



Swan Hills School

Home of the Grizzlies

School Council
Minutes

March 17, 2021

SHS Flex Room 7PM

Call to Order 7:00 pm

Parents: Jaymie Raymond(Chair)

Staff: Sheila Gardiner, Slade Sekulich

Other: Kerry McElroy, Dean LaBerge, Vanessa Lewis

Review of Current Agenda: Accepted By Kerry McElroy

Approval of Minutes Accepted by Slade Sekulich

Approval of Current Agenda Accepted by Kerry McElroy

Committee Reports

Students' Union • Div. 1 & 2 – hats allowed each Friday
Slade Sekulich

PHPS Board Trustee
Kerry McElroy

Citizenship & Long Service Awards

Dunstable was one of the first schools this year to recognize a student for a Citizenship Award. More recently, Swan Hills has recognized Terry Kuyek as an Exemplary Community Partner Award for his volunteerism with the breakfast program and contributing to the set up and take down of special events in the school. We also had a grade 4 student, Willow Feduniak, recognized for a student citizenship award. The reason I bring this up is that the deadline for any other nomination is May 10. I also want to remind you that any staff member, community person or student can nominate a student. My advice would be

that you contact the principal of the school for support and documents.

Summer School

Vista Virtual offers a variety of high school summer school courses to students across the province. If you know of a high school student who would like to get ahead or upgrade a current course, they can enroll in courses to a maximum of 10 credits. If the student is transitioning from grade 9 to 10 they might request courses like CALM, PE 10 or introductory CTS courses. This would give these students more flexibility with timetabling in the coming year. If you are interested please contact Vista Virtual directly.

Transportation

There are two concerns we are dealing with.

1. Annually the Board establishes transportation fees for in town transportation, rural students accessing transportation for choice and students accessing alternate sites. Information provided indicated that in town transporting of students was being subsidized to the tune of \$50-70,000. At that point we looked at ten different options to achieve cost recovery. The result was that we supported a motion to reduce Barrhead and Westlock towns to one bus instead of two, keep the Swan Hills bus but reduce the size of it to 58 passengers and increase the transportation fee to \$415.00 for one year. There are two elements of this motion that will need to be watched. One is that buses will be cancelled if they fall below a utilization rate of 35% and to cover the cost of the route in Swan Hills would cost parents \$800.00 per student if this route was not subsidized.
2. School Bus Speed Limit
Pembina Hills Board continues to promote with the provincial government the concept of allowing school buses to travel on highways at the posted speed limit. We are concerned because school buses in Alberta are required to travel 90 km/hr on all highways where traffic is flowing at 10 – 30 kms faster – a safety concern. We are the only province in Canada that does not allow it.

School Calendars

All school calendars for the 2021-22 school year have been approved. The delay occurred because we were trying to ensure that there were at least two school based PD days that matched other schools to enable sharing or cooperative planning.

Policy Updates

At most meetings we review and update policies to ensure that they meet the Education Act guidelines and that they match current practices. This past Board meeting we reviewed fourteen policies and passed the addition of a new policy on Public Solicitation of the Board.

MANITOBA NEWS RELEASE

This past week the Manitoba government release its kindergarten to grade 12 strategy that will shift resources to the classroom while giving parents and guardians more input. They call this strategy (BEST) Better Education Starts Today. What is interesting is that they plan to dissolve the 37 school divisions and give School Councils the responsibilities assigned to the trustees of those divisions. By dissolving the 37 school divisions they expect to save \$40millions which will enable them to build 20 new schools and invest in a new curriculum. This strategy was created by a commission who created 75 other recommendations.

•

School Reports

Division 1

March

1. Students have been creatively working on building their own Leprechaun traps in the hopes of catching the little sneaky creature on St. Patrick's Day. Students brought supplies from home to quarantine so that they would be ready to start building in class this week.
2. On the week of March 8-10th, we participated in parent/ teacher conferences through Google Meet or a phone call. We were able to touch base with every student's parent.
3. Students participated in a virtual meet with KOO KOO Kangaroo on March 3rd. Koo Koo kangaroo is a group that performs at many events internationally. They were scheduled to perform at the Children's Festival in St Albert this year, but due to Covid restrictions are unable to. They presented a prerecorded 15 minute movement activity and then included our students in a question and answer opportunity. Our students were beyond excited to meet them, as well as be able to ask them questions.
4. Students are participating in a 15 minute virtual session with the program Lightning Bolt to promote physical activity.
5. Our Monthly celebration this month will be on March 25th. We will be celebrating with outdoor activity stations.

6. Dress Up Days- March 4 was Jersey Day/ March 19- Sunglasses Day
7. Every Friday is now Hat Day for all students at no extra cost.

April

1. Grade 2/3- Virtual Field Trip offered through Teacher's Pet. Students will be learning about Communities in the World, which is connected to our Grade 3 Social Studies curriculum.
2. Dress Up Days- April 15- PJ Day/ April 30-Blue Jean Day Kindergarten news.
 1. Reading Readiness Screening was implemented in January.
 2. Kindergarten Tee-shirts are in the process of being ordered.
 3. Progress reports sent home beginning of March.

•

Grizzly Cubs

- NA

PAWS
Vanessa Lewis

Calm Down Kits:

- We are building Calm Down Kits for students to use outside of school. These kits contain bubbles, fidget toys, playdough, scratch'n'sniff stickers, windmills, doodle books, eye masks and a card deck along with instructions on how to use each of the items to help themselves calm down. The card deck contains ideas for over 40 activities that students can access easily to help reduce stress and regulate emotions. These kits will be offered to students in Swan Hills First, if there are any extras they will be offered to students at Fort Assiniboine School.

Jr. High Girls Group

- We're looking at offering a lunch time group for Jr. High Girls after spring break. This would be based on material from the program "Girls in real Life Situations". The intent is to help girls build self-esteem, a strong sense of worth and self-confidence.

Elementary Boys Group

- We were able to hoist the GLOW Program for Div. 2 Girls over the past 6 weeks and have had many of the boys ask us about a group for them. We will be hosting the "Unstoppables" Program for boys after spring break, one lunch hour per week.

Wellness Day

- Most years, we are able to host a Wellness Day during Mental Health Awareness Week at the beginning of May. This year, we are working towards hosting it at the end of the month so that we can offer an outdoor program that classes may visit one at a time.

Principal's Report and Advising Opportunities

- Planning is on hold until Alberta Education releases the provincial Funding Manual
- PHSD satisfaction survey results for SHS
 - Higher in feelings of safety, learning, and choices
 - Generally lower (students) in feeling cared about by other students
 - Note: some questions were skipped or missed by several respondents; “glitch” in original survey form omitted several questions – some respondents answered at a later time.

Old Business

- School Board elections – Kerry McElroy wants to support any candidates from the Swan Hills region, and is advertising for interested parties to contact him. SHS webpage and newsletter will promote the need for local candidates.

New Business

None brought forward.

Next Meeting May 19, 2021

Adjourn Moved to adjourn at 7:55 pm