

RIBMS School Council Meeting #2
Monday January 20, 2014 6:30pm, Staffroom

Call to order: 6:30pm

Attendance: Wendy Navratil, Heather Lee, Sharon Gurr, Tricia Mitchell, Robyn Henderson, Sue Wells, Heather Wolfe, Megan Curtis, Jennifer Stephen, Jolene Brobbel, Krista Gaskell, Jason Prebushewski, Dave Fender, Debbie Laturus (Trustee), Alex (School Start)

1. Welcome & Introductions:

Mr. Fender welcomed all parents in attendance and explained that we'd attempt to finish the meeting by 7:30, as Mr. Conrad had another meeting previously booked for this same timeslot. Mr. Fender asked all attendees to introduce themselves around the table. Attendance sheet was passed around as well.

2. School Board Representatives

Ester Willms sent her regards, and was not able to attend tonight's meetings. Debbie Laturus was in attendance. Debbie advised that Central Office is currently going through a Review, very similar to how the schools have had in the past. Leroy Sloan?

Debbie also spoke regarding the announcement that Glenmore Academy will no longer be a part of Palliser Regional Schools after the 2013/14 school year. Their society has made the decision to return to the private sector. Glenmore has been a part of Palliser for approx. 6 years and currently holds 8-9% of their student population. Teachers at Glenmore, who are currently part of the ATA, are eligible to stay with Palliser after the 2013/14 school year. Palliser will have to wait and see how this unfolds and how it will affect staffing in the new school year.

Discussion followed as to how this will affect Palliser financially. Heather Lee posed several questions regarding surplus accounts at Palliser as well as RIBMS. Heather wanted to know whether school surpluses were calculated into Palliser's surplus or were they separate? Debbie Laturus advised that school surpluses were not part of Palliser's and that Palliser's surplus is used for scholarships, school buses and one other item she was not sure of.

Mr. Fender addressed RIBMS's surplus at being approximately \$200,000 which has been acquired over that last 6-7 years. Currently the school is focusing on student literacy and using a portion of these dollars to support this focus. Questions then arose from Tricia Mitchell, Robyn Henderson and Heather Lee as to how school surpluses are accumulated? As well as what does that mean for Palliser when a large school such as Glenmore Academy leaves? Discussion followed regarding the history of school surpluses, how policies have changed over the years, how surpluses are acquired and how they can be utilized.

Heather Lee posed another question regarding Palliser's audited statements showing a \$1 million fundraised amount. How was that acquired? Debbie Laturus advised she would look into that.

3. County of Lethbridge – 50th Anniversary

Mr. Fender has been in contact with County Representatives as they would like to present every student with a 50th Anniversary commemorative pin.

4. Macky Le – Deanna Smith

Mr. Fender advised that Macky Le's last day will be January 31, 2014 as Deanna Smith will be returning from maternity leave. Deanna first day will be Monday February 3, 2014. Robyn Henderson questioned how that would affect the Yearbook Committee? Would the meetings continue to be on the same nights? Mr. Fender said that he hadn't personally discussed that with either teacher at this time. Deanna Smith has overseen Yearbook Committee in the past and it should continue to run with hopefully as little change as possible.

5. Accountability Pillar surveys: Synervoice, email,

Mr. Fender reported that last years Accountability Pillar results were good, however the number of responses were quite low. He questioned whether those results are a very accurate reflection of the school based on the number of surveys completed.

These surveys are for Gr. 7 parents specifically and parents should be seeing them in the mail soon, and need to be completed by the end of February 2014.

Discussion followed as to how to entice more parents to complete the survey. Emphasis needs to be on filling the survey out meaningfully and not just randomly answering the questions. Jennifer Stephen suggested some sort of draw such as a free gift card. However since the surveys are anonymous, this would be hard to track. Heather Lee suggested hosting a special night for Grade 7 parents, put a challenge out there to have more filled out than last year, provide food, etc.

Robyn Henderson, Sue Wells, Jolene Brobbel and Tricia Mitchell also discussed what do these pillars really mean? What do their results really show and how accurate are they? Tricia suggested that perhaps they are fairly accurate as the parents that did fill them out are likely very involved with the school and are aware of its goings on.

6. Walk-A-Thon where dollars go

Mr. Fender recently spoke with a Grade 5 parent regarding Walk A Thon dollars and how they are allocated, so felt it might be necessary to discuss the topic further with all parents in attendance. Each student who raises over \$250 is eligible for a \$100 credit to use towards athletics and band trips. For Grade 5 students all money is pooled and used towards POD activities, as grade 5 students are not eligible for athletic teams or band trips.

Heather Lee had questions regarding how much money was in RIBMSs surplus, \$200,000? and School generated funds? \$125, 000? Is Walk A Thon separate from School Generated Funds? Where is this money spent?

Discussion followed as to how the money should be spent. Heather Lee advised that this money should not be spent on curriculum based items, eg: stoves for the foods program, as that should be covered by Palliser under programming/curriculum expenses.

Debbie Laturnus mentioned that RIBMS should look into becoming a Society. Trustees are advising all schools to look into this possibility to keep their money separate and secure from “claw backs”

Dave advised that he would have a detailed school budget available for the next council meeting.

7. Canteen – Healthier Choices – Step One – whole wheat pizza

There has been discussion at the school regarding the choices being offered to the students at the Canteen. Healthy choices have not done well in the past, as one of the challenges is that they have a shorter shelf life. The school had decided to buy a pizza warmer with money raised through canteen sales, and will start selling “whole wheat” pizza as a new meal option. Tricia Mitchel questioned whether the canteen would remove an “unhealthy” option in light of this addition, as if it is still available, the students will likely still choose it. Sue Wells commented that if “only” healthy options were available, students wouldn’t be able to make an unhealthy choice. Heather Lee was surprised to hear candy is actually sold at the canteen, she didn’t feel that was a healthy choice at all. Sue Wells questioned where does money earned at the canteen go? What purpose does having the canteen serve? Jason P. advised that basically the canteen is a cost recovery project and that its purpose is not to “make” money. Money earned through the canteen goes towards equipment such as the pizza warmer, and replacing existing equipment in the canteen.

Jolene Brobbel stated that their family is going to attend a Culinary show put on by SAIT later this year. She said she would look into ideas there that we could possibly apply to our canteen.

There was discussion regarding the possibility of students working in the canteen and helping prepare food. Could this be part of the foods programming? Tricia Mitchell spoke to this topic regarding health and safety regulations involved in preparing food for the public. Mr. Fender asked if he and Tricia could meet again to further discuss this option and the regulations involved.

8. School Start – pre ordered School Supply Kits

Alex (School Start Salesperson) was in attendance to present to council their pre-ordered/packaged and delivered school supplies. Alex advised that School Start is based in Calgary and is in their 5th season. Their prices are cheaper than Staples and their products are name brand. School Start would collect supply lists from RIBMS and create packages that would be grade appropriate. School Start claims to be cheaper and more efficient by saving parents the time and money involved with school supply shopping. Also by ordering through School Start, RIBMS would earn a 10% rebate from the sales campaign.

Orders would be placed in June and can be paid for by Cheque, Visa or Mastercard. CanPar carrier service would then deliver them to either your home or the school. Each order comes contained in a reusable shopping bag and is labeled by Grade and Student Name. Orders can be placed online by the

parents or an order form can be filled out and returned to the school with payment. Alex advised that if any supplies are missing or broken upon delivery, they would be replaced no questions asked.

Robyn Henderson questioned whether they do home deliveries to rural addresses? Alex wasn't sure, as he isn't the normal rep for our area. He advised that most schools that participate in the program have all the supplies delivered to the school and the students pick them up on their first day. He also mentioned that Trinity Christian (part of Palliser School Division) participates in their program.

Megan Curtis asked whether there needed to be a minimum order? And how long a contract would the school have to sign? Alex advised that there is no minimum order and the contract would only be for that year. If RIBMS were to sign a contract for next year (2014/15) we would need to set an order deadline Eg: June 17 and pick a delivery date Eg: Aug 28

9. Questions/Follow up from November Meeting

Robyn Henderson inquired about the school microwaves? Information she received from her child is that some of them don't work. Mr. Fender addressed this issue, said they all seem to be working and that he made a point of checking them all after our last meeting.

Robyn Henderson also was wondering if the One School, One Book project was something RIBMS is seriously interested in looking at. Mr. Fender replied that he is in favor of the program, just not right now, especially with the change over of LA staff (Macky Le leaving/Deanna Smith returning) Perhaps March? Mr. Prebushewski also advised that he was familiar with this program as he was involved with it at Coalhurst. He would be interested in helping get this program going at RIBMS as well.

Heather Lee proposed the idea of making it a "whole" community project, not just one school. Robyn Henderson replied that the challenge in that scenario is choosing a book that is appropriate for that entire dynamic. Robyn spoke to the fact that even within a school sized project we need to be sensitive and aware of cultural and religious issues addressed in the chosen book. Jason Prebushewski supported Robyn's answer as well.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, March 17, 2014. 7pm Staffroom

Meeting adjourned: 7:45pm

Unofficial Minutes taken by Megan Curtis