

Isfeld PAC Minutes – March 9, 2009

Welcome and Introductions

Adoption of Agenda – Addition of New Business: School Trip – Europe 2010.

Motion to adopt: Sharon Adams/Heather Demeo.

Adoption of Previous Minutes –

Motion to adopt: Shelley Gailloux/Tannis Stanley.

Principal's Report – Bill Village:

1. Since last meeting, there have been band and choir visits to elementary feeder schools; there was a music showcase at Isfeld; a group of students and Bill went to the Lower Mainland for a TIG (Taking it Global) webcast (3 Gr. 11, 1 Gr. 10) - the webcast is still on the website www.tigweb.org. The website focuses on young people getting involved in the world, and the webcast was part of the 'Sharing the Dream' program – 6 webcasts connected around the Olympics.
2. The Gr. 9 band trip to Penticton was very successful.
3. Interim reports have gone out, and early dismissal day has taken place. For now, interim reports just go out to students who are not doing as well as they could or should be. Bill's goal is to have an interim report for every student in the fall. It would be good to have all parents feeling welcome to approach teachers and the school. Parents are appreciating the ability to communicate with teachers via email.
4. "In the Driver's Seat" (more information about this workshop can be found at www.teendrivers.ca) – was a great workshop, providing good information for teens and their parents. It was well-received by teens and parents who attended.

Trustee's Report – Janice Caton:

1. Janice reminds parents that there is a discussion paper on the district website with four questions on it – please take the time to answer questions. Janice is strongly adamant that there is no pre-conceived agenda in this discussion, but that the board will do what is financially responsible and what the public wants.
2. There is a public budget meeting upcoming: what do parents and students in this district value? The Minister of Education has told trustees across province that because of the recession the money will be tight, and decisions must be very responsible.
3. Student Travel Policy is under review – as it stands the policy allows for trips, with board approval of each trip required. This also involves parents who have an "N" on their licenses and who are driving for elementary field trips, and the issue of booster seats for elementary field trips. All policies are

on-line at the district website. There are issues regarding multi-passenger vans as well.

4. This district is also writing a policy on Aboriginal protocol: providing the Aboriginal Education community with assurance that we value them as partners.
5. The board has approved the Isfeld senior band trip to Alberta.
6. Larry Jangula (Courtenay councilor) will come and observe the traffic issues on Lerwick this week, at the end of the school day – he welcomes each school to make a presentation regarding any traffic needs and issues, especially concerning the traffic light at Malahat and Lerwick.

Treasurer's Report – Diana Briggs:

1. There has been one change: Diana wrote one cheque for the Improv. Company's new jerseys, as noted last month.

All other committees are unrepresented; there is a FAC meeting going on right now.

Grad committee – having moved Grad to the end of June has meant that grads are very aware that they need to finish their courses and requirements in order to cross the stage and receive their diplomas. Bill is meeting with each grad on the edge of not finishing all of their courses, and having them sign an agreement that they've heard him say this and they agree to do the work - and at worst not be surprised if they do not manage to graduate.

Old Business:

1. Bus to Comox – Letter from PAC should go to: Regional District, School District, Chuck Morris, local papers, City of Courtenay, BC Transit.
- The bus issue has become such a problem because of the boundary change in the school district, and reconfiguration (greater numbers).
 - Possibility of writing a separate letter to the school board – Would the board consider convening a committee to address school transit involving all schools in the district?

New Business:

1. Portables and School Capacity – there is one portable not in use, and the school is desperate for that capacity – it is affecting computer lab use, as the extra classes have to meet in a computer lab. Last week work was started on the portable. The problem was discovered in August, and now in March they are fixing the problem – there was something in the air that has now been cleared out, so they are working on venting.
- Isfeld school student capacity, counting 4 portables, has been set at 950 students for next year. Bill thinks this is workable, considering efficient timetabling and space allocation. Bill feels that the building handles the capacity well in hallway spaces and classroom spaces too. Cross-boundary

- requests are up to 95 now, and Isfeld won't be able to take nearly that many (possibly just siblings). We can't go beyond capacity. 70+ are requesting in; those requesting out to Highland are all from Aspen Park going into Grade 8.
- The board made the decision not to close the high schools to cross-boundary transfers because each high school offers something slightly different in regards to course offerings.
 - Reasons for requests to Isfeld: Cumberland students who want to come here; Queneesh area families find Isfeld closer than Vanier; last group is very scattered – some coming from Francophone school to F.I., but many who are hearing that Isfeld has a great reputation, with a happy student population. Of the kids here now, only 3 are asking to leave in order to get away from the school, and they are kids who've been having a bit of trouble in school.
 - Isfeld has a reputation now for a good drama program; MITV has had a great impact on school spirit.
2. Landscaping – Chuck Morris has let us know that there is a grant available to apply for that could supply Isfeld with some trees along Lerwick in front of the school. As long as we address the issues of water needs and visibility.
Motion to apply for 'green grant' for planting of trees along Lerwick: moved by Heather Demeo/seconded by Tannis Stanley.
3. Configuration Feedback newsletter will go out electronically to all Isfeld students.
4. Trip to Europe 2010 - Board has approved in principal the dates March 6-13 for Spring Break – two teachers: Barry Walker and Liam Bishop have a proposal for a spring break trip next year to France – Vimy Ridge and coast trip. This is open to all students, Grade 11-12; Grades 8 and 9 are not eligible for trips to Europe. Grade 10 students are not eligible unless they're part of a class already. The maximum number of students: 16, but possibly more.
Approx. cost is \$3000 for 10 days.

PAC approval needs to be given for each school trip.

Motion to approve the 2010 Europe trip to France, subject to Board approval: Lisa Taylor/Mark Steven.

FAC was just tonight discussing the FAC response to the discussion paper put out by the school board – we need to let the transition settle and stabilize – single transition is best for the F.I. program. Long-term growth needs to be considered: 25% of Kindergarteners in the district are F.I. now – there is a big bubble coming up. FAC also wants a school with FI history to be chosen as the long-term FI high school.

Motion to adjourn: Sharon Adams/Joanne Steven.