
Springfield, TA Norris, and Peace High Joint Parent Council Meeting

Called to order at 6:39 on Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Attendees

Dunstan and Leah Wood, Denise Fortier, Sherry Crawford, Bill Sheets, Karen Penney, Sherri Lizotte, Christine Mckernan, Mark Owens, Sarah Gordon, David Haastrup, Byron Schamerhorn, Brian Wincherask, Paula Smith, Kim Girouard, Robyn Piercy, Debbie Poplelarz, Andrea Miliiligan, Susan Rumlenski, Grace Nyland, Beckie Rudneski, Wade Johnson, Jeremy Maciver

Agenda

Principals updates:

Springfield: Sarah Gordon - Report cards soon. Pink Shirt day went well today.

TA Norris - Wade Johnson - Science Fair completed. Ski trip went well.

Peace High- Mark Owens - Finished Semester one. Grade 9's went skiing. Anti Bullying day was today. League of Leadership is planning award ceremony Monday. 18 students going to leadership conference. Duane Peace coming with Synergis for youth on Thursday to talk about decisions in High School. Truth about drugs for students tomorrow 9-12 and parent presentation tomorrow evening. Planning some mentorship groups with TA Norris.

School Board updates:

Karen Penney - PRSD piloting project with AB Recycle. We have one month to bring electronic recycling to recycle depot this month and get rebate for recyclable given to your school up to \$10,000.00.

One of the parents brought up that Scott Peever with the RCMP has a Sports and recreation fund (Kwaton) in partnership with jumpstart. Will Pay fees and have sports equipment that has been donated.

Mental Health Awareness course is April 21st and 22nd through Northern Sunrise County.

New Business

School Calendar - The proposed School Calendar was released and the School Board is looking for input. Below is suggestions brought forward month by month. Likes and dislikes and things to consider.

August- Start date before the long weekend. Would like to see start of Sept 5th. It was discussed that need to start prior to long weekend to get in enough instructional days. From a teacher's perspective it is nice to start before long weekend so 1st 2 days kids can get settled in and when back on Tuesday they are ready to work. The question was asked what the attendance is like those 1st 2 days of school prior to long weekend? TA Norris is over 75% those 1st 2 days.

-With starting early it allows 4 weekends t/o the school year to be 4 day weekends with holidays. Four day weekends are hard for some families to find childcare. Maybe 3 days would be better?

-Why do we have 2 more days in the calendar than last year? This was not answered at this meeting.

-Discussed it is hard to give calendar feedback when we don't know what to give feedback on.

September - No concerns. Staff concerned Sept/Oct long time without site based PD days.

October - October 6th is a day off for the teachers in lieu of parent teacher interview evenings worked. Site based PD days aren't in the contract. In lieu days and convention teachers have to attend. Full day PD days teachers get planning and work done.

November - No concern except 4 day weekend doesn't work for all parents.

December - Proposal # 1 Dec 15 - Jan 2nd off school . Proposal #2 Dec 22 - Jan 8th. Initial rational to come back on the 2nd was to have kids back and prepped for diploma's. Lots of parents complained that the 15th was too early to be off this year.. Early break kids had too long anticipating Christmas day. - Break is way off from the rest of the province. The majority tonight would like to see the break from the 22 to 8th. The humanities part A exam was bumped up and teachers feel coming back on the 8th still allows adequate prep time. If we went on break from the 15th to the 2nd taking pieces

from the 2 weeks would affect the integrity as kids would skip out 1st or second partial week for holidays. Springfield teachers would like to go as close to Christmas as possible.

January - 31st day off in the middle of the week was not well received. School board did for bussing as well as it is the middle day of the year so equal days in both semesters. Last diploma is on the 30th. Expressed for parents the 31st off is inconvenient. Would like to find out if that day can be moved? Teachers also have to get organized and mark in between. Staff come together to meet as well. Some parents voiced concerns that they don't think the bussing argument is a good enough reason to decide whether we have school or not based on the Catholic and French schools schedules. We get paid by the other buses for days we have school and they don't.

February - February 1st start of semester 2. February 4 dy break okay. Don't want to see another 5 day break.

March - Could be changing 8th and 9th teacher convention days. School staff pointed out that Feb/March is hard as there are no site based PD days.

April - ? set a spring break as opposed to having a floating Easter. We always honour Catholic Easter break. One parent said we are one of the only schools divisions in the province that float the Spring break. Some prefer to have a different spring break than the province ie) Jasper ski hill is quiet for vacation.

May - Have 4 days off as opposed to 5 days off. Move the May 17th day off to June 1st?

June - Teachers would like to see more often and evenly space PD days. Be careful in taking lots of Mondays off that it is not always landing on the same days and you end up missing the same classes all the time.

-Not much feedback pre calendar but are finding lots of feedback since tentative calendar released.

Sherry Crawford handed out Trustee Report Highlights - Centralization of Services review update. First Nations Metis and Inuit programming and initiatives in PRSD, Canada 150th Anniversary - Board declares May 30th PRSD's divisional Canada 150th celebration day., Trustee's to judge entries for the PRSD's pink shirt day student design contest.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm. Next meeting date and time TBA.