

Forest Heights Community School

SAC Meeting

January 22, 2018

Joint Committee Meeting FHCS Family of Schools

Miles Page, Principal at FHCS, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the room. Representation from CAMS, CDES, ACES and NRCS.

The idea of the joint meeting was discussed. It was agreed that there was much to gain by being collaborative and supportive of one another. It was suggested that the joint meeting become an annual event to be held in the fall of each year.

There was discussion around the different roles of the SAC. Some of the items currently being discussed at the SAC meetings are:

Discipline committee

What is happening at the school

Board policies

School improvement plans

SAC agreement

Student success

School utilization

School closures

Community school model

Advocacy

Fundraising (not all SACs)

Accreditation

Discussion around challenges that SACs are facing such as recruitment, school utilization and policy revisions.

There was discussion on how to best support each other with fundraising and events. We all utilize the same community resources and feel that we could use a collaborative approach so as not to exhaust resources. Advertising on each other's websites and community newsletters was discussed. There was discussion around community based fundraising events and school based fundraising events. It was suggested that major fundraising events be put on the Rec Dept calendar. The Explore Life Now flyer is available for advertising as well. It was suggested that we contact the Board as they have communications experts that could help with our plan. This will be raised at the Principals meeting.

There was discussion that information, both good and bad, should be shared between the schools. Often times incidents at one school impact the entire family of schools. Knowledge is power and

everyone being informed will help to present a united front. Critical incidents were discussed and how even though an event happens at one school it affects all schools. Social media presents challenges in information sharing. When bad things happen we can support each other and when good things happen we can share in the celebrations.

CAMS, NRCS and CDES are interested in the Community School model. The schools need to have the support of the Municipality to move forward with becoming a community school. This is a great way to share resources and funding opportunities. Sharing of infrastructure and manpower is a win win. Many schools are the focal point in the community and have much potential for community support.

The meeting concluded with the consensus that a joint strategy will serve us well moving forward and we need to develop practices to enhance this. The SACs are powerful advocates for the schools and the community.