

Mark Isfeld Secondary PAC Minutes – April 20, 2009

Motion to adopt agenda – moved by Sharon Adams/seconded by Leah Taylor. Carried.

Motion to adopt minutes of previous meeting – moved by Leah Taylor/seconded by Shelley Gailloux. Carried.

Principal's Report – Bill Village

Since last PAC meeting:

- Spring Break has occurred.
- There have been three cultural events: for French Immersions students, for Grade 10 students, and for Grade 11 students. Today, there was a performance by Scrap Arts Music, a percussion group, for music students.
- RCMP camp: a number of Isfeld students attended, helped by the work experience office at the school.
- Grad Dessert took place.
- Grade 8 band trip to Victoria took place and went well.
- Term 3 has ended and Term 4 has begun – Term 3 report cards are being completed.
- PARTY Program had two groups of Grade 10 students attend (drinking/driving awareness program).
- District Heritage Fair took place, with several Isfeld students moving on to the Regional Fair.
- Day of Silence took place last Friday to show solidarity against violence and bullying.
- Soccer teams and Track and Field team have started up.

Coming up:

- Next weekend, the Senior Band trip to Alberta begins.
- ICBC-sponsored speaker, Kevin Brooks, will speak soon to Grade 12 students.
- Articulation will begin this month – staff and some students will visit feeder schools.
- Thursday, May 7, the Interact Club will host an international dinner – watch for tickets.
- The administration is working on timetabling for next year, hiring staff, planning courses for next year.
- Bill is working on a glitch in school board policy regarding cross-boundary transfers – the Board has approved cross-boundary requests for 25 extra students, meaning that 25 Life Skills students would then not have spaces. Also, there are international students who don't want to transfer out. Also, 9-11 CSF students would like to transfer into French Immersion. Also, about 6 more cross-boundary requests have now been approved. Right now the enrollment for next year sits at 979 (rather than the planned 950), and the Board has halted all incoming students. (6 German exchange students would bring the number to 985.)
- There is a difficulty with staffing in French Immersion – e.g. 65 FI Grade 8 students are coming in next year, which will have to be two large classes, as there is no

staffing for three classes. Grades 9 and 10 are smaller classes, and Grade 11 slightly larger.

- Question on cell phone usage and texting policy in the school: this issue will be visited in the next staff meeting – the issue is becoming more problematic. There will be discussion regarding making this a whole-school policy rather than class-by-class.
- Question on homework policy: also on staff meeting agenda; there is a concern about teachers extending deadlines if projects or homework are not finished.
- Issue of lates and poor attendance: having an after-school program would provide some consequences for some behaviour issues, as well as a place for students to work on course work and even NIDES courses. Bill is looking for some staff support for an after-school program (there is a lunch-hour program).
- Question on “Skills Canada” program: robotics, textiles, carpentry, etc. Isfeld competed in the robotics competition this year, but did not qualify. Kids in different classes have been involved, extending to after-school events – e.g. a cooking class had an ‘Iron Chef’ competition. There is support from the Board for these programs.

School Trustee Report – Janice Caton

- There is a School Board meeting next Tuesday.
- A \$500,000-\$750,000 structural deficit is expected because of cost overruns (e.g. hydro, TOC’s, etc.)
- No decisions have been made regarding any schools in the district at this point – it will be status quo throughout the district next year.
- An ad hoc committee will be formed to look at three options for after next year; the Board hopes that the committee will report by June of this year and a decision will be made by October of the next school year. The three options are: a two-high-school model; a three-high-school model (Grades 8-12); and a three-high-school model (Grades 9-12).
- There are also on-going discussions regarding the elementary configuration model, and the unique situations of Lake Trail and Cumberland Junior Schools.
- The French Immersion program definitely wants to keep a one-transition model, but the Board is looking at possibly moving the program back to Highland.
- Janice has high praise for Isfeld students at the Heritage Fair and the RCMP camp.
- The School Board members will visit Isfeld tomorrow – the staff has invited the Board, as did Vanier and Highland staff members. (The Isfeld staff is very concerned about the possibility of Isfeld being reconfigured after next year.)
- The busing contract is up for tender, and will eventually come before the Board.
- The Ministry of Education gave \$1.5 million to Royston Elementary.
- Question for Janice/Bill re portables: portables may not be necessary at Isfeld next year, even with expanded numbers, but the school would like to have access to Valley View’s portable if necessary. Isfeld’s Portable #3 is still not ready, and has never been used this school year – a new furnace, new ducting and new drywall will

be installed, but this process has taken much too long, and has been very disappointing for staff and students.

- Janice's suggestion: for PAC to write a letter to the Board requesting immediate action on this.
- A motion was made, stating that the PAC Executive write a letter to the Board on behalf of the PAC, requesting immediate action on completing the last portable at Isfeld (Portable #3) and affixing the date of May 1st as the suggested completion date. Moved by Leah Taylor/seconded by Arla Calman. Carried. (Lisa Taylor to email Susan Barr to let her know that a letter will be arriving tomorrow morning; Lisa and Jennifer Keenan to draft the letter to the Board.)

Treasurer's Report – no report.

DPAC Report (District PAC) – Marg Brimacombe/Leah Taylor.

- There was a configuration discussion at the last DPAC meeting – a letter was sent to Susan Barr (chair of the School Board), and then to the PAC's of the district, informing them about a DPAC motion that was passed, which stated that they supported the status quo being followed in the district, unless it is fiscally responsible or educationally important to change configurations. The discussion also involved the question of whether the new Board felt that they had been voted in to change back to middle schools, or just to signal a change from the 'Old Board.'
- There is a partners' meeting tomorrow night, which will be attended by DPAC reps, to discuss budget issues.
- Next DPAC meeting: Monday, April 27th, at NIDES campus at Tsolum.

FAC Report (French Advisory Council) – Haley Humphrey.

- One of the main issues in French Immersion right now is staffing – finding enough teachers at the grade levels needed.
- The district French Immersion program will begin French field trips and exchange programs next year at the high school level.

SPC (School Planning Council) – Jennifer Keenan/Rhonda Snook.

- The SPC met, and had a good meeting.

New Business

- There was a question about whether there will be enough students to run 'specialty' courses in Grade 11 and 12 (e.g. Physics 12, Chemistry 12, English Lit. 12, Social Justice 12) – the answer is yes: Isfeld is able to sustain these courses.
- Bill Village will be on the ad hoc committee formed to look at configuration in the district, and he believes that there should be three high schools in this district, and that with two larger high schools, there would be a loss of connectivity. Grade 8 and 9 students have been fully included at Isfeld, and educationally the Grade 8-12 configuration is working. Bill feels that the Board is mutually respectful and open to discussion. Janice Caton will support a three-high-school model.
- A motion was put forward to write a letter to the School Board, stating that the Isfeld PAC is in support of a three-high-school model rather than a two-high-school model, and that at this point in the process of forming an ad hoc committee, there should be no statement about which of the three high schools would be closed in the proposal of a two-high-school model; there should also be consideration from the Board on the importance of protecting the morale and the strong sense of community of the students, staff and parents at Isfeld. Moved by Haley Humphrey/seconded by Shelley Gailloux. Carried. (Lisa Taylor to email Susan Barr to let her know that both letters will be arriving tomorrow morning; Lisa and Jennifer Keenan to draft the letter to the Board.)
- Last Isfeld PAC meeting of the year will be next month – Monday, May 11, 2009.

Motion to adjourn the meeting – moved by Chris Ricard/seconded by Marg Brimacombe. Carried.