

## **CLEARSPRING MIDDLE SCHOOL PAC MEETING**

**Friday, Jan 12, 2024**

**12:00 pm in Board Room**

Attendance: Merrilee Plett, Candace Campbell, Melissa Thiessen, Janelle Unrau, Amanda Manchulenko, Marion Hiebert and Sherri Trinh

### **1. Welcome – Melissa Thiessen**

- Call to order at 12 :01 pm

### **2. Adoption of Minutes from November 16, 2023 meeting – Melissa Thiessen**

- Moved by Janelle Unrau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marion Hiebert

### **3. Adoption of Agenda – Melissa Thiessen**

- Moved by Janelle Unrau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marion Hiebert

### **4. Financial Report – Janelle Unrau**

- See Handout. Balance as of December 31 is \$1463.89
- Interest of \$.08
- Teacher appreciation donations: \$240. Expenses \$193.29. Reimbursement cheques issued to Tanya Penner and Curtis Thiessen (Tanya's not yet cashed).
- Cheque for \$3000 to CMS has been cashed.
- Tiffany Sawatzky now has signing authority as well as Janelle and Melissa

### **5. Special events – Melissa Thiessen**

- Christmas staff appreciation was very well received. Home-baked goods were a wonderful addition.
- We know that Tanya will keep us in the loop about the next one.

### **6. School Report – Merrilee Plett**

- Christmas break – included 3 weekends instead of only 2 that we had last year. Everyone seems well-rested.
- January is a period of concentrated learning time with fewer extra events happening.
- Christmas concerts in December (Band and Grade 5) were very well-attended. Running out of parking space is always an issue. The school is looking at offering an additional showing of the grade 5 concert in the afternoon. Parking is a hurdle for this as well.
- More kids are participating in concerts without phone calls home, etc. than years ago. The participation is encouraging.
- Report cards went out at the end of December. Admin can now see how many families have accessed them on Parent Portal. As of the beginning of January, it was 77.5%. Parent Portal doesn't work well on cell phones and the website may not be as natural as receiving a paper copy for some families. Even when paper copies

were sent home, there were parents who never received them. Not sure if there is a report to see which families aren't accessing report cards. Merrilee will check.

- Basketball teams are up and running. Staff is thankful to have found enough coaches; it's always harder to find coaches for basketball.
  - i. Number of teams per grade: 7 Girls: 1, 7 Boys: 2, 8 Girls: 1, 8 Boys: 3
  - ii. There are more boys than girls in every grade of CMS, especially grade 8.
  - iii. Community volleyball is big for girls in our area so that leaves fewer to play basketball.
- Mental Health Week: Last week of January.
  - i. There will be short (5 min) videos in class each day with discussion questions. There will be different videos for grades 5/6 and 7/8.
- Upcoming Events:
  - i. Grade 8 Ski Trip @ Falcon – Next Week
    1. Split into 2 days; 3 classes/day. There isn't a venue large enough for all 170 kids.
  - ii. Grade 6 – Museum – Mid-February
  - iii. Red River Dancers coming to CMS
    1. Grade 7's will get to learn some dances
    2. There will be an assembly for the full school
  - iv. Grade 5 festival in Beausejour
- Provincial Assessment start in February for grades 7 & 8. Assignments and outcomes rather than exams. Grade 7 focuses on Math (decimals & fractions) and grade 8 focuses on ELA (expository writing & reading comprehension). Parents will receive reports in March.

#### **7. Questions/Responses to Principal Report – Melissa Thiessen**

- Parent commented on how helpful the technology handout was from the last meeting. Merrilee is getting ready to send out a selection to parents.
- Parent remarked how excited her child was for the grade 5 concert. She believes it was so well-attended by students because of the amount of involvement they had in it and the sense of community they felt.

#### **8. HSD Board/PAC Liaison Meeting – Melissa Thiessen**

- Will be held Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 8 pm at the HSD office.
- Melissa will attend. Any other interested PAC members are welcome to attend as well. Please let Melissa know so she can RSVP.

#### **9. Meetings – Melissa Thiessen**

- Next meeting scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup> at Noon in the boardroom.

Meeting adjourned at 12:21 pm