



# École Mark R. Isfeld Secondary PAC

Monday, January 9, 2012

## MINUTES

**Attendees:** Marlene Ricard, Chris Ricard, Shelley Gailloux, Sallie Crawford, Brenda Geddes, Barry Walker, Bill Village, Carla Morrison, Jeannette Gingras, Cheryl Adebar, Heather Demeo, Tannis Stanley, Judy Cottreau, Donna Kane, Pam Blake, Arla Calman.

- 1) **Call to order** - 7 pm
- 2) **Approval of agenda** – Sallie Crawford – 1<sup>st</sup> and Jeannette Gingras – 2<sup>nd</sup> , agenda approved
- 3) **Approval of previous month's minutes** – Sallie Crawford – 1<sup>st</sup> and Barry walker – 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 4) **Reports**
  - a. **Principal's report**
    - NIC recruiters here tomorrow to meet with grade 11s to Make plans for the NIC Open House on Thursday Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
    - End of term, end of next week.
    - Exam week is now 23 to 27 of January. Has had a few alterations to schedule due to the job action and some necessary changes. Far less government exams now to deal with. Even optional ones have been discontinued now. 8s & 9s Mon to Thurs and 10 – 12 Monday & Tuesday with extended blocks on Monday and Tuesday to accommodate in class exams. (Monday - A block all morning, B block all afternoon, Tuesday - C block morning and D block afternoon. The required Provincial exams for the 10s – 12s take place Tuesday to Friday in the Multi-purpose room. Friday will be for conflict exams and catch up day. The exam schedule is on the website.
    - Students will write the same number of exams as they will write an in-class exam where there is no longer a provincial one.
    - The provincial exams will not be held in the gym as there are so fewer of them. They will be held in the multipurpose room and will be supervised by the admin staff and perhaps a couple of staff from the Board.
    - Report card time again but job action continues. Similar to term one. Grade 12s will get a full report card but without the typical comments. Teachers have been very helpful with assisting students apply for bursaries, scholarships, have transcripts up to date etc. If parents do not hear from a teacher, they need to contact the teacher directly. Email is the best way to do this. Check the school website for contact information.

- With time freed up that would have been devoted to staff meetings etc (due to job action), Admin has been able to devote that time to some “housekeeping” projects such as placing the logs out front to deter the parking on the sidewalk/lawn. Quotes coming in to redo the gym sound system which will hopefully get done in the next month.
  - Grad planning is coming along. June exam schedule was readjusted again though so where the date for grad had been moved so it did not coincide with Vanier, now the first nations students are scheduled to write on grad day. Unknown if it is even possible to change anything now.
  - Looking into having a wind turbine installed on the roof of the school to add to the green initiative of energy use for the school.
  - 10 year anniversary of having the school renamed to Mark R Isfeld Secondary and there are plans for some kind of celebration to commemorate that. It is likely that it will happen closer to the spring break.
  - Mr. Liam Bishop is retiring at the end of the semester and his replacement should be selected by the end of the week. Mr. Bishop is an exceptional teacher and will be greatly missed.
- b. Trustee’s report** – Janice Caton sent regrets. Tom Weber is Board Chair and Janice is Vice Chair. She will continue to be the liaison for Isfeld. Will have lots to report next meeting.
- c. Treasurer’s report** – Grants came through for just over \$19,000. Several invoices have been paid for various school groups. Balance is \$22,349.96.
- d. DPAC Report** – Jeannette Gingras
- Avi Luxembourg presented to the DPAC. “Fear Factor” – fears parents have about what the media portrays that kids might be doing on the computer that he was able to debunk and direct parents to those things they should be more realistically concerned about.
  - DPAC executive still need a chair and a treasurer so hopefully next meeting there will be some nominations coming forward. Report on that next meeting.
- e. School Review – Shelley Gailloux (SPC)**  
Senior management came to this review to discuss the school and what is being achieved here. Students presented and they spoke very well and with passion and excitement for what is happening here. Those in attendance were so impressed with the students’ abilities and what they had to say. Isfeld’s academic results are the best in the district largely due to innovative and creative learning initiatives and a culture or expectations on the students.
- 5) Old Business**
- a. School sign.** Nothing new to report. Working on it. Hopefully something to report next meeting.
  - b. Emergency Preparedness.** Mary Maclean was not present. Passed to next meeting.

**6) New Business**

- a. International travel request for trip to Cuba for Spring break 2012 for the Spanish 11/12.  
The intent is for this trip is to expose students to Spanish Explore the country/culture and to do some humanitarian/aid work. Voted and Passed.

**7) Round table**

- Cell phones – A parent called to express an opinion that all cell phones be banned from the school. The stance of the administration is that that would not only be almost impossible to enforce but undesirable as it is a huge part of their culture. They use them for planning and research as well as personal communication. Teachers do a good job of governing acceptable use of cell phones so it is a respect thing and it is part of the learning to be taught the appropriate use of their phones and to respect the rules set out in the classroom. This parent also expressed an issue with the TVs that are in the classrooms. They are there to run announcements etc. and do not have access to actual public programming.
- What is it that makes this school so exceptional? The kids say that it is a culture of respect that they are free to be who they are. There doesn't seem to be cliques and kids feel like they fit in and are accepted. It is hard to put a finger on it as to how this is, but it just is the way it is and it is very special. It is not perfect but it is a culture that has existed for a very long time.
- Grad fashion show was a huge success.
- Mr. Walker received kudos for taking students skiing. A great program.
- Parking lot lights at night? All have just been replaced with energy efficient lights but they are now on timers but they turn off before programs are over and have created a hazard as it is pitch black in the parking lot. Those running the events need to learn how to override the automatic shut off so that this problem can be addressed. There are almost no nights that there are no events so the lights should stay on late each night and come on much earlier. Bill to look into adjusting the auto shut off schedule.
- Improv teams – In the Junior category, the grade 8 team finished fourth and the 9/10 team finished second. In the Senior category, the Isfeld teams came in a very close second.

**8) Adjournment – 8:30 pm. All in favor.**

**Next PAC Meeting – Monday, February 13, 2012**