

NRCS SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Minutes April 10, 2014



ATTENDANCE:

TIME: 2:00pm

Principal: Lindsay Willow
Teachers: Crystal Thorburne, Elaine Munroe
Support Staff: Valerie Lenihan
Community rep: Diane Webber
H&S Rep: Sheila Ernst
Parent reps: Sheena Isenor, Wendy Harvey
Student reps:

MINUTES: For February 27, 2014

Moved by: Crystal

Seconded by: Elaine

To accept minutes as read; Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. **Draft policy on Naming School Facilities (Policy #470)** – deferred to next meeting

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

1. **SAC Bylaws** – deferred until the next meeting
2. **Strategic Plan Meeting** – Was March 18th, feedback has been requested to be submitted to the school board by April 30, 2014; a copy of the current draft of the Strategic Plan accompanies these minutes;
 - a. Discussion of the Strategic Plan; Sheila will send feedback to the school board; thoughts of the SAC:
 - i. Plan is too broad; needs to be more specific with respect to goals and measures
 - ii. Good that there is a strategic plan
 - iii. Needs to be in common language; students, parents or community members may not understand some of the terminology or programming that is referred to; further clarification needs to be added
 - iv. Who is responsible to action the tasks/goals? Who is responsible for measuring the success?
 - v. Where does NRCS fit in? For example, PATHS does not indicate NRCS as a school for implementation. Normally we follow the same timeline as New Germany School which is indicated for year 2; is this actually the case or are we not included? This program has already been requested for us.
 - vi. Page 9 – RCH Policy (Race-Cross Culture-Human Rights); increase target of 25% each year; does this mean that the intention is to be at 100% by year 4?
 - vii. Page 11 – Funding is being allocated to support getting Schools Plus into all schools; this programming, in some respects, replace the loss of phys ed, music, etc. which once formed part of the daily curriculum; Why didn't we keep it? Could we bring it back if the value is seen? What options are available for funding in this area?
 - Further discussion: Some areas of student support/education that once had separate funding is now incorporated into the classroom and the responsibility of the teachers, such as, mental health support, special needs, etc.; funding supports having staff available and appropriately trained; if funding is given to phys ed, music, etc. it has to be taken from somewhere else; funding is allocated based on the DOE structure/formula; funds are allocated to specific areas and cannot be interchanged.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

1. **Merchandise Bingo (April 25, 2014)** – get the word out!
2. Principal's Current Newsletter accompanies these minutes

STUDENT REPORT – From Student Rep:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **SSRSB Budget** – Wade Tattrie has requested that SAC's review the budget and provide feedback as to what they feel should be the priorities of the school board for the upcoming year; thoughts of NRCS SAC based on the document "Presentation to SSRSB SAC Members – March 18, 2014 – What Does SSRSB Spend Its Funds On?", a copy of which accompanies these minutes;
 - a. **General Comments**
 - i. All items that decreased in funding are directly student related
 - ii. Small schools need additional funding to ensure that the same educational needs are met as are available in other schools
 - iii. Extracurricular programming need to supported, especially sports teams; schools can create teams but there is no funding to support them in small schools
 - iv. Need a higher allocation for transportation to take students to events/activities in other areas; as we do not always have the funding or resources to be able to offer certain events/activities or opportunities, we need to ensure that our students are not losing important cultural experiences
 - v. What is a home stay fee? (page 7 under contracted services)
 - vi. What is Other Professional Services
 - vii. Why has one position in transportation been replaced by 4 positions? What are the responsibilities of the positions? Has there been or are there efficiencies to be gained? Why the restructure? What is the difference in salaries to the budget?
 - b. **Budget Priorities**
 - i. More teachers in classrooms
 - ii. More teaching assistants
 - iii. More guidance staff
 - iv. More speech language pathologist staff
 - v. School repairs and maintenance – with regulation and accountability to the SSRSB to ensure that needs of schools and safety of students and staff is met at all times
 - vi. More discretionary funding for administrators and staff with accountability to justify expenditures based on student, staff and school needs
 - vii. Capping class size at 20 students per class
 - viii. Providing students needing adaptations a consistent 10% resource allocation
2. **General Discussion**
 - a. Can boundaries be put into place in the parking lot to ensure that students are at no risk to vehicles coming into the school during student play time? Concern raised that even though students know to stay within a certain area and teachers or monitors are alert to vehicles coming into the parking lot there should be a more defined boundary which ensure that vehicles are not coming within a certain distance of the students; Lindsay will address this
 - b. Lindsay is continuing to work toward funding to ensure that resources are available to provide breakfast and lunch to every student each day

Next SAC Meeting: May 20, 2014 at 2:30pm

ADJOURNED: 4:00pm