



École Mark R. Isfeld Secondary PAC

Monday, April 11, 2011

MINUTES

Attendees: Christian Ricard, Marlene Ricard, Donna Kane, Shelley Gailloux, Jeannette Gingras, Kelly B, Kim Moore, Janice Caton, Barry Walker, Sallie Crawford, Arla Calman, Mary Jantzen and Bill Village.

1. Call to order 7:04 p.m.
2. Motion to adopt agenda – 1st Barry Walker, 2nd Kelly B
3. Minutes of previous meeting – 1st Barry Walker, 2nd Kim Moore – approved.

4. Reports

a) Principal's Report – Bill Village

- Isfeld Band got together with bands from other schools on the Wednesday before spring break.
- The grad parent meeting was held after spring break and over 100 parents attended. The biggest news to share is that from now on, after grad party organization, coordination and volunteering at the event will all be done by parents as staff step away from that role. The administration of all three high schools came to that decision together after BC Ferries stopped supporting after grad. Ours was one of the last districts where after grad was still being done by school staff and administration so it was seen as the time to make that change.
- Last week was humanities week. There was an incredible level of student involvement. The TedX event was held last Tuesday and live-streamed around the world. Barry Walker did a live telecast with students each day and there were many different humanities activities all week.
- Six hundred people attended the science fair that was held at Isfeld last week. Event organizers were very impressed with the turnout and it was a huge success.
- Poetry slam. So many students participated that a second block was needed. 200-225 students participated and the calibre of poetry was amazing. They were all very supportive of one another.
- 36 Isfeld students participated at Toast Masters speech competition the week before last (other schools had 3 to 4 students participate)
- 150 students participated at the district Heritage Fair held at the base on the weekend.

- The School Review is being held tomorrow at 9:30 am and PAC parents are invited to attend
- The European trip goes the week after next
- The Ford Test Drive held on Sunday was a huge success with over 200 people coming out to test drive (84 last year) and over \$4000 was raised for grad.

b) **Trustee Report** – Janice Caton

- Calendar review committee recommendation to board next week with a decision by May 31 on the length of spring break
- School board AGM this weekend. Minister Abbot will be there to speak. Ken Dawson working with him as liaison
- Budget – district is holding its own and is on track financially. There are no major cuts anticipated unlike other districts in the province. Budget to be released end of April to beginning of May.
- Bussing – at the last regular board meeting, the report from the bussing committee was received. Recommendations are on the website. Gone to management for review and implementation. The committee made no recommendation for French Immersion or choice programs. Something needs to be in place by September so review is ongoing for the long term plan
- Likely municipal election in the fall.
- Our district is one of the most advanced in the province in regard to 21st Century Learning as evidenced by what is happening at this school

c) **Treasurer's Report** – Donna Kane

- Good News! \$4805 was received from the gaming grant as it was amended to reinstate some of the grant money that was taken away last year. The conditions are that it must be used for sports and music programs

d) **DPAC Report** – Jeannette Gingras

- There is \$11,000 available in funding for presentations to PACs and they are looking for ideas.
- Suggestions: Cyber bullying. There is a group from the States that present to parent groups. Jeannette will look into it and present her findings to DPAC. Training for treasurers of PACs was also a suggestion. Other suggestions are welcome
- Next DPAC meeting is scheduled for April 18

e) **FAC Report** – Report attached

2. **Old Business**

a) **Earthquake prep**

- Rep not present – moved to next meeting

b) School Sign

- Bill contacted the board but had no response yet. The PAC will write a letter to the board that we are still interested in getting a sign. We will ask if the board is still ready to assist us with the deal they had worked out two years ago. They need to know we still have the money set aside and Janice feels it is still favourable
- Who will represent us to the City? PAC or Board?
- Bill will write to the board also in support to get the ball rolling as this work will continue into the next school year.

3. New Business

a) Staff Appreciation

- Kim Moore and Sallie Crawford will plan this event but will need helpers. More information to come at the next PAC meeting.

4. Adjournment – motion to adjourn 1st – Kelly B, 2nd – Kim Moore Adjourned – 8:28 pm

- **Next meeting will be held on
Monday, May 9, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the library**



French Advisory Committee

FAC Report **to the École Mark R. Isfeld PAC**

March 28, 2011

Report from École Robb Road: David Coats

- ERR is a single-track FI school with 463 students and 19 divisions. There will be 3.5 Kindergarten classes next year, and two new modular classrooms are being built this spring for use next fall.
- École Robb Road is moving towards an inquiry-based learning model as a staff. In primary grades – play-based learning model; intermediate grades – project-based learning model. This is a work in progress; the staff is studying some books now, including *Serious Players in the Primary Classroom*, and easing in slowly. Teachers with much experience are excited about this model, and all of the staff is on board.
- David as a relatively new principal at ERR is working on school growth plans; there will be a school review next week with board staff.
- There was an assembly at ERR today: the school has had a “Getting Along” week, working on accepting others with all their differences. Jim Molina, the ERR PAC chair, spoke about his neck injury when he was 18, his life in a wheelchair, and his climbing trip to Mt. Kilimanjaro last year; he used the analogy of a garden and the importance of differences to make each setting beautiful. The staff is also using Ministry documents on bullying, and working on playground issues and attitudes.
- The staff at ERR also want to develop a Code of Conduct; David implemented one at Queneesh, modeled partly on the Virtues Project, and focusing on three main elements of positive behaviour. The plan is to implement this in the fall.

Report on FI Math Workshops with Math Specialist Carol Fullerton:

- Carol went to EPPE, ERR and Isfeld to teach FI math classes at primary, intermediate and high school levels, with other teachers observing, and provided time to talk with teachers afterwards – feedback from teachers was very positive. Her activities in the classroom are child-centred, with a play-based focus. Her use of English in FI classrooms came up: this is very acceptable in French Immersion to make sure of understanding of math concepts. Carol used manipulatives at the high school level as well, and students and teachers responded well to this. She worked on higher-level concepts that teachers may find more of a challenge to teach, and helped to make them meaningful. School-based teams working with struggling learners will likely find these strategies helpful.

- Thanks to administrators for their support and preparation, and time given for teachers to spend time in dialogue with her. English schools are also interested in having Carol come to work with their students and teachers, though she has a FI focus. Staff at all three schools are looking forward to her return.

Report on DELF: Diplôme d'études en langue française - Al Johnson :

- Al Johnson attended the BC Modern Language Coordinator's conference, where the draft additional languages core curriculum was discussed. The Ministry has decided to use the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, which includes a comprehensive rubric for assessing students' proficiency in French. This rubric allows teachers to assess students' French proficiency by level rather than by grade. The levels begin at A1 and move to C2, which is a native fluency and proficiency. There are 6 levels in all. In BC, a student in Gr. 5 Core French would probably stay at the same level (A1.1) until Grade 7, as there isn't much time available to teach this curriculum. This should be a very useful tool for students, parents and teachers to see what level students are at. Grade 12 FI student will generally graduate with Level B2 –communicating fluently in everyday life.
- One idea is for students to go through Core French and FI with a 'Passport' that shows what each student's proficiency and strengths are, according to this rubric. This calls into question the need to have grade levels in French, but rather to group students by proficiency levels. This is thorough and gives kids something to aim for. There is a lack of retention in Core French beyond Grade 8, so staff are trying to address that issue in the district. One struggle: at the elementary level, generalist teachers are teaching Core French, so many students aren't learning from teachers who are confident in French. There used to be itinerant French teachers who went from school to school to teach only French. SD71 has Al J. at a .2 position; he helps to support Core French teachers and French Immersion as much as possible.
- This rubric will be phased into the district as soon as possible, so students can move from one level to another as part of Cadre conceptual, the new curriculum – this requires a qualified evaluator, someone who has been trained in this system. Teachers are quite enthusiastic, as they then know where students are at when they come into their classrooms. This will also be useful for self-assessment, in conjunction with teachers. It makes sense that the DELF rubrics should be tied in to FI learning outcomes.

Report on Full-day Kindergarten next year in FI - Allan Douglas:

- Some concerns have been discussed re: supervision at lunch hour; staying awake all day; room size; scheduling for half-time teachers; play-based learning environment;

difference between Ks and Grade 1's in the same classroom. SD71 has mostly implemented full-day K already; FI teachers are receiving some inservice time for this transition. Modular classrooms at EPPE and ERR are designed specifically for full-day K. SD71 will spend money on putting resources in those classrooms, and adding resources to present classes. Concern about K/1 classes in FI, but that's the reality, and the format has been working very well in English so far. Question: how many English K students will be trying to come into Gr. 1 FI? Only 1 or 2 have expressed interest so far, and because Late FI is an option, that might be all that switch over to FI. Grade 6 LFI is at 23 students right now for next year. Gr. 7 right now has 26. This is a successful program!

Concern about French language proficiency in high school –

- A concern was raised that ERR FI students who have gone to Isfeld for Grade 8 and 9 are now using less French, and their French is deteriorating – the concern is that they no longer converse with each other in French outside of the classroom and their level of French is going down. Kids seem to be speaking to their teachers in French, but in English to their peers, leading to more difficulty with expression. The new levelled rubric will probably be of help in this area as well.

CPF Concours d'art oratoire –

- This French public speaking competition will be held on April 7, 6:15-8:30pm at École Robb Road. Judges will be from different areas of the community, including the base and RCMP, director of HR from SD71, students from Isfeld, and possibly past administrators of FI schools.

Report from École Mark Isfeld – Gerald Fussell:

- An Intensive French opportunity was offered to Grade 11 students for next year, but the program will not be able to run, as the minimum number of students was 25, and the overall number who signed up was only 20. The program will be offered again next year. PE 10 has been offered in French, as well as Science 10; the school is not yet sure what will happen next year with this. French Cultural Leadership 9 was offered – 12 students signed up, so that bodes well for the course in the future.
- Next year's numbers: Gr. 11 – 46 students; Gr. 12 – 38 students; Grade 10 – 55 students; Grade 9 – 80 students.
- This year for the first time, the Grade 12 Français Langue students bettered the provincial average on the provincial exam for the first time, and no one failed the exam. This group has had a lot of upheaval to deal with in the past years, including multiple teachers, so they had quite a bit of catching up to do. The results are very

encouraging. On April 22 the Grade 11/12 trip to Paris takes place – 16 students are going. 9 Isfeld students are competing in the Concours.

- Isfeld grad – June 29, 2011.