

H. E. Bourgoin Middle School

SCHOOL COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

2015-2016 School Year

Submitted by: Maureen FERENCE, Principal

H.E. Bourgoin's School Council continues to be an effective avenue for enhancing the communication between the school and parents which lays the groundwork for an inclusive, welcoming environment at H. E. Bourgoin School. The School Council was established in the 2006-2007 school year. Its Constitution outlines the Council's mission, vision, guiding principles, objectives and by-laws. The Council Chair for the 2015-2016 school year was parent, Mr. Lorne Kaban.

At the School Council meetings throughout the school year, parents are provided with information on the various school events and programs offered at H. E. B., the recognition of the many achievements of our students, the monthly school fundraising efforts as well as any new school initiatives. Education policy changes and happenings at the school division and provincial level are shared with the Council through our NLS D Trustee, Mr. Michael Topylki.

A summary of the monthly meetings follows:

The first meeting of the year, held in September, reviewed the work of the School Council in the 2014-2015 school year. The Council reviewed the procedure that H.E.B. uses to select homeroom classes. The development of School Council meeting norms and an HEB Band Association were also discussed. The Council's "Standing" agenda items were reviewed and updated as well as the school's fundraising calendar for 2015-2016. Input to the school's communication plan (part of the Education Plan) was received from the Council. Changes to the student Awards program were discussed and support was expressed for the maintenance of the current grade 5/6 levels award program. A meeting date to discuss the awards program further was set. The NLS D Administration Procedure 143: Dispute Resolution for parents was presented to Council. This is a new AP that was approved in June, 2015. At the meeting the following opportunities for in-service training were identified: Cybersecurity, Drug Awareness, Mental Health Awareness (removing the stigma of anxiety) and Sexuality Awareness (relative to the grade curriculum),

In October, the Council reviewed and discussed the school's 2014-2015 Provincial Achievement Test (PAT) results, Alberta Education Accountability Pillar Survey results, and provided additional input to the school's Education Plan.

Being the Annual General Meeting, the Council reviewed the School Council Legislation which included the H.E.B. School Council Legislation, NLSA Administrative Procedure 110: School Councils and the Alberta School Act (Chapter 5-3 part 2: School (22) School Council). Election for Council Chair position took place: Lorne Kaban won by acclamation. The next election will occur in the 2017-2018 school year at the October Annual General Meeting. A special meeting was arranged for parents to dialogue with the administration team on the changes being considered to the grade 5/6 recognition/awards program for 2015-2016. The meeting and further dialogue with parents via personal visits, e-mails and telephone calls acknowledged the case for change; support was provided for both the maintenance of the current grade 5/6 levels award program as well as the proposed changes.

In November, the Council provided input to the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 district calendars. The new grade 5/6 recognition/awards program was highlighted as well as the school's guideline on school phone usage and use of personal communication and recording devices. The Council provided input to the "Welcome Phone Call Home" template to be implemented for September, 2016. The Council looked at developing a goal for 2015-2016 which included providing parental support to the Welcome BBQ for September 2016, and applying for a grant or fundraising for the upgrade of the school's fenced basketball court.

In January, The Council reviewed the 2014-2015 School Generated Funds and working copy of the 2015-2016 budget. Feedback (Start/Stop/Continue) was solicited for the Student-Led Conferencing and Parent-Teacher Interview night that was held in November. Council saw some value in the Student-Led model but suggested a blended system with both conferences and interviews.

NLSA Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Rick Cusson joined the Council at the February meeting for a meet and greet session. Parents were then invited to join the Council for a workshop titled "Tech Training for Parents." Carly Johnson, Division Lead Technology Teacher, presented the workshop on Google Classrooms. The presentation provided parents on how to log into Chrome, explain what Google Drive is, and the core Apps used in Google Apps for Education (GAFE), such as Docs, Slides, Sheets, Classroom and Read and Write for Google. The council learned navigation skills within the Apps, and were given an overview of what each does. They also learned some tips and tricks showing why GAFE is so powerful for assisting learning. Parents that attended the in-service training were very appreciative of the guidance and demonstration of the Google Docs platform.

With March meeting cancelled due to weather, April focused on reviewing Board Policy 20: Transportation, Administrative Procedures 350: Student Conduct, and Administrative Procedure 272: Library Learning Commons. Also in April, the H. E. Bourgoin Behavior Matrix was presented and discussed.

The final meeting of the year was held in May. H.E.B.'s Librarian, Cheryl Edwards, spoke to AP272 (Library Learning Commons) and presented a PowerPoint on the changes that have been happening in the library, transforming the learning space into a Library Learning Commons. In April, our Council Chair was selected to attend the annual Alberta School Council (ASCD) annual meeting and conference which he reported back to at the May meeting. Also in April, the school administrators, NLSD School Council Chairs and Trustees met in Glendon to discuss issues of common interest within the School Division. Feedback was requested for the "Standing" or annual agenda items for the School Council. Student Fees for 2016-2017 was shared along with the Division's Policy 17: Student Fees.

The final two meetings of the year, April and May, unfortunately could not be considered formal meetings as only the Chair was present with the Administration. There will be a focus on renewing the engagement of additional participants for the 2016-17 school year.

In closing, our Council appreciates the initiatives at the Board level to provide an evening of dialogue and learning through the Board/School Council meetings. They are attended by H. E.B. administration and our Council Chair. As well, a thank you is extended on behalf of our Chair, Mr. Kaban, for the invite he received from the Board to attend the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) Annual Conference and AGM 2016 in April.

The Council continues to dialogue and provide input at every meeting by identifying the school's strengths (What should we be doing MORE of?), weaknesses (What should we be doing LESS of?), opportunities (what NEW things could we do?) and threats (what must we STOP doing?). These questions and subsequent discussions and suggestions forms the basis to the school's Annual Three Year Education Plan.

Having an active school council helps confirm that H.E.B. continues to move in the direction that reflects the desires and wishes of our parents and students. The meetings continue to be very productive and informative for our parent population who are in attendance.