

Joint River View and FJ Rutland School Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting – Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 6-8pm

Held in the River View Temporary Library

Meeting was called to order by Leeann Sargeson at 6:08pm

Attendees: Melanie Sendzik (Principal); David Howell (Vice Principal); LeeAnn Sargeson (Co-chair); Kristina Sacuta (Co-chair); Nancy Manels (Treasurer); Marianne Hruska (Secretary); Helen Millward (Member); Dawn Wilkinson (Member); Carrie Chopp (Member); Tracy Cooper (Member); Charlene Lyndon Genny Gearing (Community Representatives)

1. Welcome and Introduction

Introductions were completed around the table.

2. Attendance and Email Addresses

An attendance sheet was passed around the table and everyone signed and included email addresses (of not provided previously).

3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Ms. Sendzik requested that 'Dogs' be added to the Principal's report

4. Special Presentation

Ms. Heather Corey, DSBN Health and Physical Education Consultant completed a presentation regarding the new Ministry of Education's Revised 2011 Nutrition Guidelines. Full details regarding this presentation will not be reiterated in these minutes. (Presentation notes have been distributed by Ms. Sendzik following this meeting). Highlights from this presentation include:

- The DSBN and all schools are expected to be compliant with the new Ministry guidelines as of September 1, 2011
- The 'goal' for the 2011-2012 school year is to "try our best with what the ministry has given us"
- The DSBN is currently working on their own Nutrition Guidelines; it is expected that these will closely resemble the Ministry guidelines once completed
- The guidelines apply only to food which is *sold* within the school; food which is given away (i.e. popcorn at a movie night) does not need to comply with the standards; however it is encouraged that we are always thinking about healthier options

- Fundraisers (such as chocolate bar sales) can be completed off school grounds as long as the money is then used for activities which also occur off school grounds (i.e. a field trip)
- We are permitted 10 days/events throughout the school year which are 'non-compliant' with the guidelines
- There is currently no method for the DSBN or Ministry to enforce these guidelines and it is up to the school to ensure that we are complying

Follow-up Discussion

Following this presentation, Ms. Corey left the meeting and discussion occurred regarding the information which was presented. Ms. Sendzik and Charlene noted that there has been significant concern raised by both students and some parents regarding the new 'compliant' lunch that was scheduled in October. It was discussed that additional education is required for the students and parents to make sure that they understand that this is not a decision of our new Principal but a decision made at the government level.

It was also discussed that some choice should be given back to the students regarding what lunches they would like to have.

During this conversation, fundraising options were also discussed.

It was indicated that the schools receive a portion of Nevada tickets which are sold at the local corner store. Concern was expressed that the parents do not know this and should be informed so that they may purchase these if they wish.

Gift card sales and promotional coupons were also discussed as options for fundraising.

5. Principal's Report

Construction Update

- Flooring and the ceiling have been installed in the new Learning Commons; they are currently completing the electrical work in this area
- The 'Deficiency Inspection' will be completed in the Learning Commons late during the week of Oct 24/11
- The temperature outside is such that the mortar is still setting in the addition to the school (gym/offices)
- There is a new Foreman running the construction site
- The completion date remains uncertain at this time; there is some dependency upon when the first snow fall occurs
- No final decision has been made regarding the move date from Rutland to Riverview

Lice

- There is a team of parents who are completing Lice checks at Riverview; this has been an issue within the school and a minimum of 2 checks have been completed to date
- There is an EA who is completing follow-up inspections upon a child's return to school following treatment for lice to ensure that treatment has been successful
- There is currently no protocol for checks within FJ Rutland; Ms. Sendzik requested feedback regarding the option of completing regular checks at FJ Rutland as well
- It was agreed that this seems to be a bigger issue with the younger students; however it was also agreed that checks will be completed at FJ Rutland following breaks (Christmas and March Break) as it has been noted that these are higher occurrence time periods
- LeeAnn and Charlene volunteered to assist with these checks

FJR Playground

- Each September the DSBN Property Services Supervisor completes inspections and deficiency reports regarding all school playgrounds
- It was reported this year that 100% of the FJR playground structure has been deemed unsafe
- The playground needs to be removed and there will be no cost incurred by the school for this removal (the DSBN will complete the removal)
- Staff were made aware of this issue during the staff meeting on this date
- It was discussed that the basketball backboards could remain at this time as the removal of the play structure will ensure compliance with moving forward to meet the directives of the deficiency report
- It was also noted that the playground equipment has been 'dwindling' as students are not returning borrowed equipment
- A sign-out policy was discussed

FJR Closing Committee

- Ms. Sendzik suggested that a separate committee be formed which will assist with organization of internal school and also community events which will highlight the closing of FJR
- Helen, Charlene and Genny all volunteered to work on this committee

Safe Schools Committee

- Ms. Sendzik also suggested organization of a Safe Schools Committee which would help to address issues such as bullying prevention and stranger danger
- Marianne, Carrie and Kristina volunteered to work with this committee

Fundraising Committee

- The idea of a specific fundraising committee was discussed and it was agreed that fundraising would remain a goal of the entire school council

Dogs

- Parents have raised concern at Riverview regarding dogs being on the property
- Discussion occurred regarding this issue and it was indicated that last year there was a no dogs on school property policy
- It was agreed that the members were in support of informing school families that dogs should remain off of the school property during the school day as there are students who are afraid, have allergies etc.
- Ms. Sendzik confirmed that she would outline this request in the November school newsletter

6. Vice Principal's Report

EQAO Results

- Mr. Howell completed a presentation outlining the grade 3 and 6 EQAO results from last year
- Results will not be included with these minutes as they were highlighted in the October Newsletter provided to all families
- Following receipt of this information, more emphasis will now be placed on numeracy as this was the weakest area for both grades
- It was discussed that the grade 6 results were particularly low based on the fact that 4 students did not write the test at all (and the school is given a score of 0 for each of these students) and there was also a high number of students who received accommodation for completion of the test
- The use of Instructional Coaches from the DSBN was discussed; these individuals are available to assist the teachers with new methods of helping the students learn the material
- During this conversation Helen asked about parent assisted literacy programs; it was discussed that in previous years parents have volunteered to come in and read with students however this program has not yet started during this school year. Ms. Sendzik noted that she would follow-up on this.
- Carrie also asked about homework and whether the students are being given enough homework to properly learn the material taught in school
- Mr. Howell noted that there is no policy regarding how much homework should be assigned and that it is up to the individual teachers; parents can also provide additional work if needed to challenge their children

BASIC Initiative

- Before and After School Initiative
- This is a grant which the school has applied for which would provide additional targeted tutoring instruction
- Students who would benefit from this additional assistance would be identified by the school

Update on EFN Grant

- Our grant application has been modified and included as part of the Recess Revival program
- We could potentially receive a larger grant as a result
- The Physical Education proposal has also been extended
- The children will participate in a program called You Got Dance at the Chippawa Presbyterian Church

7. Concerns about intersection of Willoughby and Weinbrenner

Parent concern has been raised regarding the absence of a Crossing Guard in front of FJ Rutland. Charlene indicated that this has been an ongoing concern each year and the school has requested a Crossing Guard at the intersection on a yearly basis. Charlene reported that each year the city sends someone out to assess the need and each year it has been determined that there is no need for a Crossing Guard in front of the school.

It was suggested that an alternate option may be better signage indicating to drivers travelling on Willoughby that they are entering a school zone.

Ms. Sendzik indicated that it would be beneficial for the Council to write a letter to the city expressing concern as parents. Kristina confirmed that she would discuss drafting a letter from the Council with LeeAnn.

8. Calendar Dates

The school year calendar was discussed in relation to compliance with the new Nutrition Guidelines. It was agreed that a non-compliant day would be used for the Fun Fair in June. It was agreed that there were no other specific school events which would require the use of a 'non-compliant' nutrition date and that in all other months a 'non-compliant' lunch could be scheduled.

Ms. Sendzik also suggested that a Family Literacy night be scheduled for the end of November to highlight the opening of the new Learning Commons. All were in favour of this suggestion and November 30, 2011 was selected as a date for this event.

9. Discussion Items

Nancy requested additional information regarding the role of the Council Treasurer as she has been elected to this position in absentia during the last meeting. Ms. Sendzik informed Nancy regarding the role and responsibilities. Nancy agreed that she would complete this job task.

During this discussion it was determined that the Council Chairs as well as Nancy would need to be given signing authority on the Council bank account.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Kristina and Lee Ann to draft letter to the city regarding the request for a Crossing Guard in front of FJR
2. Signing authority for Council bank account to be arranged for Kristina, Lee Ann and Nancy