

***Be Anticipatory and Pro-Active***

***Everyone needs to be given the opportunity to understand and have an opportunity to voice opinion and ask questions ( Students, Staff and Parents)***

***Comments***

***Transient neighborhood is a concern***

***Parents want to still have the ability to make connections with children and staff.***

***A parent asked what the teachers present thought. Nadine and Jim were both pro-locking the doors during the day.***

***Beth suggested that maybe we look at having the doors unlocked for a determined amount of time in morning and at pick-up then remain locked throughout the day. Example 8:15 to 8:30 and 2:45 to 3:00, but parents need to be diligent about signing in.***

***This issue will be re-visited.***

*Council Art Piece  
We hope all parents at our council meeting tonight took the time to add to our Council Artwork that we are doing for the upcoming art auction in the new year. The second stage of the art piece is to include council / parent wishes for their children. Please take a moment to fill in a wish for your child, for our school, for education in our society  OR write out a favorite quote that is applicable to the role education plays in a child’s life. These will be added to the piece once it is dry.*

*Giving Tree*

*Jana explained the giving tree tags would be put up tomorrow in the staffroom.*

*To let her or Kari know if you take one.*

*There is actually less families than last year in need.*

*There is about 10 families and others can be nominated by speaking with Jana*.

*Calendar Update*

Dec 02, 2016 No School

Dec 06, 2016 Tech Rehearsal

Dec 07, 2016 Production – 1:30 Matinee and 1:30 Evening 6:30 Doors open at 1:00 and 6:00

Dec 08, 2016 Production – 6;30 Evening 6 Doors open at 6:00

Dec 15, 2016 Puppet Theater Coming

Dec 16, 2016 Last Day of classes - Both K Classes in that day

Jan 03 2017 Class Resumes

Jan 06, 2017 Grade 5/6 Vacinations

Jan 18, 2017 Grades ½ Fieldtrip to Fish Creek Park

Jan 19, 2017 Layton Art Centre coming in to do a full day in school fieltrip with grades 5/6

Jan 23, 2017 Artist in Res Rogue Naturalist Starts

Jan 27, 2017 Love of Reading Day

1. Reports from Committees (20 min)
   * Kindergarten Representatives - Mandi Henn/Caitlyn Dillman (5 min)

*Science Centre Field Trip was great*

* + Volunteer Coordinator - Amber Anderson (5 min) - Nothing
  + Key Communicator - Chelsey Masini (5 min) - Nothing
  + Fundraising society - Lori Kariga (5 min) - Nothing

1. Unfinished Business for Decision and Action (5 min)
   * Babysitting/Home Alone course

***Beth*** *updated – waiting on confirmation with Lori H on dates , they need two weeks notice****.***

1. **Wrap up and Discussion (5 min)**

*Production was put in convener and was put on Facebook Page . lots of community advertisement and support.*

1. **Meeting Adjourned at** *8:03* **Next Meeting** *Jan 23, 2017 and Feb 27, 2017*