

# **Joint River View and FJ Rutland School Council Meeting Minutes**

**Date of Meeting – Tuesday, November 22, 2011, 6-8pm**

## **River View Learning Commons**

Kristina called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

Attendees: Melanie Sendzik (Principal); Dave Howell (Vice Principal); Helen Millward (Member); Nancy Johnson-Manels (Treasurer); Cathy Langford (Staff representative) ; Kristina Sacuta (Co-chair); Randy Bodendorf (Member); LeeAnn Sargeson (Co-Chair); Brenda Theal (Member); Jenni Gearing (Community Representative); Michelle Godsisz (Member); Marianne Hruska (Secretary)

### **1. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda

### **2. Principal's Report**

#### **Event Overview**

- Good Remembrance Day ceremony; kids were very well behaved throughout and respectful
- Report cards will go home on February 9, 2012
- December is a very busy month within both schools
- The students will attend the Christmas Carol next Thursday at Chippawa Presbyterian Church
- DSBN volleyball is underway
- The grade 3s will be going to St. Johns
- The students in grades 1-8 will attend Annie at the convention centre on December 12, 2011
- Festival of Lights family night will also be December 12, 2011
- On December 19, 2012 there will be a dress rehearsal for the holiday performance for grades 1-8 at Rutland
- The performance for grades 1 to 8 will be on December 20<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon
- There will also be a grades 4-8 performance in the evening on that date
- The Kindergarten performance will be on December 16<sup>th</sup> during the day
- A sing along will also be scheduled (Dec.23 @ 9am)

#### **Child Care for Council Meetings Update**

- The Board lawyer had indicated that it is mandatory that a DSBN employee be able to oversee the kids which we can now do in the new Learning Commons
- Child care can now be provided for the school council meetings
- All Members present during the meeting were in favour of proceeding with this for the January meeting

### **Construction update**

- Students are now using the library
- The addition is moving along and they have the final exterior layer of roof going on this week
- Doors are coming and they will soon be completing interior work
- Ms. Sendzik discussed concern regarding the fact that there is no sidewalk up to the school on the kiss and ride side of the building and the children are walking through the parking lot
- A sidewalk is going to be added from the main sidewalk on Cattell, across the grass in the front of the school and they will paint a cross walk sign at the end of the bus lane

### **Staffing changes**

- Joanne Curran is the new permanent Secretary at River View
- Donna Morgan is now the nighttime caretaker at River View from 3:30pm to 7:30pm
- Mr. Gienow (Gr. 6) – He returned part-time today until December 5 following which time it is anticipated that he will be back full-time

### **Nutrition Guidelines update**

- The lunch offered through Commisso's did not go as planned
- It was noted that the food was of excellent quality however the provider was not prepared to deliver to 2 sites at the same time
- There were a few missing items and they totally forgot all of the salads; students did not get their salads until much later in the afternoon
- We will not be using this provider again as they were not very accommodating or ready to help with correcting the errors
- Melanie is going to set up a meeting with the owner at Subway to discuss the nutrition guidelines; we will try a Subway lunch as soon as we can
- We will proceed with the pizza option available at this time

### **Committees**

- We still need more people to assist with the Rutland Closing committee; it was suggested that we talk to Sherman Zavitz who is a local historian
- Safe Schools - Access to River View was discussed with respect to the fact that the front doors cannot be seen from the office and there is potential that someone could enter the school unnoticed. We have a camera and buzz in system which is set up and ready to use. The only

issue is that there may be very short periods when there is not someone in the office (such as when the Secretary has gone to copy something). It was agreed by all members present that this buzz in system should be used. The front doors of the school will be locked at 8:45am. This will be outlined in a newsletter sent home to parent to advise of this new policy.

### **3. Vice Principal's Report**

#### **Basic Initiative**

- BASIC program has started with 8 students who took part yesterday for the first time
- This program will focus on numeracy with grade 5-6 students and it is designed to give the kids an "extra boost"
- They will attend from 3:15 until 4:30pm
- All of the students who were approached to participate in this program were able to get transportation home at 4:30
- Karen Thorpe is leading this program.

#### **PALS program**

- Mr. Flower and Mr. Howell is working on this
- Students using the program will be in grades 5 and 6 with possibly a couple of grade 4s
- We have 3 volunteers signed up and we still need at least 2 more
- Program runs from 9-10:20am

#### **Staff Learning Journey**

- Mr. Howell presented an overview of the professional development journey of the teaching staff through the different divisions
- We have a total of 4 divisions between the 2 schools (ELP is a different program)
- It was noted that ELP is really a brand new program even if you have been teaching kindergarten for many years and they need to learn really what play-based learning looks like
- They will be visiting some sites with the ELP teaches tomorrow
- I-pad training for ELP teachers will also take place; we own 2 I-pads right now which were purchased with the ELP grant but they have not been "loaded" with software/apps; the Board is going to load the apps that are appropriate
- We will try and buy a few more so that they can be used as a teaching tool when the funds are available
- Primary division – focused on critical thinking/teaching the kids to "think deeper" such as math through a problem solving approach which includes showing the work and reflecting on it; teachers are encouraged to take a step back and try not to 'save' the students while they are trying to solve the problems

- It was noted that Ms. Stotski has some experience in this type of teaching and that the school will move this implementation forward in “baby steps”
- Junior division – focused on looking at data; math and problem solving are the focus; someone from the Board will be coming to help us facilitate this; focus is on the teacher letting the students work through problems
- It was noted that when you pair kids together it takes away some of the fear of trying to solve problems
- Intermediate division – noted that there is a lack of depth in opinions and a new focus on open response questions; this was implemented today in the grade 7 and 8 classes
- It was also noted that there is a Board/Ministry focus on co-planning and co-teaching within the schools

#### **4. Calendar Dates**

Calendar dates were discussed in relation to proposed family nights for the remainder of the school year. The following were suggested:

- November 28, 2011 - Family Reading night at Riverview in conjunction with the book fair and to let people come in to see the new Learning Commons
- December 12<sup>th</sup> 2011 – Festival of Lights
- January 2012 – Numeracy night
- February 2012 – Pot luck with some sort of music “Dinner and a show”
- March 2012 – Movie night
- April 2012 - Literacy
- May 2012 – FJ Rutland closing event
- June 2012 – Fun Fair

It was noted that the Boys and Girls Club rents the gym on Tuesday and Thursday at FJ Rutland and as such, these are not good nights for events at Rutland

#### **5. Bingo Committee**

LeeAnn and Nancy discussed concerns regarding staffing of the Bingos which the school helps to run approximately every 6 weeks. Generally the same people attend each one; however we require additional volunteers to ensure that we always have the minimum number of participants. This activity brings in a lot of money for the council and we would not want to lose our ability to participate. Several members expressed interest in helping. It was agreed that Nancy will email the dates for the remaining bingos this school year to Melanie and she will forward them on to the council members.

#### **6. December social**

It was agreed that instead of a December meeting, the council would meet for Chinese food on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 6pm.

## **7. Discussion items**

Ms. Sendzik noted that a good number of families have indicated that they would like to receive their school newsletters electronically so we will continue to move forward in this direction.

Questions were raised regarding the notice that came home regarding 'stranger danger'. Ms. Sendzik provided a brief overview of the situation which had occurred outside of school hours when some children playing near the school had been approached by an adult. The adult did run away from the students; however the incident was reported to police. It was noted by Ms. Sendzik that additional information could not have been included in the newsletter as it was an ongoing police investigation.

Nancy asked if there were any alternate activities planned for the children who did not wish to attend the Annie production. It was confirmed that there would be classroom based activities planned for them.

**Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at River View**

This meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Nancy to forward Bingo dates to Melanie and these will be sent out to all members

**8:15am-12pm on: January 22, February 26, April 22 and May 27**