

Salisbury Composite High School School Council Meet Minutes

November 26, 2020

Attendance

Chair, Jacquie Surgenor
Vice Chair, Gabriel Chemello
COSC Rep, Jennifer Fraser
Principal, Sunny Sandhu
Assistant Principal, Krista Porter
Trustee, Annette Hubick
Teacher, Zena Duguid
Student Rep, Connor McNeill
Parents Andrea Moniz, Brenda Oliveros, Emily Baker, Jennifer McNeill, Jodi Wood

Welcome/Introductions

Jacquie Surgenor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda

Agenda was accepted as amended (remove results review)

Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved as presented.

New Business

- a) Grad 2020 Meeting – Sunny Sandhu
 - There was a meeting on November 19 which was extremely well-attended.
 - It was discovered that there could be no more than 100 people on the Google Meet so unfortunately, some people couldn't get in. Looking at fixing that for the next time
 - Not sure exactly what is going to happen, but even if all restrictions are lifted, we won't be in a priority sequence to get somewhere like Northlands.
 - Grad list will be published tomorrow and also on the website so students can check that they are on track to graduate. For those who aren't on track, multiple conversations have already been had so that they are aware.
 - Another meeting will be scheduled for the new year sometime.
 - Grad will look somewhat similar to what was done last year.
 - The grad video from June has been posted on the website.

- b) Staff Recognition Idea: Jacquie Surgenor
 - We've set up the form so that anyone can send positive recognition to Salisbury staff. We will also publish the link in the Sabre Scene and push it out through social media.

- c) Quarter System Review: Sunny Sandhu
 - Brought in by many divisions across Alberta, allows for ease of being an out-of-school learner or in-school learner
 - Have 2 classes instead of 4
 - In Sabre Scene this week, we included a google questionnaire, we are still going through the results and we will share with you once we are done.
 - Krista Porter mentioned that the scheduling for the quarter system was challenging for full year courses such as IB, Math. We had to be very creative for those courses. Off the timetable scheduling is a possibility.
 - Sunny Sandhu said that on Tuesday, December 1, they will be meeting with about the quarter two end dates. Diploma dates are still semestered. Teachers need to know their last day.

Student Perspective

- Quarter 1 was good. Nice to have only 2 classes and felt it was easier. Surprised at how fast it went. Workload was manageable, but there was a lot of homework
- With classes of 172 minutes, it was nice to be able to go out for breaks; it was hard to be in class that whole time.
- My friends enjoyed the quarter system, but brother prefers semester system

Teacher Perspective

- Enjoyed the Quarter System and from a CTS point of view, longer classes work great. We are not bound by time constraints of 80 minutes.
- We know our students, and we know when they need a break.
- From my perspective, there was no downfall
- We enjoyed the freedom of structuring for a whole morning, and had to think out of the box, and understand our students. We learned quick and went from there.

Parent Feedback

- our son loves this system. Really likes his schedule of one core and one option – thank you to Krista for her hard work on scheduling. Moving forward, would like the quarter system to continue. For our daughter in junior high, I believe this system would work for her too. One problem, is that son's math class isn't until quarter 4, so that will be a whole year since he has had math.
- Annette Hubick asked if any students have been in isolation/quarantine, and how did that work with the Quarter System?
 - One parent responded that his daughter's class was in isolation and Natasha did find it very challenging, especially with her math class.

- Son did struggle a little when his class was in quarantine. Made a difference that it was his whole class. Mr. Latte did a great job.
 - One parent asked how band will work in this system. It will now be a year since their son has been in band.
 - Sunny Sandhu said that Krista was unreal with the schedule. Our hope that with band being in quarter 3 and 4, there wouldn't be as many restrictions. Restrictions were too tough for quarter 1 and 2. We are lucky to have Mr. Graves here at Sal.
 - Parent responded that she agrees that for this year to have band pushed off to later in the year, but do not agree with having the quarter system continue in future years. My son needs band for university.
 - Sunny Sandhu mentioned that Admin have been speaking about band, and looking into having after school band practice with Mr. Graves.
- d) Quarter 1 Debrief/Transition to Quarter 2: Sunny Sandhu
- Achievement is ever-evolving
 - Currently with the weather being so nice, students are able to go outside for a mask break with their teacher. With classes being 172 minutes, we are planning how to do this in the winter for quarter 2 and 3.
 - Currently we have about 94% of students in class and in Quarter 2 it is looking to be about 91% of students in class.
 - Students are thinking about the extra-curricular activities they are involved in, and if they are in a cohort. Some do not want the risk of being in class and then having to quarantine.
 - BrightSpace is available for students if needing to isolate. Our teachers had PD on BrightSpace with Mr. Tomkins on the last PD day on October 9. Mr. Tomkins is knocking it out of the park with BrightSpace.
 - A survey will go out to parents after quarter 1
- e) School Education Plan Goal #1: Sunny Sandhu
- Goal: Students demonstrate accountability, compassion, integrity and respect and have a sense of belonging at Salisbury
 - Sunny talked about Safe and Caring
 - 10 years ago was not good, but now it is continuing to improve.
 - Salisbury's dropout rate is very low.
 - Sense of belonging – this is why our parents are pushing for athletics at Sal.
 - Each morning during pandemic and before, our Admin team greet our students as they walk in the building. Our staff connection is paramount. We watch in hallways who is eating lunch alone, day after day. We have students connect with our SAIL group.
 - Programming at the school is important, we have students calling in to get into specific programs such as Cosmetology, as they can get their tickets.

- Students come into the office to speak with Admin, about changing schedules, etc.
- Students are not happy to be in Scenario 3, we are trying to be positive with them. We will be watching which students are not online, we will follow up if students are not connecting, not just academically but mentally as well.
- Students have their go to at Sal – whether its guidance staff, secretaries, etc.
- Staff are looking for students who eat alone multiple days and will approach them
- Zena Duguid said she would like to piggyback on the announcement about the move to online learning. Students years ago, would have been happy to have a month off of school, but now the students were sad and crying – sad to not be at school.

f) COVID-19 Update: Sunny Sandhu

- October 12 was our first case. AHS did a walk through to review processes but had no further recommendations of what else we should do.
- We had another case reported yesterday, but student was not infectious while at school
- Challenge with staff isolating is that there is a sub shortage
- Online learning will be different this time as their will be higher expectations. Students must log into Brightspace so they will need to know their passwords. Attendance will be taken. Good meet will start with their teachers and there will be meaningful instruction. Meet will end with students too.
- Day will mirror what it is in school; just at home
- STEPS will still be at the school
- Will not be as restrictive as the spring. Students can come into the school to get a textbook. If a family does not have stable wifi, then the student can request to work at the school.
- Staff are knowledgeable on BrightSpace and are prepared. We are lucky to have the staff here with this knowledge.
- All staff will be coming into the school to work. Will be hard with no students as they give our energy.
- We will support those who need it, as this time, classes will have more rigor to it.
- Sunny Sandhu said this piece is more formalized. Extends beyond learning, its checking in with students.
- Jacquie Surgenor mentioned that there was a great email sent from the division.
- Gabriel Chemello said he read the email as well and he appreciates that there will be engagement with teachers, and with the cameras on. If you know someone is watching, you do more.

IV. Information Reports

a) COSC Report by Jennifer Fraser

- Our meeting was on November 4, which was great as our School Council had just happened the previous week.
- Many boards across Alberta are concerned about the funding model. Missing students funding who are not registered with Alberta Education. We don't know where they are?
 - Annette Hubick said that funding for those missing students have disappeared.
 - The Board will send a request into the minister. They will get back to us later in the year after they look at the report
 - You can homeschool your child without registering with the board. If they have left the province, there is no way to track.
- PST Interviews discussion about Virtual Teacher Conference and how this worked last time. Please send any feedback to Sunny.
- Results review and COVID Update were talked about.
- Athletics: They did acknowledge that the students are being left behind (band, athletics, RAP)
- Sal is a pilot school for the library and locker rooms being open
- Diploma Exams also talked about, and that it is optional
- Jennifer did amend the minutes from COSC from last month as they did not include Sunny being the only principal supportive of athletics.
- Jennifer did ask Andrea Moniz to provide input about Band students.
-

b) ASCA Report by Jacquie Surgenor

- ASCA membership is funded by EIPS
- Conditional grant for education decreased over last 4 years, last year funding was \$650, 000.00 to cover workshops, education, insurance model, increasing success for First Nation Metis. Fiscal year starts on July 1.
- This year our funding dropped to \$170,000.00. We are a registered society so we do not know how this will work.
- Information is on ASCA Social Media – read the information, will be a huge impact to ASCA. More news in January.

c) Principal's Report by Sunny Sandhu

- Awards
 - We are postponing awards. We will need to prep our kids for going online. Hand out technology.
 - Also, did not make sense to pull staff out of the office to make this happen
 - We are not cancelling but postponing.

- Gabe Chemello asked about awards and what if we are not back in classes in January. How will this happen? Also wanted to know about last year's grade 12's, and how will their awards be handed out?
- Sunny responded that the grade 10 and 11 students from last year will be walking across the stage for their award and will be live streamed for the parents to watch. This will be in line with AHS requirements and our Re-Entry document. Grade 12 students from last year will receive their award in the mail.
- Locker Rooms
 - Open and it is going well, safely
- Library
 - Open and we can function safely
- School Report Results Review
 - On Tuesday, we all met virtually, and it was very neat. We were not rivals but in this together and collaborating.

d) Trustee's Report by Annette Hubick

Premier's November 24 Announcement on School Operations

Highlights

- Grades 7-12 are in Scenario 3, out-of-school learning:
 - November 30-December 22, 2020
 - January 6-8, 2021
- ECS-grade 6:
 - remain in in-school learning until December 22, 2020
 - Out of school learning January 6-8, 2020
- All grades return to in-school learning on January 11, 2020.
- Diploma exams will be optional for the remainder of the school year.

Following the Premier's announcement, the Minister of Education debriefed with board chairs and superintendents on a conference call.

- No reduction in funding.
- Boards can adhere to their own calendars regarding the end of at-school learning for ECS-grade 6.

Principals met yesterday to plan for the change to operations and information was sent to staff and parents of students in grades 7-12 earlier today.

Key points:

- Instruction will be synchronous.
- Attendance will be taken.
- Content is still teacher directed. Students will not be using the same content that out-of-school learners have been using.
- There will be a parent information session on Bright Space next Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.

ASBA Fall General Meeting (Nov 16 & 17)

- Minister's address
 - o No compensation for boards for the time costs associated with performing contact tracing because boards aren't being mandated to do so. However, with increasing delays with AHS contact tracing, boards are put in a position of it being necessary.
 - o What's the tipping point to move to Scenario 2? No recommendation from the CMOH at that point. (This obviously changed a week later.)

Results Reviews

Trustees have completed results reviews for all central office departments and schools. A common theme in all reports was “pivot” as staff had to shift focus and the way they delivered services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was inspiring to hear about how staff adopted a problem-solving mindset. Other common themes were that the return to in-school instruction has revealed just how important it is to not only learning but to student mental health.

I am also concerned for the mental health of our staff due to the incredible increase in workload pressures that they were and are under, and this week's announcement of the temporary move to online learning for grades 7-12 will no doubt add to the burden. I ask that we exercise patience and grace as our staff will be pivoting once again.

I highly recommend that you read your school's and the division's education plans and results reports. The analysis of results and rationale of strategies offers great insight into where we are and the path forward.

November 26 Board Meeting

Fall 2020-2021 Budget update

The board approved the updated fall budget for the division. There have been a lot of changes and unknowns that have become knowns since the budget was developed in the spring and the board has made some adjustments.

- The annual budget for 2020-2021 school year is \$201.5 million
- This includes the federal safe schools funding grant and \$4.72 million from reserves (which have received Ministerial approval).
- System administration spending is \$4.48 million or 2.2% of total expenses, which is well within the \$6.21 million grant provided by Alberta Education. The balance has been allocated to other division needs.
- Enrolment is down by over 500 students, which means that next year, the government will claw back funding. This has been calculated as \$1.967 million and is being set aside now to offset the effect on next year's budget.
- There is also the costs of operating out of school learning of approximately \$2 million so far as the division elected not to reduce allocations to schools to compensate for their reduced enrolment to avoid disrupting their budgets and ensuring that students could transition to and from in school learning without disrupting class configurations in school.

- \$3.9 million in staff and substitute support for illness
- In summary, the net changes from fall to spring amount to a total of \$9.3 million additional dollars allocated to schools and \$2 million allocated to central departments.

2019-2020 Audited Financial Statements

At the November 26 Board meeting the board received the audited financial report and once again, auditors deemed the division's financial statements as "clean" and used the term "gold standard."

Minor change to 2021-2022 calendar

The board approved a minor change to the 2020-21 calendar which moves a PD day from the Friday prior to Thanksgiving to the 3rd Monday in October. That will be election day and the County still intends to use many of our schools as polling stations. In light of the pandemic, it was agreed it would be important to keep the schools as empty as possible.

Update to 3-year Capital Plan

The board approved a recommendation to alter its 3-year plan to reflect the recommendations of the Value Scoping Study. The recommended solution includes the eventual right sizing of SAL to address its underutilization—this would be the final phase of the solution and years down the road if approved. The complete report is available online in the trustee's meeting package.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.