

**RIBMS School Council Introductory Meeting
Monday November 18, 2013 7:00pm, Staffroom**

Call to order: 7:10pm

Attendance: 10 parents, 1 trustee (Deb Laturnus), 2 principals

1. Welcome & Introductions:

Mr. Fender welcomed all parents in attendance. Mr. Prebushewski did as well, coffee and donuts offered to all in attendance. Mr. Fender had all attendees introduce themselves around the table. Attendance sheet passed around as well.

2. Purpose of school councils:

Mr. Fender spoke about a councils purpose, to allow parent involvement and an opportunity to provide feedback in regards to their childs education.

Mr. Fender stressed the importance of everyone's personal time and the fact that we all have very busy lives. Discussion followed regarding the length of council meetings. Would 60 minutes suffice or would 90 minutes be more reasonable? 90 minutes was agreed upon as the maximum length. Robyn Hendersen agreed with this, stating meeting could always end earlier if need be.

Tricia Mitchell, agreed with setting a meeting time limit, but also suggested setting time limits for items on the agenda to avoid excess non-related discussions and sidebars in order to streamline the meetings. Discussion followed and there was general approval around the table.

3. Trustee Report:

Debbie Laturnus was in attendance. Mr. Fender thanked Debbie for being able to attend on short notice! Ester Willms was unfortunately out of town and not able to attend. Debbie reported that she had been to a few Palliser meetings so far and that committees were currently being setup.

4. Principals Report:

Walk-A-Thon: Mr. Fender spoke briefly regarding Walk A Thon. He was amazed at the efforts all the staff and students put into this fundraiser and praised the staff for their personal support to this event. Overall the school raised approximately \$36,000.00

RIBMS Guidelines for Student Behavior Support: Mr. Fender also spoke regarding RIBMS' new Guidelines for Student Behavior Support. The purpose is to provide homework support in a positive manner, rather than the previous "negatively" viewed detentions (DT's) Previously, DT's often removed students from class, taking learning time away from students who were already behind in their studies. Mr. Fender advised parents that behavior can often reflect a students learning difficulties. Dave and Jason both visited classrooms last week to introduce and explain the new Guidelines, in which the focus is on forming good learning habits rather than fostering bad ones. Consequences of the new guidelines

may include Friday afternoon detention sessions from 12:30-1:30pm, in which the students personal time is affected. Parents would be consulted prior to these detentions being enforced. Dave and Jason looking for parent feedback to these guidelines.

AB ED Accountability Pillars: Mr. Fender also shared the results of the Alberta Education Accountability Pillar Summary, as well as PAT results. A copy of the Handout was provided for all parents in attendance.

DIAD Teaching Model: Mr. Fender briefly discussed the possibility of introducing a DIAD teaching concept at RIBMS in the future. Currently we have several specialized staff teaching specific subjects (1 teacher for gr.7/8 LA, 1 teacher for gr. 7/8 Math, 1 teacher for gr.7/8 Science, 1 teacher for gr. 7/8 Social Studies.) This equates to 1 teacher needing to each know approx. 200 students, as well as students having to move from class to class every break. A DIAD model would allow teachers to teach 2 subjects (eg: Math and Science) to approx. 100 students and have another teacher teaching those same courses to the other 100 students. This allows for a better relationship between teacher and student, teacher support among staff, and a more efficient schedule with less moving between classes. There was quite a few questions posed from the parents in attendance, with mixed responses from the group. One complaint of RIBMS' current model is the length of time needed for Parent Teacher Interviews due the number of students involved. (Mrs. Shipton and Tricia Mitchell) A concern raised over the DIAD model was that a teacher may be teaching a subject they are not confident in, which could reflect negatively on the students. (Tanya Wurzer) Tanya Wurzer also spoke of the several changes that have occurred at RIBMS over the last 6 years, especially Administration changes. She felt that too many changes are harmful to the students, as there have been several changes implemented throughout the school but not followed through on due to staffing changes, Eg. Accelerated Reading Program. She hopes that whatever changes are implemented in the future are well thought out and stood behind once in place. Mr. Fender advised that this is just an idea the staff is discussing and that nothing is decided for next year at this point.

Parent Teacher Interviews: In addition to comments made regarding the proposed DIAD model, Parents discussed line ups, and how different time slots were worse than others. Apparently chair set up was an issue the night of. The original circle formation was not effective and once specific lines where assigned to each teacher, there was less confusion and line budging by the parents!

Jolene Brobbel commented on the DOJO system her childs teacher is using. She is enjoying this email system and finding it very effective as a communication tool between home and school.

Sue Wells stressed the importance of a Parent Teacher Interview. Sue felt that parents should always make the commitment to attend these meetings if only to introduce yourself to your childs teacher and let them know you are available for communication, you are aware and care about their education.

Mr. Fender spoke on the importance of keeping PTI's positive and that there should be no surprises for parents at this meeting. If there are issues/problems with the student, there should have been communication with the parent prior to the PTI.

RIBMS Cell Phone Policy: Mr. Fender advised that this policy is going well, that there have been little to no parental complaints. Several parents in attendance voiced their agreeance as well and complimented the school on implementing it. Mr. Prebushewski advised that there have been several student complaints, however that is to be expected. Mr. Fender reiterated that there are several ways that the students would be able to contact home/parents if an emergency arose during the day and that use of their cell phone was not one of them. RIBMS is going to be keeping the policy in place and the principals have no regrets regarding it.

Elections..... Mr. Fender bravely brought up this topic near the end of the meeting, stating that in order to be a proper council, we really need to have an executive in place. The question was posed whether we really need a Treasurer, as all money is starting to go directly through Palliser Central Office. Mr. Fender thought we should have a Chairperson to set up an agenda. Robyn Henderson was curious as to how much time this would incur, as previously at JEES it required a meeting with the principal prior to setting the agenda. Another role that was discussed was that of secretary. Megan Curtis inquired what Mr. Fender is looking for in regards to the council, as the roles between council at JEES and the council at RIBMS seem to be very different. Tanya Wurzer stated that in her years of involvement at RIBMS, the council was more of a Parent Advisory Committee that provided support to the staff. No official Elections were held. Dave asked that those in attendance think about it and come back to the next meeting with their decisions.

One School, One Book: Robyn Henderson spoke briefly regarding this project and how it ran at JEES. There was brief discussion of the possibility of this type of project occurring at the middle school level as well.

Two Stars and a Wish: Mr. Prebushewski passed out sheets for all in attendance to fill out 2 Stars (2 positive things they really like about RIBMS) and 1 Wish (1 thing they would love to see happen or change at RIBMS) These sheets will also be going out to all families at RIBMS with hopes of using the feedback to better the school.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, January 20, 2014. 7pm Staffroom

Meeting adjourned: 8:10pm

Unofficial Minutes taken by Megan Curtis