

Belfast School Council Meeting
September 28th, 2016 6:30pm
Library Learning Commons – Belfast School

1. Call to Order 6:34pm

2. Approval for Previous Meeting Minutes

- **School Council Meeting Minutes from AGM June 8th, 2016**
- Amber Anderson-Godfrey approves. Beth Reinhart seconds

3. Chair Report

- **2016-2017 working plan** (see attached) Amber will be the liaison with babysitters (washrooms, problems etc.)
- **Beautification Committee Startup** (sign up sheet being sent around)
- **Babysitting/Home Alone Course/Strangers & Dangers** We had problems meeting our minimums to get the courses to run in 2016. Do we continue next year? Suggestion, Babysitting/Home Alone every second year? Will try it again this year. If we have trouble with minimums this time we will look at the every other year option. Beth to take this on this year, Corrine will pass on all contact info
- **Grandparents Reading Program Startup** (1 morning a week) Didn't work exactly as pictured, kids did benefit from it though. A lot of work went into setting this up. Last school year we had 2 Grandparents. We will scrap the program per se, not the volunteers. Grandparents are always welcome regardless of if we run the program or not.
- **Council Blog / Webpage** One Goal of Council and Fundraising is Communication. CBE has parents opt in for Communication this year, Council will as well. Forms, information etc will be available for parents. Council is looking at having an direct link button on the school website. Sign in sheet being set around for those here tonight. David T will be helping with this set up.

4. School Report (30 min) (attachment from Lori H.)

- **Vision for the year**
- **Staff updates**
- **Beautification update**
- **Production Update**

5. Reports from Committees (20 min)

- **Kindergarten Representatives - Mandi Henn/Caitlyn Dillman (5 min)**
 - Staggered entry - Began the year with 1 hour 15 min “classes”, groups of 4 initially. First Friday was the first time the class was all together. Mrs. White loved it too. Mandi loved it as a parent, recommends it for next year. Some parents were not in favor.
 - First week drop off/pick up was confusing the first week. It was communicated that it was to be outdoors but parents were coming in to the school instead. Recommend better communication on this issue for next year.
 - Mrs. White would like to remind parents to get volunteer clearance in. Field trips are coming up and not many parents have their police clearance. Lori will send out clarification on how to get this done.
- **Volunteer Coordinator - Amber Anderson-Godfrey (5 min)** Nothing
- **Key Communicator - Chelsey Masini (5 min)** There was a meeting tonight. Will update next meeting.
- **Fundraising society - Lori Kariga (5 min)** next meeting tonight

6. Unfinished Business for Decision and Action (5 min)

- **Meeting Dates to be determined**
 - switch to Monday's. Oct 24 next meeting. Nov 28.
- **Wrap up and Discussion (5 min)**

7. Meeting Adjournment.

Next Meeting October 8:26pm

2016-2017 Working Plan

Fundraising	Parent Council
<u>September:</u> -Admazing Coupon Savings Book -Bottle/Recycling Drop-Off (on going) -Cheque Writing Campaing (on going) -Beautification Committee Startup -Silent Auction Committee Startup	<u>September:</u> -Babysitting Program Startup -Beautification Committee Startup -Silent Auction Committee Startup -ACSC Membership -Communications (FB/Convencor/ Bulletin) -Council Blog -Grandparent Program Startup -Terry Fox Run Water Table
<u>October:</u> -Budding Artist	<u>October:</u> -Babysitting/Home Alone Planning
<u>November:</u>	<u>November:</u>
<u>December:</u> - Production and Concession	<u>December:</u> - Production and Concession
<u>January:</u>	<u>January:</u>
<u>February:</u> -Silent Auction (dates TBD)	<u>February:</u> -Teacher Appreciation Luncheon -Teacher's Convention 'gift cards'
<u>March:</u> -Brick Organization	<u>March:</u>
<u>April:</u>	<u>April:</u> -SLA results review -School Report Review
<u>May:</u> -Spring Flowers	<u>May:</u> - JDRF Walk -Kindergarten Orientation -Volunteer Tea Attendance
<u>June:</u>	<u>June:</u> -Watermelon Table -Lay Brick (final year) -AGM

School Report - September 28

Activity: Sorting initiatives. Parents were asked in small groups to discuss their understanding and priorities for school improvement. Initiatives that required more explanation will be the focus of our planned Coffee Talk conversations in the future.

Setting the Direction for our School Development Plan:

Last year our school development plan was about task design under the umbrella of personalized learning. Our goal was to become better at knowing our students individual starting points so that we can better plan for instruction. We became better at understanding the development of learning and in setting incremental steps for each child that would ensure their growth from their individual starting points. Our work later in the year enhanced these goals with the addition of a formative assessment focus. Our work in improving our collective teaching practice will continue to build on formative assessment as the most essential piece of personalized learning. Tiffany Dahl and Kati Coates will continue with the teacher leader sessions that Jeremy Rosvold and Jennifer Locke were doing last year. Starting this week, they will be attending sessions with other teacher leaders in the CBE and bringing that learning back to our staff.

Teachers came together to reflect on the multiple initiatives in our province and our system. Through their work discussing the relative importance of each of these initiatives teachers articulated the importance and interconnectedness of all the initiatives. What became clear however is the essential piece that formative assessment plays in connecting them all. Another intentional focus is our understanding and implementation of Arts Centred-Learning to enrich the ways that we can teach through art rather than the art being only the end product. We have invested in sending a representative from each grade group to the CBE's Learning Through the Arts professional learning series. Lara Culig, Debbie Boud and Nadine Ayer attended their first session this week on Monday and they too will bring their learning back to their teams so that we all benefit from their experience. After winter break we have hired Sara Smith, the Rogue Naturalist, to do a residency specifically aimed at creating experiences whereby students can learn about Science through art.

Beautification Update

There have been many hurdles to approval for the large equipment. The most significant has been the location of underground utility lines that conflict with our original design. After much consultation with CBE grounds, Alberta One and our selected vendor we have come up with a new layout that shifts the large equipment somewhat in order to accommodate the installation. As of today we have ordered \$64 000 worth of playground equipment. We have ordered a Supernova, bank of disc swings and a bank of regular swings as well as 4 picnic tables, bicycle racks and additional bench seating. We are still pursuing quotes for the installation of this equipment as this is to be considered separately. The equipment can take up to 8 weeks for delivery of equipment. An installation date will depend on weather and actual delivery date. The new layout and pictures of the ordered equipment were pictured in the slideshow presentation.

Irene Bookery ^{keeping} 2 position (wed)

Funding for this part of the project is from a \$20 000 parks grant, \$75 000 CIP grant, \$1000 Conaco Phillips Grant (New), as well as School and School Council contributions. The budget is \$150 000. (matching)
(Cosino)

We had the trim and doors painted on the outside of the school over the summer which was a big improvement, and the garden beds had some much needed weeding done. There are a few transplanted shrubs from another school as well.

Painting has started in the south wing of the school and should take about 6 weeks to complete. After consulting with our School Council and Fundraising Council executives over the summer we have decided to paint around the quotes on the walls. We are having all the hallways, bathrooms, offices, library, gym and stage repainted. 2 colour schemes have been chosen to coordinate with the existing flooring in the school. Some of the art installations have been removed from across from the gym allowing for wall space that will reflect the work of the students who currently attend the school. There was a question about whether or not to remove the large flower mural at the front entrance. That decision has been delayed until we can consult with the parent community since this piece is iconic to Belfast.

Production Update:

Plans have been underway since May for our school musical - A Rockin' Tale of Snow White. There will be 1 matinee and 2 evening performances on December 7th and 8th. Mr. Symington is our new fine arts teacher and is overseeing the production. Other teachers have signed up for significant responsibilities as well. Mrs. Ayer and Ms. El-Guebaly will be co-directors, Ms. Holford is acting as producer and choreographer, Ms. Knight will be leading the choir, Miss Dahl and Mrs. Boud will be attending to the technical theatre aspects, Mr. Sangster is directing a shadow theatre piece and Mrs. Coates will be coaching soloists, Miss Vieber will be helping with stage direction and along with the other K-2 teachers getting involved with other aspects of the production closer to the performance dates. All students will have a part in the production. K-2 students will rehearse their pieces in fine arts class with Ms. Holford (K) and Mr. Symington. Grade 3-6 students will have a choice about what aspects of the performance they would like to be involved in. Auditions are being held for our main cast on Monday October 3rd from 3:30 - 4:30 pm (next week) and a notice will go out this week to parents about auditions today. Some students will be called back for a second audition for specific roles on Wednesday, October 5th from 3:30 - 4:30. Auditions are only for grade 3 - 6 students. Other roles for grade 1 - 2 students will be decided within fine arts classes. We Care Club will not be doing a market at this production and so school council is welcome to do a concession.

Budget and School Organization:

Our official count to the province happens on Friday and our budget for the 2016-17 school year will be officially released October 17th. Based on our calculations we are hopeful! We have presently 258 students in the school.

- Kindergarten classes are between 18 and 20 students.
- Grade 1 / 2 classes are between 18 and 20 students.

- Grade 3 / 4 classes are between 24 and 25 students.
- Grade 5 / 6 classes are between 22 and 23 students.

We are not taking any additional "out of area" students at this time.

The bulk of our September "in area" student registrations this fall have been in the grade 3 / 4 grouping. We currently have one 25 hour EA officially hired for our school and have been bringing in an additional EA on the sub roster to help us with some student needs. Other expenditures have been the purchase of psychologist time and a bookkeeper 1 day / week while our new admin secretary transitions to her role. Irene Foote has agreed to continue to support us with our school bookkeeping and will be in on Wednesdays.

Communication from the school

Our school messenger system is up and running. This system will generate emails based on the email address parents have provided to the office. Each parent can have one email address that is linked to our distribution list in School Messenger. Please contact the office if you would like your email added or changed.

Parents can expect to receive an email each week from the office and from their child's teacher. These emails will outline learning in classrooms and important upcoming events in our school. Commercial messages will be emailed separately as per CASL legislation. While schools aren't typically commercial enterprises, emails such as council fundraisers, field trip fees and school photo days fall under CASL legislation and are considered commercial. We will have to send a separate email to families with this important information. Only families that have opted in to these messages will receive them from the school. CBE has reported that approximately 74% of students to date have at least 1 parent who has opted in to receive these messages from the school. We encourage everyone to opt in. Please be assured that the only commercial messages you will receive from our school will be relevant to Belfast School.

Our class websites are evolving and you should be receiving information from your child's teacher in the next 2 weeks about their new classroom website.

Please note that our school website is our primary source for information from the school. Calendars on paper can become outdated; we encourage all parents to refer to our online calendar on the Belfast website for the most up to date information.

Our school newsletter is also changing. As a result of our survey input from parents we are streamlining our newsletter. Information from the system and our partners will continue to be published monthly. Celebrations of student work in classrooms however will be shared primarily via classroom websites. Parents have told us that they prefer to have important information sent to them by weekly by email.

Social media: Our school is exploring twitter as a platform for connecting our school to parents and our community. Parents can follow our school @BelfastCBE. We are still evaluating the

potential for Twitter and other platforms to help us connect and have dialogue with parents. There will be more on this as the year develops.

Terry Fox Report

Students participated in buddy classes to run laps for Terry. They collected coffee sticks that were later counted in K - 2 classes. This provided a rich and authentic purpose to their math lessons last week! The official count is in and Miss Dahl and Miss Weber's class ran the most laps with 376 laps completed. They will be having a buddy class popcorn party in celebration! The date is yet to be decided by Miss Dahl and Miss Weber. We also raised \$479 for donation to the Terry Fox Foundation's through our Toonies for Terry collection. Students dressed up as superheroes after learning about our Canadian hero, Terry Fox. Parent volunteers helped us pass out lap markers and manned the water table. Feedback about the run this year was very positive, with both parents and teachers commenting that students were making the connection between their run and the impact Terry Fox had in inspiring others to make a difference. Thank you to Ms. Knight for coordinating our efforts this year!

Survey Results

As revisiting the survey was requested on the agenda, the main results that will inform our work this year are:

- Continued commitment to Fine Arts and technology infusion; professional development for staff in these areas
- Continued commitment to Belfast's strong sense of community, belonging, and personalizing learning for each child
- Continued pursuit of physical and fine arts electives, and service learning opportunities for all students
- Communication plan that includes continuation of the school website and weekly emails from classrooms. A change is being made to our newsletter to make it more streamlined and less redundant. Student celebration will be updated through weekly emails and classroom websites (new platform being used this year). Social media options are being explored.

As the survey results were explained at a past council meeting, please let us know if there are particular areas you would like to have revisited in depth for next council.

October						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				29	30	1
				Eric Walters Author Visit	Orange Shirt Day	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Musical Options	grade 5 vaccinations pm		Student Photo Day	Staff Non Instructional Day	
	<i>Performances</i>					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Thanksgiving					
					PM Kindergarten	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			grade 5/6 Leighton Center			
					AM Kindergarten	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	narrative assessment	expository assessment			Both Kindergarten Safety City	
	<i>School wide</i>	5/6	WE Day			
					Family Dance / We Care	
30	31	Notes:				



Belfast Parent/Fundraising Meeting Attendance List

Date: Sept 28/2016

Name	Email Address
Kelly Knight	McKnight@cbc.ab.ca
Wendy Louison	widcurren@hotmail.com
Wendi Hiron	wendi.hiron@gmail.com
Laurelle Beston	lanb9@hotmail.com
Jodi Kyragan	jodkyragan@hotmail.com
Lori Helford	llhelford@cbc.ab.ca
Jana El Guerbaly	jaelguerbaly@cbc.ab.ca
Robert Benbacht	r.benbacht23@gmail.com
Beth Benbacht	b-benbacht@hotmail.com
Ryan Springlin	rspringlin@edysbc.ca
Jane P. Guerbaly	janeguerbaly2@cbc.ab.ca
Arbor Anderson-Gutting	arboranderson@hotmail.com
Corrine Davis	cdavis@shaw.ca
Laurie Brückner	laurie_buck@shaw.ca
PT Pines	PTPmax@shaw.ca
Lori Kongo	kongoboy@gmail.com
Cheryl Duck	cherylduck@gmail.com
David Thistlethwaite	david.thistlethwaite.com
Tatiana Sanford	flawlessbooks@gmail.com