

Sands PAC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 18th, 2017

In Attendance:

Aaron Akune, Debbie Kabesh, Nicole Bevan, Melissa Sabatini, Jodi Weststrate, Michelle Hebein, Kristen Spanza, Connie Fan

Our meeting tonight began with a visit from a group of students that was responsible for putting together the Ideas Program that runs on Fridays. Youth Worker, Paul Singh also attended with them.

Ideas Program:

Sonum, Leah, and Yajya

In early to mid September the three had a spare block and had the opportunity to come up with a list of items that they could work on. It was narrowed down to focussing on peers and how they saw their role in the school and community. Decided to create a fun, safe space where kids from different age groups and backgrounds could come and hang out together with the hope that it would open up the community in the school in other areas. Every Friday from 3-5:30pm the program runs with games, ping pong, refreshments, music and a chance to mingle and interact with all different students from the school. New things added each week to keep them coming back. In the beginning there were 30-40 people and it stayed consistent. There was a bit of a decline in the Winter months but there is now a consistent group of kids that come each week. Interpersonal learning has been a big part of this program as it has brought students from different social groups together.

One of the challenges has been to get the Grade 8 and 9 students involved. Did personalized invitations, a raffle and little things to try to attract them but it has proven difficult to get them to come consistently. For the group that is consistent, they did a survey and had a very positive response. Liked the social aspect, felt more involved, liked Mr. Singh and Mr. Akune attending as it allowed them to see the administration as people too. Worked as well to involve the school community – for example, they had a Foods class make fruit trays for the event. There is a hope that there is enough momentum for this to continue next year. Working on trying to find successors or get people involved so they will keep it going next year. How can the PAC support? Monetary support was helpful and allowed them to do enough new things. New board games would be appreciated. Some are old and not in good shape. Suggestions were Monopoly, Apples to Apples, Battleship and decks of cards. A new Wii system, more controllers or games would be appreciated. Big group games are not as easy to play due to group sizes and variety of activities going on. A different space would also be nice as it is crowded in the canteen to host many different things at one time.

Paul added that finding things for everyone is one thing they have focussed on. They have opened the gym up to allow for more activities that meet more needs. Focus on Grade 8 and 9 is key. They will gravitate towards basketball in the gym if it is available on a more regular basis. Other spaces they are looking at considering are library, loft, drama room and gym. Storage has been an issue. Everything is in cardboard boxes. Totes are needed to help make things easier to store/organize. Suggested to also see if wood shop program would be able to create some boxes on wheels that would make things easy to move around. This has been a unique learning experience that has really worked to build confidence and the opportunity to see a project from idea to completion was a rewarding experience for the students. The time and energy and thoughtfulness of all three students is appreciated. Thank you to the students for putting their energy into this project and taking it further than just an assignment.

Principal's Update:

- Famine numbers were a bit lower this year. Overall, it was a fun and successful opportunity for students. This event may need some tweaking over the next few years to draw in numbers. In general, we should try to take our learning into the community and have the community come into our school.
- Mr. Akune puts out a Peek at the Week every week to inform the staff about what goes on in the school, such as a Bhangra group, and Gay/Straight Alliance. All these small groups are gaining traction - kids taking ownership of their learning!!
- Music Concert: Cabaret! Dessert and entertainment night Friday April 28th open to parents and the community
- Delta Trade and Technical Fair April 27th student for Grade 10's at Sungod.
- Provincial Election on May 9th
- Musical Production – Game of Tiaras – May 16-18th (Disney Princesses meet Game of Thrones!)
- Grad is on May 26th. Buses were offered from the Grad to the Dry Grad. For grad next year, we would like to do a mandatory bus ride from the Grad Banquet to the Dry Grad.
- The Flex Time conversation for 2017-2018 is alive and well! This would be a 40 minute block of time between 1st and 2nd block for students to meet with teachers or work on group projects, make up tests, etc. 4 of the Delta high schools could be adopting this model.
- We discussed Susan Deane and raved about how wonderful and informative she is. Look for her updates on available scholarships.
- Dry Grad looking for volunteers!!! Thursday 25th for set up, 26th the night of, 27th cleanup!! If anybody would like to donate merchandise call Nicole at 778-861-7545.

Treasurer's Report:

- Still waiting for many teachers to submit receipts for requested items

- Some things may have been paid for, just waiting for them to submit paperwork.
- The request form will go out soon to teachers for next year's wish list.

DPAC:

- Meeting focussed on inclusiveness in schools.
- DPAC meeting minutes can be found on the DPAC website.

Aboriginal Studies:

- Aboriginal Child and Youth Care worker works with Aboriginal students
- Indigenous Cultural Enhancement Facilitators – only 3 in the district – school plans to book chunks of time with a facilitator to come in
- Aboriginal education class is open to all students in course selection

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM. Next month's PAC meeting will be held at 7:00 on May 30th.