

Sal Comp School Council Meeting

Thursday, September 22, 2022

In Attendance: Mr. Sandhu (Principal), Trustee Don Irwin, Colleen Belohorec, Rob Bushell, Annette Hubick, Devon Marshall, Damian Martinez, Andrea Moniz & Jacquie Surgenor

1. Welcome & Introductions (Jacquie Surgenor)
2. Approval of Agenda (Jacquie Surgenor)
3. Approval of Minutes (Jacquie Surgenor) - deferred
4. New Business
 - a. 2021-2022 Annual Report (Jacquie Surgenor)
 - b. Elections
 - i. Chair – Jacquie Surgenor
 - ii. Vice Chair - vacant
 - iii. COSC Rep – Jacquie Surgenor/Devon Marshall
 - iv. Recorder – Devon Marshall
 - c. Return to School Update (Sunny Sandhu)
 - i. Enrollment – 1300+ (475 grade 10s – the biggest grade 10 class)
 - ii. Registration - registration for Sal is closed as we are running out of resources (no more lockers)
 1. There are more non boundary kids coming in than leaving; even getting students from Edmonton (which we haven't seen before)
 2. Numbers are good right now
 - d. School Council Goals for 2022-2023
 - Parent Engagement
 - Ideas: share the input opportunity/discussion, presentations, teasers of what we are discussing, what we are discussing in the meeting that you won't read in the newsletter
 - e. Staff Recognition
 - i. Do we want to run our staff recognition program again?
 - Online form created during COVID to recognize staff
 - Presented to staff on behalf of School Council (cc Mr. Sandhu on each one)
 - In 2021-2022 approximately 30-40 given out
 - YES to continue doing Staff Recognition again this year
 - SUNNY: Means a lot to the staff
 - Jacquie read emails for closing of last school year and start-up to all staff from school council *See emails below
 - COMMENT: Thank you for focusing on the positives and showing appreciation; so many are quick to put an email together for the negative and it is so appreciated that the positives are highlighted
 - www.recognizesal.ca
 - This recognizing staff email has grown in to other EIPS schools as well
 - f. Proposed Dates for 2022-2023 School Year
 - i. Third Thursday except for November & May

(Oct 20, Nov 17* P/T Interviews MOVED TO November 24, Jan 19, Feb 16, Mar 16, Apr 20, May 18* May Long MOVED TO May 25)

- g. School Education Plan (Mr. Sunny Sandhu)
 - i. Review of new goal related to community engagement
 - 1. Achievement
 - going back to rigor, diplomas are back to 30%, went back to instructional leads, the higher students achieve the more opportunities for students
 - 2. Safe and Caring School
 - 10 years ago Sal's data wasn't strong in this category, our assurance review data shows it is high now, we need to keep it high
 - Want students to feel safe and cared for and that they belong as its paramount to their achievement and passions
 - 3. Preparedness for Life After High School
 - This is also an EIPS goal
 - Feedback came back that students & parents want to feel more prepared for life after high school which leads into Goal 4...
 - 4: Community Partners
 - Community partners meaning: Parents, Greater Community, SPDSA, Kal-Tire, etc
 - Want to be intentional about it, discussed with Superintendent & Associate Superintendent and agreed to add it this year
 - Will open up doors and opportunities for kids after they graduate
 - Opportunity Wednesdays: being intentional with them; having guest speakers and presentations coming in (firefighters for example)
 - We also have to look at the future and how can we set Sal up in a great position for a new build/modernization
 - This School Council is driving the 4th goal
 - If we are intentional with the 4th goal, it partners well with the third goal to prepare for life after high school
 - COMMENT: "Community" when first read was interpreted as geological vs partners
 - SUNNY: Will wordsmith it so it's clear, transparent and concise
 - COMMENT: Education happens outside of the 4 walls of the classroom
 - SUNNY: Look at minutes from last year to see the wording
 - COMMENT: Today looking for support on this goal for the school ed plan
 - SUNNY: The 3 goals are meaningful but this one adds intentionality
 - ACTION ITEM:** Jacquie to meet with Sunny to go through the wording so its clear and then bring back to this table for input
- h. High School Transition Idea (Jacquie Surgenor)
 - i. Still an appetite to look into putting something together with parents for parents coming into high school
 - COMMENT: For parent to parent, is it going to Jr High school councils?
 - COMMENT: Meeting parents on their turf? "How can we support you in this transition?"

COMMENT: Be intentional with what's communicated

COMMENT: Build capacity in our parent community to answer questions to those they know coming up

SUNNY: Sal offers so much, how to communicate it best?

COMMENT: If this were to happen, it would be best to do so towards spring

COMMENT: May want program ambassador vs parent

COMMENT: Can have parents share on what does life as a high school parent look like?

5. Information Reports

a. COSC Update

- i. Coming up on October 5th, Jacquie & Devon COSC Reps

b. Principals Report (Mr. Sunny Sandhu)

- i. Every club and team is led by staff!
- ii. Because of our numbers, can't have all school assemblies due to fire regulations. So this September they had grade assemblies.
- iii. Able to offer so much in the school because we have over 100 kids in Leadership
- iv. Sent survey for P/T Interview format out because Admin meet with parents a ton and schedules conflict, right now its 45%/55% whether to do P/T Interviews in person or virtually. Each session is scheduled for 7 mins, but parents are welcome to meet any time as parent's schedules aren't 9-5 anymore.

-Trying to get stakeholder feedback so we know where parents are at.

First one will be in person, but still deciding what to do for November

COMMENT: Preferred virtual as it felt more of a private conversation vs being in the open gym, didn't take as much time, and was flexible.

COMMENT: Did not like the phone one though as they like to see the teachers face. In person would trump phone interview.

SUNNY: First one in person in the gym. We meet parents outside of those times too. Really liked the first month of school, really awesome not having to talk about masks and to focus on learning.

c. Trustee's Report (Don Irwin) *

Welcome back to a regular school year (hopefully) and I hope you had a good summer and are enjoying our good fall weather.

Work for the school board began mid August with planning the school year. Additional funds were added to the budget for student health projects. As well as funds to help students make up the learning gaps.

I hope you have the committee of School Council's first meeting on October 5 at 6 PM on your schedule so that you can attend to get full updates from administration in Trustees. Free pizza will be served.

This year the board has decided to do membership in the Alberta school council Association by request. The board will still fund memberships but you need to let us know by September 30 if you wish to be a member this

year. Send an email to Corrie Fletcher at corrie.fletcher@eips.ca. Also see the ASCA website at albertaschoolcouncils.ca for information. You can contact me directly by email - don.irwin@eips.ca or my cell phone 587 986 3900 with questions or suggestions
Working for and with you for a great school year.
Don IrwinTrustee - Sherwood Park

i. -Email asking if Sal wants to continue membership with ASCA. Yes
SUNNY: Looking forward to Assurance Review in November. We have excellent results

Meeting Adjourned 8:17PM

End of the Year Staff Appreciation Letter to all staff on behalf of School Council as written by Jacquie Surgenor:

Dear Salisbury Composite Staff,

This year, School Council again undertook an initiative to recognize the amazing staff of our school. Parents and students submitted positive comments and I got to share them with individuals (and sometimes groups). I am so proud that you partnered with us to support this program again (and it has been used as an example across EIPS and the province). As the school year ends, I wanted to take the opportunity to send a letter to the entire staff to say thank you. This has been a year of uncertainty and change and has required adaptability and resilience. Things shifted; often with little notice: masks were required and then not required with only a couple of days warning. We weren't allowed spectators, then we were. The rules relating to Covid seemed to be a winding snake that slithered in giant serpentine. We often couldn't predict what tomorrow, next week or next month would bring. And all of this on top of a previous year and a half of uncertainty, change and chaos.

Educating teenagers is a challenging endeavor at the best of times. They are growing (sometimes more slowly than we'd like) into young adults, but they are still teenagers. You are preparing them for life after high school, which is daunting for many of them. The stakes are high at high school and decisions have huge implications.

You led the way though and your commitment to putting students first is evident. Our student population is growing which is a testament to the work you put in to making magic happen both in the classroom and outside of it. You had amazing success with our sports teams; you held band concerts; you produced drama productions; you opened up clubs and activities; you held an incredible (and meaningful) grade 12 graduation. I know that I don't even know the fraction of the amazing activities that happened at Salisbury this year.

We know that along with parent engagement, a huge predictor of student success is that they have one adult in the school with whom they connect. I am confident that Salisbury students have at least one (and likely many) adults in the building they know they can trust. Throughout this year, Mr. Sandhu has shared the many, many incredible activities, accomplishments, events and stories that have happened over the course of this school year. Thank you to the staff who attended School Council and shared firsthand about their programs. We loved learning more and hope that even more of you will join us next year.

The energy I feel every time I am in the building fills me up, whether I am just in the school for a meeting or to watch a performance, concert, sports activity or school event. Back in Black and Red was electric, and it filled my heart more than I can say to see families walking through the hallways and getting their questions answered, showing off old grad photos, eating yummy snacks, learning about programs and opportunities or just getting a feel for the schools so September doesn't seem so daunting.

The graduation event you put on this year was so special too (as were the events you pioneered to honour our 2020 and 2021 graduates). I know that so many of you dedicated hours to making the day and evening special for those students and their families. Thank you for all the behind the scenes work, as well as, just showing up on the day. While they don't always show it, these students loved that you were there to celebrate this special milestone and as parents, we appreciated that you gave up your Saturday to share these moments with us.

Salisbury has such a huge staff, that I don't know many of you. I am hoping that I can be at the school and meet more of you next year though. Some of you I've known for years; some I just met this year and for some, our paths have not really crossed yet, but regardless, please accept my sincere gratitude for how you have served our children this year. We know they haven't always been easy (we live with them too 😊) and we so appreciate you managing their varied and sometimes complex emotions, educational needs, social situations and connecting with them in unique ways to make each of them feel special.

I know that some of you are moving on to different opportunities at the end of this year and I wish you all the best and hope that our paths cross again one day in the future. For those who are staying, I am excited to continue the amazing partnership between the school and School Council next year.

School Council values your commitment and dedication to our kids and wishes you a summer filled with whatever helps you recharge, relax and recover.

Jacquie Surgenor

Salisbury Composite School Council Chair

First Day of Class Letter sent to all staff on behalf of School Council as written by Jacquie Surgenor:

Salisbury Composite Staff,

On behalf of school council, I'd like to wish you a very happy first day with students. I know that many of you didn't sleep well last night (I remember the pre-first day restless sleep from when I was teaching).

I wanted to take this opportunity to pre-thank you for another great year; for the extra time you put in to ensure our children are successful, however that may look. Often as I sit in Assurance Reviews, the focus is on academic results, but we recognize that so much more than what happens in the academic classroom contributes to that success. The wide variety of opportunities you offer them motivate and excite them in so many ways. From clubs to fine arts, athletics to CTS, Opportunity Wednesdays, academically challenging materials, school spirit activities and being the adult in the building someone knows they can count on, you are the heart of the school.

So, thank you for continuing to teach, inspire and support our students. School Council is thankful for all the time you dedicate to our children, and we wish you a wonderful year.

In partnership.

Jacquie Surgenor

Chair, Sal Comp School Council