

Salisbury School Council Meeting (Virtual)

Thursday, January 27, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Chair: Jacquie Surgenor

Principal: Sunny Sandhu

Trustee: Don Irwin

Parents: Andrea Moniz, Annette Hubick, Brenda Oliveros, Karla Alton, Jenn Fraser

1. Welcome and Introductions: Jacquie Surgenor
2. Approval of Agenda: approved with date change, and removal of teacher report, and student report. Annette mentioned she would like to talk about how students are updated on important information.
3. Approval of Minutes from November 25, 2021
 - a. No changes noted, minutes approved
4. New Business:
 - a. Open House/IB Night/Registration: Sunny Sandhu
 - i. IB Information Night is on February 3 at 6:00 p.m. and Open House is on February 8 at 6:00 p.m. Both nights are virtual, and this decision was just made last week.
 - ii. February – non boundary time. Students are trying to figure where they want to attend. We will be having the students hopefully in March to tour the school, but they will already be our students.
 - iii. We are also going to extend the registration time. This is an exciting time for students, not only for the incoming grade 10's but also our current grade 10 and 11 students.
 - iv. Krista Porter is lead on registration, and she does an amazing job of building the student's timetables.
 - v. It could be a blessing in disguise to have tours in March, students will be coming in smaller groups. We are not actively recruiting students to Sal, and we all want students to go to their designated school.
 1. Jacquie: We still want to go into the junior highs as well, along with Bev Facey to answer any questions that students may have.
 - vi. There was also an EIPS Information Night on January 24, and there is a recording for that.
 1. Comment: Transition from junior high to high school is huge.
 - b. Early Dismissal Wednesday: Sunny Sandhu
 - i. Teachers are really enjoying this, and it has been good for students who are doing rewrites.
 - ii. Next Step will be increasing their hours on Wednesday to 6:30 p.m.
 - iii. Next Step isn't the only school which has high risk students, Sal does as well. These high-risk students have the NHI's, so Early Out gives them the opportunity to get their work done.
 - iv. Early Out Wednesday's is also great collaboration time for our IB teachers.
 - v. Sunny is a strong advocate for Early Dismissal Wednesday, and will be pushing for next year. The benefits outweigh the challenges.
 1. Question: I was under the impression that the Early Wednesday was collaboration time for staff?
 2. Sunny: It is multi-fold – we have 16 IB teachers, and yes it gives them time to collaborate. It also is for students – multi-faceted. There will be some strong data to support from the students. It is a great time to discuss and talk. We have less staff absences now – even with the pandemic. Maybe in part this is due to staff not being overburdened.
 3. Question: How are special programs handled this? Impact students? STEPs?
 4. Sunny: STEPs go home every day at about 2:30 p.m., so the staff do have time to collaborate. The Impact students are on the same schedule.

5. Question: Will there be specific questions about early out to the students and parents?
 6. Sunny: Not sure what we will get from the government. We will create our own survey to send out.
- c. Assurance Model Review: Jacquie
- i. We had Bev Facey, Fort High, us, and Next Step for the collaboration review. This went very well. I was given 6 minutes to talk as I was speaking for Sal and Next Step.
 - ii. At the high school level, I spoke about Staff Recognition, junior high transition to high school, athletics, and Fine Arts.
 1. Sunny: this is my fifth year doing this – more structured than before. I enjoy these things as I like to hear about all the good things that are happening. Parent engagement is going well but this is going to be one of our focuses. The word, parent, is not in our school goals and I believe it should be. Our current goals were set in 2018 by Principal Allen. I would like to have parents help to figure out our new goals. So, the question is, is how do we get include parent engagement in our goals?
 2. Jacquie: We do have connections with volunteers, such as coaches, in band, etc. We need to make sure parents are still valued at the high school level.
 3. Question: Is the division coming out with their 4-year plan in March? Do the schools then derive their goals from there?
 4. Sunny: Schools are more aligned with the division goals then years before. As a school though, we need to start thinking about what goals mean to us and what it says about our school.
 5. Question: In the parent surveys, what does engagement mean to them as parents? I think parents define this differently.
 6. Sunny: The word, engagement, does mean different things to people. I like the idea of having focus groups to discuss this. Can we maybe, do a townhall? Similar like going into the junior highs? Are we setting ourselves up for good communication?
 7. Question: I really appreciated the call from the Assistant Principal regarding the career pathways discussion that happened with my son. It gave me a different perspective on my child and what they are thinking.
 8. Sunny: This idea was born out of the pandemic, and the calls we made to parents. This has been rewarding and well received.
- d. Staff Recognition: Jacquie Surgenor
- i. We have had 28 staff that have been recognized, 2 more just came in. We have had some staff who have had multiple recognitions. Please share the link on social media, we would like to keep this going.
 - ii. Responses back from the staff are very appreciative.
 - iii. www.RecognizeSal.ca
- e. School Council Engagement Grant Information: Jacquie Surgenor
- i. We have the \$500.00 grant that we need to use to engage parents. We must decide what we are using this money for. One idea was to pool our money for guest speakers. Ideas for the speakers were Jody Carrington, a speaker from University of Lethbridge (topic: Curriculum), and ASCA. Any parent can attend these sessions.
 1. Comment: I support pooling the money. I really like Jody Carrington but feel she is more geared to elementary students. Her latest book on mental health is good but again, it is more geared towards elementary age.
 2. Jacquie: good point. I think we would ask her to focus on a wide range of ages. Specifically, for parents of teenagers.
 3. Comment: I agree with Jenn. My husband is a high school teacher, and he has a hard time finding sessions at convention. How much money do you need?
 4. Jacquie: Jody Carrington is \$6000.00. Is there something else we could do, just at Sal? We would have to have it organized by the end of the school year.
 5. Comment: Focus groups on parent engagement? Maybe have refreshments?

6. Jacquie: We are not allowed to spend any of the grant on food or refreshments.
 7. Comment: I agree with Annette is saying. Too late in the game though to try and book something. I'm in favor of pooling the money.
 8. Comment: I am in favor of pooling the money as well.
- ii. Consensus was to pool the money with other school councils through COSC
- f. EIPS Calendar: Jacquie Surgenor
- i. Status quo on the calendar.
 - ii. Don: The calendar is the same as the last one – reclaimed a day back for National Truth and Reconciliation. There was lots of feedback from staff and parents to keep it the same.
 - iii. Comment: You will review changes for next year? I thought it was bad timing for the survey to come out. One week before Christmas, and during a pandemic.
 - iv. Comment: My feedback is that the survey was challenging. Difficult to weight in what changes would happen. It didn't give enough context to give an informed decision. Not sure why this was so urgent to do because the new curriculum was coming. This has been slowed down by the government. The results were shared with staff and parents. Communication was lacking. If teachers need more PD, it wasn't explained why. This came out of nowhere. Should have had more School Council input or discussed at COSC meeting. We couldn't even talk about it and one School Council Meeting.
 - v. Comment: I agree, it should have been discussed at a School Council Meeting.
 - vi. Sunny: We do budget for PD, we have money set aside for teachers to attend PD and time to collaborate.
 - vii. Comment: losing 3 days of school in January this year, had students panicking about finals. So losing those days on the calendar and trying to make it up by adding 3 minutes a day is not quality teaching time.
 - viii. Comment: I was thinking the same thing. When you are knocking out a whole day – you can't make that time up. What does that mean for staff meeting time?
 - ix. Comment: I urge the board to think about what this means at the high school level.
 - x. Sunny: In February, March, we will talk more about Early Out days for collaborating. This will be a heavy project with new curriculum. Hopefully, next year, we can keep our bell schedule.
 - xi. Comment: Hopefully, the board will allow the flexibility to keep our early out days. This will be a heavy work load for the elementary schools.
 - xii. Sunny: We all got the calendar at the same time. In the next couple months, discussion will happen. Fort High, Facey and Sal are all on the same bell schedule. There will be upcoming discussions at next principals' meeting.

Information Reports:

1. ASCA: Jacquie Surgenor
 - a. No more money from the government for next year. We were told that our budget is \$0 in terms of a government grant. This has changed since I first started. We had \$700,000.00, then \$600,000.00, \$130,000.00, and now \$0 for next year in grants from the government. We have also not been invited to many meetings. We are getting some meetings with the deputy minister but that is it.
 - b. ASCA has membership and sponsorship fees which bring in income. EIPS pays our membership dues for us. We are laying off our support staff as we can't sustain them any longer.
2. Principal's Report: Sunny Sandhu
 - a. Heavy time in the division due to the numbers from covid with staff and students being ill. Decision was made to extend the break for 3 days and exempt students from exams if ill. We are having discussions with parents, and if their students want to write the final, we are trying to accommodate them

- b. We have hired some new staff for semester 2. We keep our budget heavier for planning that. Staff will be in the halls for the start of classes to help students find their classes.
- c. As far as communication with the students, we have the Daily Bulletin which is read to the students on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This is also posted on the website. We are getting new screens for the hallways, so we are hoping to have that running for further communication. Social media is also used to communicate.
- d. Comment: Wouldn't it be challenging to have the bulleting posted somewhere? I tell my son what I read in the Sabre Scene. Why isn't there a Sabre Scene for students?
- e. Sunny: I do a principal's address if there is important information that students need to know. We do try to put information on different locations.
- f. Comment: With the cafeteria being closed on Tuesday. How will you handle where the kids are eating?
- g. Sunny: Classrooms are open, hallways are wide. Not all kids eat in the cafeteria. We have restructured the tables and how many students can sit at them. We have also have the bleachers in the large gym where students can sit and eat.
- h. Safety is paramount. We have tables and benches in the halls, but we have to remove some as we don't want students sitting so close together with no masks on. We have had Lisa Johnson in, to see what we are doing, and she has done a phenomenal job.
- i. Comment: students need to prepare for life out of school. They need to socialize, and the school can only do so much. Students can leave the school at lunch, and go to a friends house, and there no masks are on, and not social distancing.

3. Trustee's Report: Don Irwin

Don gave an update on his meetings and activities.

Next Meeting: February 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment: 8:42 p.m.