

## E.J.E.S. School Council & Parent Association Meeting Minutes

*Mission: To Foster the well-being and effectiveness of our school community and to enhance student learning.*

**Date:** April 28, 2021

**Location:** Virtual Meeting

### 1. Call to order @ 7:01 pm

- In Attendance: Jodi C., Becky K., Rosanna Z., Kristy G., Dale K., Eric B., Leslie V., Stephanie E., Jenn S.
- Agenda review and additions: Correct Rosanna's name in March Minutes to Rosanna Z.

### 2. Approval of minutes

- Motion to approve with above correction Rosanna/Stephanie Carried

### 3. Administration Reports / Opportunities to advise

#### 1. Principal's Report

- The spring weather has arrived, and our fields are once again dry. Soccer has been very popular at all grade levels, and the students will be thrilled to see new soccer nets coming very soon. I am looking for someone with a trailer to help pick up the nets from Source for Sports and assist with the assembly. Playground funds will be used to cover the purchase.
- Becky and I spoke with teachers about creating an outdoor learning space using picnic tables. We are investigating the purchase of 4-5 large picnic tables for the field area near Geikie Street.
- We have started planting seedlings and are working with Lauren from the Local Food Society to get things growing in the school gardens. A new water storage container will need to be purchased.
- Mental Health Awareness Week and Education Week will be celebrated next week. Daily activities have been planned see the list below.
- Staff planning for the 2021-2022 school year is beginning. It looks like our classes will be similar in size and configuration as this year. Ten homeroom class teachers (5 English/5 Frim). We will also be hiring a music specialist.
- Staff will participate in professional learning on Friday, April 30th with Shane Hewitt (behavioural specialist) and Alexandra Marshall (U of A Institute for Minority Studies and Services).
- **Upcoming Important Dates:**
  - May 3 - 7 Education Week & Mental Health Awareness Week Activities
  - Monday - In My Heart - A book of feelings
  - Tuesday - Chalk the Walk - positive messages with sidewalk chalk
  - Wednesday - Calm Colouring Mandalas Hats On for Mental Health
  - Thursday - Yoga with Jenna
  - Friday - Make a stress ball & Career Day
  - May 5 - Hats on for Mental Health Awareness
  - May 7 - Career Day
  - May 24 - Victoria Day - School Closed
  - May 28 - Professional Learning Day (no school for students)

#### 2. Trustee's Report

- Draft Curriculum: Dale received letters from several parents with concerns. GYPSD will not be piloting the curriculum in our schools, instead a working group be made up of teachers and central staff will give feedback to the government, which is considered a form of piloting. GYPSD teachers would be allowed to pilot the curriculum if they have the support of the school and parents – this will NOT happen in Jasper. Board has met with MLA's twice to raise concerns about the curriculum and Dale communicated the concerns of the parents in Jasper at these meetings.
- ESPB will bring forward a motion at the Alberta School Boards Association Spring meeting (attended by Trustees from all school boards throughout Alberta) for a non-confidence vote in the draft curriculum. If majority of boards vote in favour then the Alberta School Boards Association would advocate to the government on behalf of all Alberta Schools to stop the piloting and implementation of the draft curriculum

- Rural boards met with Minister of Education re: social, mental, and emotional impacts of the pandemic. Discussed considerations for cross ministry cooperation to address the stresses of the pandemic, and that we must have reasonable expectations of outcomes in the post-pandemic period specifically that it would not be the right time to pilot a new curriculum
- 3. Opportunities to Advise and Discuss:
  - a. Discussion regarding new draft curriculum and GYPSD's recent motion
- There are two MLA's in the GYPSD area, Martin Long for West Yellowhead and Shane Geston for Lac St. Anne - Parkland
- Parents can continue to take write to/call MLA's, Minister of Education, Premier Kenney, and Opposition Leader Rachel Notley to voice concerns with the draft curriculum, mental and emotional toll of pandemic, learning gap as a result of pandemic

**4. Committee and Member Share** Opportunity for members wishing to share a brief report, update, or news item

**5. New Business**

1. Graduation and Graduation Books
  - Students have selected some book options and plans are underway. Looking at an outdoor ceremony for walkdown this year, will depend on size of gatherings allowed, likely in the last full week of school
2. Welcome Bags and Books
  - Will continue with this next year for Kindergarten and students new to our school, Jenn will order this spring to be ready for next September. Jenn and Dale will coordinate getting GYPSD cloth bags to use.
3. Staffing for 2021/22 (music, library, any changes?)
  - Library starting up again in May, 1 class per day. Each class gets library every 2 weeks
  - Class configurations will be similar next year
  - Jodi and Eric planning for music program next year, details to come
  - Preschool program will continue 2021/2022, teachers to be confirmed
4. Advocacy / letter writing re: draft curriculum
  - lens for evaluating the draft: age appropriateness, inclusion of indigenous and francophone perspectives, methodology of curriculum, accuracies/inaccuracies in content, references to out-of-date material, resources and plan to implement a new curriculum

**6. Old Business**

1. The great disconnect viewing : Jenn hasn't heard anything back
2. JES Name Change approved: new sign will be coming, may be some type of ceremony in the future
3. Bike / pedestrian safety around school: Bylaw and teachers continue to supervise crosswalks and bike safety, suggestion for a bike lane in school area was brought to community meeting today

**7. JES Parent's Association**

1. Flower Basket update: April will make sure details for pick up later in May are communicated ahead of time
2. Soccer nets / playground fund: Nets have arrived and will be picked up tomorrow, Stephanie will pay JES Parent Association's contribution directly to Source for Sports

**8. Opportunity for open discussion**

- Members of Parent Council addressed the confusion about the Board's decision to give feedback on the draft curriculum as a form of piloting, including that more clarity about the motion was needed and that GYPSD should have been better prepared to communicate this to parents. Member's thanked Dale for representing the voices of Jasper parents at the meeting.

**9. Adjournment @ 7:58 pm**

- Next Meeting: May 26, 2021 @ 7pm Virtual Meeting