

## Sal Comp School Council Meeting

Thursday, January 19, 2023

In Attendance: Sunny Sandhu (Principal),

Parents: Jacquie Surgenor (Chair), Devon Marshall, Damien Persaud (Teacher), Damien Martinez, Andrea Moniz, Virtual: Sherri Kaldenhoven (Staff)

1. Welcome & Introductions (*Jacquie Surgenor*)

2. Approval of Agenda (*Jacquie Surgenor*) MOTION CARRIED

-Have Damien Persaud share first

3. Approval of Minutes (*Jacquie Surgenor*) MOTION CARRIED

4. New Business

a. Teacher Update -The Sal Movement (*Damien Persaud*)

-Inclusion Program at Sal

-Mr. Persaud is a parent here as well now and is grateful for the parents at the School Council table

-Taught Math and Science and English; loves teaching English for the deep conversations with students, lots of conversation around racism and hate and noticed those conversations have the most impact on the students and had a desire to go deeper with students. COVID hit and he knew he wanted to reach the students where they are at and to do more for them -from COVID, kids became more reliant on their phones, and he wanted to reach Sal students so he started the IG account (salmovement) to celebrate the students for who they are and to focus on what brings them together. Started with posting cool shoes, got a tremendous following from that and has now expanded it from there to sports, and the following grew and he earned their trust and then he started to go deeper and introduced the Zero bullying tolerance campaign and did research on it and highlighted it

-He wants to be the lead on it because it is difficult

-A big impact has been on the teachers. They didn't know how to approach the really tough topics and its growing and making an impact on the students

-Tangible things have been addressing racism and jokes that have gone to far in the classroom

-Still many issues to address but it's just starting

-Trying to create a culture that's lasting

-Teachers and the admin define the culture because students come and go, so they define it and help the students take it into the real world after high school

-It is having an impact, for instance, there was a community member experiencing racism and it was an opportunity for Mr. Persaud to go in and help teach and share on racism

-So much more to do

SUNNY: Look at Sal's numbers that self-identify as First Nation Metis Inuit, more and more are self-identifying as a safe place is being created here

-There is diversity coming in at Sal  
-Vast number of kids get it but there is a pocket of kids that don't understand or get what they are saying and doing  
-Our first step is to develop that trust and equip our teachers with those tools  
-Not just racism but includes LGBTQ+ and sex shaming  
-It's all kids, it's not just visible minorities  
-We have this bully awareness week and Bell mental health one day, but it should be more than a week, it should be every day  
-Mr. Persaud is speaking the kid's language, and trying to teach them to be responsible and respectful  
-The Division knows what Sal is doing here, building this culture, we need more kindness and Damien is doing a great job being intentional with the Sal Movement  
PARENT COMMENT: Thank you for starting this initiative. I love how it's coming from a place of genuine, organic and comes from your heart. Thank you for making it about building relationships.  
DAMIEN: The keyword is relationship  
PARENT COMMENT: My son came home saying Mr. Persaud who doesn't know me took a photo of my shoes...because of this new initiative. It started a conversation at our house. It was rooted in real life for him. Following the IG account has opened up conversations at home.  
DAMIEN: I have a book from your son that he gave me when he graduated. Sometimes something that you think is meaningless could be meaningful to the student. You say one small thing to a student, it means so much. I'll hear students in the halls say "Hey Zero Tolerance" and I love that they are using the tag line.  
STAFF: Damien is a great teacher. He'll come out with a drum and create an atmosphere for kids to enjoy. His heart is for our students.  
PARENT: We have seen the staff recognitions come through over the years for Mr. Persaud. Thank you for speaking to sexual shaming. I would love to take this message and make it bigger. We're hitting goal 3...maybe we could do an interview and put it out to share so parents can understand the movement and how to have these conversations. Have a wider impact.  
SUNNY: Good action plan. Our design tech kids could do a lot of that work. This really is in its infancy, coming to near normal conditions and we will continue to add layers through Damien's leadership  
DAMIEN: A student who is a part of a Sherwood Park leadership group, asked if I could get involved in that too. I'd love to create a relationship with the RCMP, I think that would be a foundational relationship. Any ideas you have, please share. It would make it much easier on me if I had someone there to ask questions (for the interview).  
PARENT: It would be really neat to build community through this.  
DAMIEN: Sports will bring us together and are my passion. I have personal experiences that I'm talking about in the sports theatre. This month's theme is Sports Unite

SUNNY: Lots of potential. Goal 4, extend this to our community and beyond the walls of the classroom

PARENT: Thank you for your time and commitment to this

b. Student Update (*Sunny Sandhu, read an update written by David & Lauren, Gr 11 Student*)

- Midyear assembly, what does Sabre pride mean? We've noticed students will pick up garbage in the halls because they know our custodians will have to do it otherwise
- At the start of the year shared how there will be a learning gap, its hard
- Our results so far are really great
- These kids have not been exposed to hard situations where they've had to make decisions
- I asked him to share on how is it really going for students?
- When is the last time students have written exams in a gym? This is new for these kids
- Staff were out in the halls greeting students and Leadership students were handing out stress balls before final exams this week

SUNNY:

- We need to be intentional for the students because this is the first big stakes exam students have written
- Teachers need credit for how well they have prepped students
- Keeping a watchful eye on how students are doing
- We talk about hard things (underage drinking at parties, MADD), assemblies will highlight the good students have done but will also address the hard decisions they have to make in their reality

c. School Fees (*Sunny Sandhu*)

**-see handout "SAL School Fee Schedule"**

- Sal has a high fee collection rate (EIPS ranges from 63%-96%)
- Waive fees for those that can't pay
- Inflation has impacted the fees, we aren't raising them to make money, we're trying to break even
- Sports teams have tournaments that impact them
- Field trips have increased
- Cost of lumber, groceries etc. has gone up

PARENT: Does partnerships with the community impact fees? I.e. Commercial food partnership with the County Food Bank

SUNNY: It's such a new initiative its hard to tell. We do get grants in some areas as well that helps keep costs down in certain areas (welding). Policies affect food coming in and handling of it etc.

-It's the option classes that help raise students' attendance because it's the reason for many that they come to school

PARENT COMMENT: Love the opportunity to have extra tournaments

SUNNY: We will always help students pay fees without stigma attached

d. Assurance Review (*Sunny Sandhu*)

-Review of the Assurance Review

CHAIR: Went to half of it and it was great to brag on our school

SUNNY: I quite enjoy it, it's neat, we're there with Facey, Fort High & Next Step. We learn from each other and what's happening in other schools. We have good data, and it was a chance to celebrate the growth of the school in the last decade. We are absent of big data due to lack of exam writing during COVID. Talked about goals 1-4. There's power in putting it in writing.

Damien spoke to relationships, and you need to build that trust which is foundational and shows in our safe and caring data.

PARENT COMMENT: When you look at the number of partnerships in the community, it's amazing.

SUNNY: Looking at a partnership with the Crusaders to have more hockey players partnered with them and exposed to opportunities. We have 42 students playing hockey in tiers 1-5.

PARENT COMMENT: SPDSA wants the indoor soccer turf field used, how do we build community bigger than this school? Build an interconnectedness that was lost over the last few years.

-School Education Plan Goals 2022-2026

What can we do to support goal 4 specifically?

PARENT COMMENT: Doing the video interview with Damien

SUNNY: Next meeting I will bring a list of all the businesses we partner with in the community

IDEA: Bring the community in for one event. Bellerose and Scona have done it...I've experienced it in the past and I know what it looks like and thinking towards March 2024....it involves all our stakeholders

PARENT COMMENT: Our recognition will reflect this too.

CHAIR: I will change the verbiage of it to reflect goal 4

e. School Education Goal Update (*Sunny Sandhu*)

-Brainstorm outcomes and ideas for this goal

f. Staff Recognition Update (*Jacquie Surgenor*)

-[www.RecognizeSAL.ca](http://www.RecognizeSAL.ca)

-6 came in since last meeting

-Ms. Khunkhun, Ms. Entrup, Mr. Sandhu, Mr. Tomkins, Miss. Wong, & Mrs. Rawluk

5. Information Reports

a. COSC Update (*Jacquie Surgenor*)

-No report to share

b. Principal's Report (*Sunny Sandhu*)

-Focus is on final exams right now

- All the “funny” stuff, athletics, band, etc. on a break right now during final exam week
  - Preparing our kids in the last couple weeks for finals to lighten the stress
  - We want our kids to pick up healthy habits now before they go to post secondary
  - Semester 2 starts January 30....adding 2 new courses: back by popular demand is Early Learning Childcare
  - Kids are getting jobs in daycare, checks boxes for life preparedness and opportunity to collect a pay cheque, it’s a bout exposing kids to things
  - Starting a new course, we got a grant and kids designed the mural on the back wall through skateboard art
  - Christian took a job at U of A but we created a timetable back in the spring and the course “Artscape” was on it so our teacher will be teaching it...we don’t have lots of windows here so this course will provide artwork to liven up our walls and we will be partnering with Senior homes to offer artwork from this course...this course will allow students to follow their passions in art
  - Shared a story of students wanting to change the “Sal” ship and do it in blue and yellow color’s which ties our partnership with Facey and shows us united
  - Highest number in a class is 33, average class size 26.9 right now
  - Looking forward to semester 2, sports, band, theatre all back on
- PARENT COMMENT: Loved how in the Sabre scene how you mentioned even during final exam week, the school is open and even for physical health, the wellness center is open
- SUNNY: Saw today that kids were hanging out with their friends. Just floored by how respectful the kids were for those writing exams (would stop talking when they passed the gym)
- PARENT COMMENT: Highlight in the Sabre scene the partnerships so parents know
- SUNNY: Sabre scene goes out to 3300 people
- PARENT COMMENT: This school is student-centered
- c. Trustee’s Report (*Don Irwin*)
- attended the band concert in December, and it was wonderful
  - attended the Sal Basketball tournament, and it was very well done

PARENT COMMENT: Expand on the mental health pilot?

-Mental Health Pilot: Reset room

Sherwood Heights put out a call to parents for items to complete this reset room and it was filled. Data from last year was astounding. Students used that room for a mental break or a place where they could go for a breather. EIPS applied for a grant for the government and got enough for all the junior highs to have a reset room for the next 2 years

Thank you for the Honors Information session. It was highly attended (90 parents) and asked great questions for 45 minutes

- It’s been interesting reading about the advocacy work the Board is doing
- We are passionate at Sal. It’s a large school but it has a strong community feel

\*NOTE: For future School Council Meetings, use Microsoft Teams instead of google meet because it allows more time

PARENT COMMENT: Grad is coming up, is there a meeting for parents? Yes, probably online because we have a problem with fire code. Grad class is 420 kids (parents could be over 800) Open House is on February 15<sup>th</sup> here. We need to strategize for it because it's more than this year's Grade 10 class which was the highest in 25 years!

Best grad package offered to students and families: Staff video, themes, etc.

More information coming for parents. There is lots of information coming. Grad committee meets every week behind the scenes.

Grad: June 3<sup>rd</sup>

6. Adjournment at 8:21PM

Next Meeting Dates:

Feb 16

Mar 16

Apr 20

May 25

**School Goal #1:** Students demonstrate accountability, compassion, integrity, and respect, and have a sense of belonging at Salisbury

**School Goal #2:** Staff use evidence-based practices to enhance student learning

**School Goal #3:** Students are equipped to make informed decisions regarding their advancement through high school and beyond.