



# Mark R. Isfeld Secondary PAC

## MINUTES

Monday, May 14, 2018  
7:00pm

Attendees: Tom Mason, Tammi Whelan, Jo Payne, Arla Calman, Mary-Jane Douglas, Keith Keller, Kari Bennet, Tonia Larson-Gagne, Karma Taiji, Lisa Taylor, Ian Langmann, Sheila MacDonnell, Stacey Gastis, Shannon Aldinger.

1. **Call to Order-** 7:01 – Lisa.
2. **Approval of Agenda-** motion to accept agenda as amended; moved by Jo, seconded by Ian. The election of the treasurer for next year was added to the agenda, as was the discussion of a PAC Relay for Life team.
3. **Approval of Previous Month's Minutes:** motion to approve by Tom, seconded by Ian.
4. **Guest Presentation – Life Skills teachers Kari Bennett, Keith Keller and Tonia Larson-Gagne** will introduce us to the Life Skills program, which is an important and integral part of the Isfeld student body.

Keith spoke first and invited questions. The staffing for Life Skills started 20 years ago with 1.5 teachers; 4 years ago went to 2.0; and now there are 3.0 teachers. Keith says that Isfeld is a very friendly environment for the students in the Life Skills program. He is very impressed with the tone of this school. The Life Skills students look forward to their days here. Through a Special Olympics basketball tournament, elective classes, and everyday interaction with students from the main body of the population, they feel a like contributing part of the Isfeld student body; the Life Skills students feel 100% part of the school.

Our Life Skills students are profoundly cognitively impaired and are very young developmentally. Those with the ability to verbalize are not more cognitively capable than their non-verbal colleagues, and that is a lesson that Kari left with us. Their classes are based on self-regulation and social skills. It is in learning these skills that the students able to enjoy electives in art and cooking. Tom suggested the salad bar program may be able to give money back to the Life Skills program in a fund-raising capacity. Also, the Life Skills students and teachers are 100% on board with implementing the Salad Bar program, should the grant funding come through. Kari also spoke about the peer mentoring program where Isfeld students from the main student population interact with the Life Skills students in a variety of capacities including work experience. Everyone learns from each other. Tonia spoke about some of the assistive technology that Life Skills students use, such as 'eye gazer' computer technology, switch devices and augmentative communication devices. Even the students

in Tonia's class are able to communicate and interact with others, including those who are non-verbal.

5. **Reports:**

- **Administrator's Report** – Jeff Taylor and Karma Taiji-

Events since last PAC Meeting

Karma acknowledged how successful she felt the Substance Use Awareness Night was and expressed her thanks to the PAC.

- We hosted Quebec Exchange students in the last week of April, when we had excellent weather and fun activities.
- Our senior Band went to Vancouver for a brief trip.
- We hosted the district GSA meeting (Gender Sexuality Alliance)
- We also had a large number of grade 12s write their English 12 exam early.
- Our mountain bike club qualified for provincials, but declined going as it is cost prohibitive.
- Our girls and boys rugby teams are continuing to compete well. They boys got thumped by NDSS, and Vanier took down our girls' team after losing to them last month. However, both teams took these losses as a wake-up call and are renewing their focus for the final stretch.
- Junior and Senior girls soccer are exceeding expectations. The Juniors just came fourth on the Islands but tied the top team 1-1. Our Senior girls won the consolation bracket at Carihi and are currently competing at Islands. They just beat top ranked Brooks 3-1, so their chances of going to Provincials have dramatically improved.
- Transition meetings have been held with our feeder schools and we are gathering info that will help us run an effective grade 8 program.
- We are scheduling for next year and are close to knowing who will teach what. Where is another matter, as we should be back up around 1020 students, and space will be at a premium.
- Report cards were issued electronically, and while this is not a glitch-free process, it does get cleaner every time we do it. We are printing fail lists and will be intervening on students at risk of failure.
- Isfeld parents were well represented at the Secondary Program Review session held at Vanier a week ago. Lorne, Arla, Shannon and others were there.
- Our grads went bowling with special Olympians again this year. The next grad event is the Tailgate BBQ, happening this Friday. Grads will be electing two valedictorian candidates soon.
- Assemblies coming up: ICBC road Sense on Wednesday, Avant l'Archipel on Friday, the White Hatter and Reach Out Psychosis in the fall.

- Our grade 8 girls will be attending Be You, Be Active, a conference held at Cumberland Junior on May 24.
- For clarification the Capstone projects are mandatory for graduation at Isfeld, because we have adopted the new curriculum.
- The first week of June is very busy: Bursary Night Monday, Athletic Banquet Wednesday, New Student Orientation Thursday and Relay for Life on the weekend. The second week isn't any easier: Summer Concert Monday, Awards Night on Thursday, I-day on Friday.
- Isfeld is a leader in restorative justice with groups of students; for online bullying, real life bullying etc. Our vice-principals have been at the heart of making this happen.
- **Trustee's Report** – Sheila McDonnell- As the SD71 secretary-treasurer died suddenly and recently, staff are scrambling to adjust and cover. Our district is getting a grant for new playground equipment, which will be installed at Courtenay Elementary. The budget has not yet been presented or passed.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Mary-Jane Douglas – In addition to her usual report, Mary-Jane has itemized the spending with the 50% for athletics, 30% for arts and 20% for academics. Mary-Jane moved to approve the financial report; seconded by Ian.
- **DPAC Report** – Ian Langmann: The DPAC meeting is in session at the same time as our meeting. Ideas are being welcomed for next year's budget and submissions can be sent to the DPAC website. A meeting for the draft SD71budget will be tomorrow at the Board office between 5-6 pm.
- **CPF Report** – Jo Payne – the theatre production "Avant l'Archipel" will be Wednesday May 23, in the afternoon. The next CPF meeting will be June 18<sup>th</sup> at Isfeld, in Room 100.

## 6. Old Business

- Updates: Salad Bar Program- the initial grant from Community Links must be used by June 15<sup>th</sup>, and will be used to put a down-payment on a dishwasher. We are still waiting for the larger grant to come in. Substance Use Awareness Information Night – was well received, there is need/desire for more information nights to parents and for children. The Sexual Health Education proposal update from Shannon: Esther Schatz has said that there are meetings at the district level to help and implement sexual education at elementary level, in addition to Dr. Claire. This will be voluntary for teachers and counsellors who are interested to do additional training that will be available. At high school level it is slightly less structured at this time, but again will be voluntary and training will be available. Dr. Claire received a grant for teaching grade 8's and 9's at Cumberland and Lake Trail Schools on 'healthy sexual relationships'. There was a meme contest in the district that Dr. Claire ran regarding 'Sexual Consent'. Prizes of \$500 were given to each winner and all were boys.
- Shannon made a motion that Isfeld PAC request that the board fund the grade 8's, 9's and 10's at Isfeld, Highland and Vanier for the same information sessions on 'Healthy Sexual Relationships' and sexual assault that the middle school grade 8's and 9's are receiving. Tom seconded the motion. Motion carried and Shannon will draft the letter.

**7. New Business**

- Nominations/election of PAC Chair and treasurer for next year. Mary-Jane nominated Lisa to continue as chair, Tammi seconded – unanimous in favour. Tammi nominated Mary-Jane for treasurer again Tom seconded- unanimous in favour. Thank you Lisa and Mary-Jane!
- PAC Relay for Life team- PAC to the Future- Mary-Jane is not going to be captain this year. The PAC will not necessarily have a team this year, although there is an interested parent who may head it up.

**8. Adjournment: 9:14**

Next PAC Meeting: September 10, 2018