



Mark R. Isfeld Secondary PAC

MINUTES

Monday, Apr. 10, 2017
7:00pm

Attendees: Lisa Taylor, Ian Langmann, Arla Calman, Mary-Jane Douglas, Dean Lindquist, Jeff Taylor, Jonathan Bos, Tammi Whelan, Lorne Taylor, Richard Trinh, Samantha Green, Sheila McDonnell, Eileen David

1. **Call to Order-** Lisa-7:02
2. **Approval of Agenda-**motion by Ian and Lorne seconded
3. **Approval of Previous Month's Minutes-** motion by Mary-Jane and Arla seconded
4. **Presentation: Dean Lindquist** – Superintendent, SD71 – to discuss the educational and financial direction of the district and to answer questions from parents. SD71 was given enough new funding for 17 FTE for this semester and enough for 60 next year! Due to implementation of the Return to 2008 wording, as a result of the court case win for BCTF. \$6 million has been added to address needs of the district. Isfeld will get 6 new teacher FTE's – this will be until 2019 when a new agreement will be made. Lorne asked a question regarding the attitude in the staff room negatively affecting the student experience. Dean indicated that the fact that the high school teachers will get to do 7 of 8 blocks again instead of 8 of 8 will make a huge difference. Jeff concurred that the teachers at Isfeld are now much more enthusiastic and ready to embrace the 21st century learning now that they are guaranteed more time. 120 new students will be coming to SD71. We are now out of funding protection.

Presentation: Richard Trinh – Student, Mark Isfeld Secondary – to discuss student opinion on the Friday alternate school week and the future of education in SD71. According to Richard, most students love the Fridays and Richard wants the students to have the opportunity for differentiated Fridays to continue into the future – he surveyed many fellow students and noted that they feel they have neither the support nor motivation to fully utilize the new system as the structure and teacher support is not there yet. Richard feels they will use the Fridays to greater effect, with some more structure and help. At present, students are going to the gym or doing catch up homework/assignments; or not coming on Friday as they, and/or their parents think they get more enrichment at home. The students enjoy their

Fridays but are sad about that the enrichment opportunities are not yet available at school; in short Richard came because he believes in the concept and reality of the differentiated Fridays and hope they continue for students at Isfeld.

His additional material in his own words:

Just now there is talk about more staff collaboration there should be more staff-student and student-student collaboration

I recently attended a student focus group to discuss Fridays and why we need change. It was interesting for the most part

- Parents and staff should not underestimate their job as role models; if they're being hard headed, students will show the same

- Staff should understand that this is not an easy process, but I wish they still continue even if things look bad. That's why I was slightly upset when Isfeld's Fridays changed to 2 blocks and 2 hrs DI time when they saw that the structure was failing

Reports:

Principal's Report:

Highlights from last month

- **Achievement in Athletics:** Our spring season involves girls' soccer, which is looking very promising, girls' rugby, golf and Track and Field. The soccer starts in earnest this week, with junior and senior tournaments held at Isfeld. Our girls rugby are coming off a 41-6 win in Nanaimo to host this Wednesday. Track and Field has conducted practices, but the first regional meet is still ahead of them. The golf team will compete at Morningstar this week.
- **Citizenship check:** We held one highly successful Nicaragua Trip and a second is being planned for next year. So far student interest is out-pacing our capacity, but that may also be true for the Italy Exchange, also planned for next year. We have missed out on some SEVEC trips to Quebec in recent years due to job actions in that province, but we are in the preliminary stages of getting one going next year. We are collecting books for Syrian families, and some students are using Fridays to generate other ways to offer support.
- **What's up with Arts:** The Destination Imagination Provincial Tournament took place last Saturday at Kwantlen Park Secondary in Vancouver. This year, Comox Valley teams dominated, with only one Isfeld team not placing in the top three in their event. Two of our teams are now fundraising to represent BC at the Globals in Knoxville, Tennessee next month. Geoff Hynds and Madeline Rissling proved that winning the Television and Media event from Skills Canada Regionals in Campbell River was not a fluke. They went to the Provincials in Skills Canada, and won the Silver Medal!
- **Academics:** I would like to thank all Isfeld parents for the session they attended on the alternate instructional week, and also apologize that it went so badly off the rails. Fortunately, the next session at Highland ran substantially better as a consequence of the feedback provided at our session. I will meet with staff tomorrow to continue our work on preparations for next year, which are focused on the new curriculum's requirement to provide inquiry learning opportunities to

students. Our course selection process is complete and we will be using our course tally information to decide on what sections to run next year. The financial outlook for the district in 2017-18 is better than it has been in five years, and we are more optimistic that we will meet students' needs as a result. We recently received the provincial results from the Francais Langue oral exam, and they were far better than we were expecting.

Upcoming Events-

- District Volunteer Recognition Banquet at Florence Filberg Centre April 12
- District Student Forum held at Isfeld 12:00 to 3:30 on April 13.
- Easter weekend April 14-17
- French Immersion Feature Film in MPR on April 21
- CPF Meeting at Isfeld April 24th
- Drive One for Charity Event on April 30
- Jeff does a one hour shift at the grill for McHappy Day May 3
- Bowling with Special Olympics athletes May 4
- Drive one for Charity event at Isfeld April 30th

Jeff added these points at the meeting: As soon as the news of 7 of 8 vs 8 of 8 blocks broke, the staff attitude changed. Only 1 teacher didn't want to go forward. Many of the teachers want to lead this movement. The goal is to gain better involvement on the part of students. The curriculum is not changing but the pedagogy (presentation of the material) will change **drastically**. Staff is positive and ready to make a change for the future. The curiosity killers in every student's pocket (their cell phone) is in direct opposition to the initiative needed to take responsibility for their own education.

- **Trustee's Report – Sheila** – no specifics tonight; most points have been addressed; trust between the teachers and the board through the last years of cuts has been low and is now getting better!
- **Treasurer's Report – Mary-Jane Douglas**- Attached thank you Mary-Jane. Move to accept by MJ and seconded by Ian
- **DPAC Report – Ian Langmann**- there was a presentation on the move back to restored language(from Supreme Court settlement in favor of the BCTF); a report on bullying; and the mechanism to ask for help;
Thursday, April 27th there will be an All-Candidates Forum about Education here at Isfeld in the multipurpose room -6:30 pm
- **CPF Report – Lisa Taylor** – so grateful that Robb Road was able to partner for the Talent show and CPF is the recipient of the funds raised there. **At Isfeld School the French movie "Seducing Dr. Lewis" on Friday April 21, in the morning. Room 100 Isfeld will be the CPF meeting 7:00 pm April 24th.**

5. Old Business:

- PAC Relay for Life Team – any further thoughts about who might want to volunteer to lead or co-lead a team. There is a grad parent team already – and they already have 15 – we would need a PAC one. MJ is volunteering as PAC captain.
6. **New Business:**
- “Most Likely to Succeed” – This is an educational documentary – discussion of the possibility of holding a screening at Isfeld. It was suggested to be done at Isfeld, with a panel of speakers, including Mr. Taylor, prior to or after the film, in the first 2 weeks of June. Tammi Whelen will contact Sheila McDonnell regarding structure of panel, ministry involvement etc. and date.
7. **Adjournment** –Lorne moved, and MJ seconded.- 9:31
Next PAC Meeting: May 15, 2017