

L'Ecole Bilingue PAC mtg Jan 28, 2021

Call to order 7:04.

Attendance: 44 (peak # via Teams; incl Exec & Admin)

- Call to approve the minutes by Peter Grier, seconded by Scott Graham.

Administration update from Jacqueline Lavoie & Cynthia Ramamonjisoa

- Mural was unveiled today; congratulations to all that were a part of it.
- Communication of Student Learning (CSL): new format presented (prepared by District Resource Teachers; available on VSB website regarding CSL); now required for all classes in VSB; reporting practices are changing to align with the newly redesigned BC curriculum; focus on learning rather than the knowing; teachers can choose how they will represent the learning & in what context.

Formats for communication include: 3 way conferences, electronic portfolio reviews, parent-teacher conferences, reflections on student work, portfolios, FreshGrade or other online platforms, etc...

Teachers will provide descriptive information about a child's learning and strengths, learning goals the child is working towards, ways to support the child at home, a child's contributions to the classroom / school / community, development of the child's social and emotional skills.

Framework based on the fixed mindset vs Growth Mindset idea, which is being actively discussed in the school. Grades are considered more of a fixed mindset metric, whereas the sliding scale of the student competency evaluation is more reflective of the growth mindset.

- School culture & community: spirit days planned and initiated by the student council; additional ideas within COVID-19 safety context are welcome.
- Question & discussion regarding
 - 1) CSL transitioning to high school and summative years, where the new format is being phased in with additional grades added each year; universities and colleges are preparing to adapt and transition as well.
 - 2) CSL is being discussed in the school, where teachers are shifting to the new framework and bringing those concepts into the classrooms; no formal class content has been initiated, it's teacher-dependent thus far beyond some conversations about how the evaluations are done.
 - 3) Cultural discussions around some of the themes may be important & are initiated by the students (grade 7s or student council); Black Shirt day was initiated by the district though it's not yet official and is new; participating classes did have discussions around the topic. Some concerns regarding historical precedents with black shirts were raised.
 - 4) Quebec exchange for grade 7s has been proposed as a virtual experience with the sister school in Quebec. More information will be available in the next few weeks to parents in the relevant grades.

5) School photos have not currently been approved by the district for elementary schools.

PAC update

- Chair update (Enoch):
Communication plans: a monthly-ish newsletter.
Staff community: thank you video for the teachers was well received.
School community: Among Us tournament was a good time despite some technology challenges; upcoming PAC talk regarding the [Whole Brained Child](#) book.
Children activities: virtual courses being pursued, including babysitting course; PAC has committed to laptop upgrades.
- Vice Chair update (Tim): Spirit wear planned through BeastVan including potential of custom masks for each division that could be designed by the students; Bike to school week is being planned by Lisa Corriveau for May 31st to June 4th; list of activities not possible (safe arrivals, gardening, after school programs, skiing, choir/musical, lunch programs, sustainability, year book (on hold pending decisions on whether or not school photos will be done)).
- Volunteer opportunities open for committees, particularly for transitioning to next year.

District PAC update from Anthony Floyd

- Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) for 2020 approved by VSB; details framework for enrolment, capacity, capital plans, operating funds, safety, etc. An important document used for making decisions regarding seismic upgrades and school allocations etc.
- Disfunction at VSB has prevented passing of LRFP for a while.
- Concerns reported: 175 page document released with only 2 days available for response; some enrolment projections for LEB were concerning & the PAC responded with a letter.
- Enrolment forecast is confusing for LEB, one table showing decline to 328 students in 2029 while another forecasts 450 students for the same year despite operating capacity of 439; LEB is not the only school confused by this table. Despite long waitlists for entering French Immersion, the declining enrolment projections are understood to be the result of the reduction to 2 kindergarten intakes per year & regular attrition as students leave in higher grades. Enrolment numbers this year are also unusually high due to the absorption of students from Hudson a couple of years ago.
- A concern expressed to Anthony at DPAC is regarding the high pressure on VSB for elementary spaces in neighbouring communities such as Olympic Village and Coal Harbour, where there are long waitlists. There are discussions regarding shuffling schools around to create space; choice programs (such as French Immersion) are not required and therefore are vulnerable to decisions regarding moving.
- DPAC raised concerns regarding LRFP to the district: 1) request to share data for greater transparency, 2) best practices for long range planning that include plans for future developments in communities, 3) Guiding Principles vision statement positioned in

the appendix, 4) need to improve values of inclusion and accessibility, 5) look at how spaces are used and build in resiliency (eg. how capacity is calculated), 6) where kids live and will live centred on equity (school consolidation and seismic upgrades based on current enrolment, not future forecasts). ALL (except #3) these recommendations were rejected by the VSB. The LRFP was therefore passed and will be submitted to ministry of education and will be used for future decisions.

Treasurer's Report

- Reminder regarding rationale for Direct Donations Appeal - allowing focus for parent energies on other aspects of the school (in lieu of fundraising); we are currently at 75% of the budgeted goal; donations fund many projects and supplies (laptops, new basketballs / volleyballs / badminton & other gym equipment, field trips). Suggested donation of \$100 per child, any contributions of any size are welcome; donations >\$25 are eligible for tax receipts.
- Profit & Loss document was presented and is available for review. Current projected loss of \$10,900 which can be supported (\$6,000) by transfer from Long Term Fund specifically for the computers.

Motion to adjourn by Gwen Floyd and seconded by Julia Smith at 8:23.