

## **JACOB BEAM SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**January 14, 2010**

**Present:** Tracy Leemet, Kelly Phillips, Laurie Arsenault, Kathy Horton, Mary Jastremski, Alison Clayson, Krista Capes, Lori Shuker, Michelle Weiss, Laura Fisher, Andrea Brownstein, Lesia Lenko, Leanne Slaughter.

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### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

#### **1) WELCOME**

#### **2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Motion to accept the November 26, 2009 minutes was carried out by Mary Jastremski and seconded by Leanne Slaughter.

#### **3) PRESENTATION BY TRACY LEE MET - SCHOOL GROWTH PLAN**

- Tracy described the School Effectiveness Framework which Jacob Beam has been going through for 3 years- It means that if a school said they were doing something, then they had to provide evidence to prove that they were doing "that" something - It gave teachers a chance to go through each other's rooms
- Decided to break into divisions and go through it to see what was happening all the time/some of the time/or not at all - Each school asked to give their top 5 focus areas - Jacob Beam came up with 1 for Reading, 1 for Writing and 1 for Math - Doing this as a staff, divisionally and individually

#### **4) PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - TRACY LEE MET**

- January is a busy month especially for our gr 8 students who have some important decisions to make - BDSS came in last week to start the process explaining the programs available and what some of the things are that the high school offers - BDSS had their open house on Tuesday, I know many of the students attended - it is never too early to start thinking about getting ready for high school - teachers look closely at the student's marks and how they are doing with the gr 8 curriculum in order to steer the students and parents to choose the right level of courses - gr 8 teachers meet with representatives of the high school closer to the end of the school year to discuss the students that they will be getting
- January also is our Family literacy day which will be held on Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> - we will be spending the day celebrating literacy activities throughout the day and there will be an opportunity for parents to join us - mark this date on the calendar - students will be encouraged to wear the pajamas and bring a stuffed friend
- January also brings the opportunity for those students who are in gr 6 to receive information about the Extended French program offered beginning in gr 7 at Lakeview school - they had a short presentation that the students received last week from the Extended French teachers - it is an application process to get into the program
- Int bball is well underway with the season starting on Tuesday night - Mr Millin and I are coaching the girls, and Mr Woelk and Mr Sotola are coaching the boys
- this time of year also is traditionally the time of year when speeches were done and in the past few years we have provided additional opportunities for students to demonstrate their oral speaking skills in a different format - this year we are continuing in this vein, with the opportunity for students to participate in speech writing and delivering as an extra curricular activity supported by myself, Mrs Phillips and Mr Hannahson and their home room teachers for those students who are interested
- Mrs Peters has arranged with the help of myself, Mrs Phillips, and Mrs Behnke a book club that will run during second breaks - it is an opportunity for students to read and relax in the library - our intention is to encourage the love of reading and students will be invited to bring a pillow and a favourite book if they so chose - Mondays primaries, Wednesdays juniors, and Fridays are the intermediates
- our Litterless lunches continue on Thursdays - as well our ecoteam has just started with organics in the classrooms as well - the staff has been using them for some time and we will see how it goes in the classrooms
- we have a number of new initiatives taking place in Jacob Beam - this keeps us very current in our practice and informed of new strategies recommended by research

- Ms Schneider, Mr Chuchman and Mr Kitcher are part of the SUM group for

#### Math

- Mr Millin and Mr Sotola are part of the GAINS math initiative whereby they work closely with the gr 9 and 10 math teachers to discuss programming
- Mr Woelk and Mr Contonis are part of the HP learning program to help facilitate using the netbooks as efficiently as possible

- Mrs Haney and Mrs Behnke are part of an oral language pilot study that is looking at the importance of early lang acquisition
- our gr 3 and 6s will take part in an EQAO preassessment whereby the students will take part in a mock assessment that is based on past questions - teachers will look at the data to see where the students are having difficulties to see what we can do to help them get ready for the actual test slated for the beginning of June.
- Mrs Peters is taking part in a Teaching Librarian Pilot
- Mrs Phillips is taking part in a writing project
- and lastly our kindergarten division is part of the Welcome to Kindergarten Initiative
- - it is also the time of year when we start thinking about next year and our JK/SK open house registration night is Thursday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> from 4-6. - please let anyone you know that is either JK or SK age to come and check out our program - at this time it looks like we will continue to have exactly what we have now - a full day every day SK program with the possibility of some Jks also having this experience
- the Juniors are off to their yearly trip to the ROM on the 27<sup>th</sup>
- skating - it has been one long week figuring out skating - insurance and the liability of skating has changed because of the arenas change in insurance - we had enough participating in both the primary and junior division no problem and the 15 or so intermediates who showed interest will be joining the junior division - a schedule will be coming out shortly with the primaries generally skating from 1-2 and the juniors/ints from 2-3 - most are Weds
- January is also the time that classroom teachers once again administer assessments from the literacy assessment portfolios - spelling inventory, CASI, OWA, Pms just to name a few

#### **5) CHAIR'S REPORT – LAURIE ARSENAULT**

- Nominations for Teaching Excellence awards are due February 1, 2010.

#### **6) TREASURER'S REPORT – REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF HONOUR ROLL PINS**

- School is asking if parent council will cover the cost for honour roll pins which is \$734.50 – A motion for parent council to pay for the cost of the honour roll pins was carried out by Laurie Arsenault and seconded by Lori Shuker – The motion passed.
- The playground account has \$3,764.37.
- The parent council account has \$2,900.65.

#### **7) COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

##### ***Fundraising – Chocolate Bar Fundraiser***

- There is a new company called Nature's Treasure which the parent council is considering – It is not just chocolate, it is healthy – It is rainforest alliance certified – It is peanut/nut-free – Chocolate bars are made in Southern

- Ontario – They are environmentally friendly and they come in a bag which the students get to keep – You also get to choose which chocolate bar flavours you would like in your box
- The parent council is also considering selling Nestle chocolate bars – With Nestle, you get 36 chocolate bars in a box and you don't get to choose the flavours
  - The parent council decided to go with Nestle – The money raised will go towards the playground fund for maintenance

**Green** – There is nothing to report at this time – Looking into high school students helping out in the spring.

**Communications** – There is nothing to report at this time – Communications continue to go well.

**8) NEW BUSINESS** – There is no new business to report at this time.

**9) ACTION ITEMS**

***Review of Code of Conduct*** – Laurie Arsenault is continuing to work on it.

***Playground*** - A discussion about the playground issue began again – Lori Shuker brought up the idea that a decision one way or the other regarding whether to keep the playground or take it out should be made – Since the maintenance costs have been paid for this year, decided to leave the decision/discussion/debate until at least September 2010 – It is an ongoing issue.

**10) NEXT MEETING**

- Next meeting will be Thursday February 18, 2010 at 6:00 pm.

**11) ADJOURNMENT**