

Nicholas Sheran Elementary School Council Meeting
October 19th, 2022 in the NS Staff Room

Land Acknowledgment: In the spirit of truth and reconciliation we would like to acknowledge that our meeting tonight takes place on the traditional land of the Blackfoot People.

Call to order: Karma VS @ 6:32pm

Welcome/Acknowledgment & Introductions: Dawn W, Steve W, Karma VS, Lindsay O, Sarah H. Christine L.

Approval of Agenda: Sarah, Lindsay

Approval of previous meeting Minutes: Lindsay, Sarah

a. Admin Report:

Dawn W:

- Grade 4 and 5 students are involved in a program called Think Outside. It is a partnership between the Helen Schuler Nature Centre and the Lethbridge School Division Indigenous Education program. There will be three sessions for the grade 4-5 students. Focus is on land-based learning and Indigenous awareness. First session was today.
- Nicholas Sheran participated in take Me Outside Day (today) This organization supports learning outside, and the classes were challenged to spend at least 3 classes learning outside today. Some classes spent the entire day outside! Indigenous education and wellness education are two of the pillars of this program. Pictures have been posted on social media. Students built map of Canada outside with leaves. Was a highly successful day. Goal of NS is to use outside as a resource, not just a location.
- We had a very successful Heap the Jeep campaign with almost 900 food items donated! Food bank will let us know the pound amount and equivalent \$ value of the food and will share with families when have the info.
- Nutrition Program donations- Have been able to hire Amanda K. as nutrition coordinator. She organizes breakfast delivery, serving kids each day for breakfast club. Serving average 50 kids per day. Grant received not enough to cover the cost to run the program. Received over \$2000 in donations in two days from external agencies who staff members and Amanda K. reached out to help cover the additional costs. These agencies will be published at a later date. More funds are still needed. Nicholas Sheran Cares bags- food security bags for families in need, provides gift card for fresh food and dry goods. Teachers have noticed an obvious improvement in kids' regulation with having full bellies. Parents are encouraged to volunteer to help with the breakfast program. Amanda K. is currently doing it all by herself. It runs each day starting at 8:25 and ends shortly after the starting bell.
- Parent Teacher Conferences tomorrow and Friday, lots of parents signed up. Face to face for the first time in a few years.

- AB Ed assessments- first round completed. Due to covid, Alberta ed provided extra money for assessments and programming to address learning lags in literacy for grades 2,3,4. After January, grade 1 as well. Made a big difference last year for those kids who needed help.
- Halloween- Friday on the 28th. Dress up day moved from 31st to 28th; Hard for students to be dressed up for the entire day, with different cultures, it can be distressing for those who don't celebrate Halloween, so they don't have to miss an entire day of school. School wide fun- You've been booed, door to door throughout the week with a treat basket, they then need to boo someone else to build community in the school.
- Literacy Night- Hosting parent engagement event Tuesday, November 22nd. An evening event for all NS families, each class will host a literacy station for everyone to attend, take away opportunities, hoping to have students from Chinook High School, G.S Lakie play music, read in library, photo booth for families.

Steve:

Movies in School- convo about policy regarding movies in school G vs PG ratings, staff agreed if a PG movie is going to be shown in class, it will be communicated with parents ahead of time. This is for movies being shown at any point in school.

- Student Leadership- Div 1- fun day, decided on backwards day. Div 2 responsibility in the school, addressing bathroom behaviours as they have become a concern; how could they improve on the bathroom setting, put posters up, take ownership of the bathrooms, lots of great ideas.
- Grade 5 have option to participate in enrichment activities on Fridays, three teachers work together and plan different activities to enhance the curriculum, for example, running club, origami, and brain games.
- Values assembly- October 26, celebrating collaboration. First assembly for the entire school.
- Handbells- first meeting this morning.
- Choir field trips- long term care homes in November, Southminster Church, tickets will be available for purchase.
- Remembrance Day celebration on November 10.
- Indigenous Announcements and Rock Your Mocs- led by Melanie M., Indigenous Educator for the division speaks about different Indigenous topics. Inclusive Club-may have div 1 and div 2, celebrate the difference within the school, value the richness diversity brings to the school.
- ABAR Activity- Anti Bias, Anti Racist "I am from activity" for the students to complete, about things are different, traditions, languages, food etc. Also asked teachers to fill it out and share with each other. Older students then used the info to create a poem about where they are from and info about themselves. Encouraged those present at the meeting to complete the activity.

b. **Treasurer Report:** Lacey M. (not present)- Year to date, we spent \$29.38 on staff appreciation, and we made \$800.47 the Bootsma Donut Day.

c. **Division School Council Report:** Tisha E./Locke S.- Motion to change rep from Tisha to Lindsay O. Sarah makes motion, motion passed. Parent Night: Save the Kids at Chinook High School November 3 at 7:00.

d. **Trustee Report:** Christine Lee (Jenny Steed not present)

- Associate superintendent reports, human resources reports, instructional initiatives, encourages parents to read them, good information in these reports.
- Next board meeting Tuesday
- Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression policy passed by the board
- Community convo coming up in November at the Fish and Game Hall

e. **Old Business:** Got a cheque from society for this years' budget, but still waiting for society to be dissolved; spoke with Lauren Mitten as Locke is out of town. They will work on it as soon as he is back. Voted at last meeting to dissolve society, not enough parent engagement to run a society. Bank account still needs to be closed. Sarah H. is not sure whether society should be dissolved, activities run through the society can be a good way to raise money. Society was to be dissolved to make it easier for parent council to access the funds and not have to get it from society. Christine mentioned putting society to sleep (make it inactive instead of dissolving it) Also suggested due to rotating council members each year, school can create a school generated fund account, run through the school and it tracks funding, so council doesn't have to manage a separate bank account. Would be kept separate from school funds and council still directs where the funds go. Treasurer of the council would verify and check account. Continue discussion about dissolving vs putting to sleep. Karma and Tisha will report back at next meeting.

f. **New Business:**

- Had a successful donut day, thanks to the volunteers it went very smoothly.
- Staff appreciation gifts were delivered to the staff (Excel Gum "We think you truly EXCEL at your job, and this is how we CHEWS to appreciate you, from Parent Council.")
- Currently running Kernels Popcorn sales. Sales close on October 20, 2022.
- Classroom reps: 2 parent reps from each classroom to be council reps, what does this entail? Should council be reaching out to the reps to invite them to school council? Dawn says that was their plan. They will be the direct contacts for the classrooms. Plan is to reach out to each rep individually. School council will be given contact list for these parents so they can reach out them.
- Parent Council Parent Engagement grant: \$500 grant from district, Dawn would like it to be used towards family literacy night. Karma motions for council give permission to the school to use the grant for the family literacy night. All voted in favour.

Future Meeting Date: November 16, 2022

Motion to Adjourn: Karma @7:50pm