



Rockingham School Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes March 7th, 2024

Submitted by G. Prole

- follow up with regards to the traffic concerns around the schools
- Lindsay and Pat approved the minutes from last meeting

Principal Report March 7, 2024

Traffic Update:

School Traffic Program: I spoke with the coordinator to get info. This program reroutes traffic. School team would decide on a plan to reroute traffic. Prior to being involved, lots of legwork (data about buses, walking students) and speaking with the community especially where it would be rerouted. Volunteers needed twice a day at both ends were blocked off.

Walking School-bus: Concerns are that it would fall to school if volunteers do not show up. Staff would already be with students and at drop off.

I spoke with Constable Stevens and Counselor Katheryn Morse about possibilities with signage and rerouting traffic. Principal had a follow up discussion with Sylvia Grigat, Traffic Engineering Technologist Public Works HRM about 'traffic congestion' concerns. She will visit the school during times when congestion is highest (8:05-8:30 and again at 2:00-2:35. Then she will get back to me.

Perhaps we should invite her to speak with SAC when she offers suggestions.

Equity Team: We have begun to meet regularly, adding to our drive of resources and lessons to address issues and concerns related to our school. We hired substitute teachers for two days for members of our team to deliver lessons surrounding race. Did the "heart project" with each class and read " Our Skin".

· Reintroducing the community to the equity team via the newsletter. Sharing our "I CAN" statements, asking families to ensure they are having follow up conversations at home.

· Along with LC and classroom teachers, preparing class projects for upcoming Autism Awareness Month

- Assisted with initial planning of our African Heritage Assembly.
- Otis Daye has given us a time frame of "spring" when he can come in and work with our student equity ambassadors.

Implementation of Universal school Lunch Program: Note from Minister Druhan to all staff giving us a heads up. Roll out over next 4 years starting with Elementary schools. Principal filled in survey as they are gathering specific information about schools.

SAC Funding: Since January 2024, we have purchased some books for French Readers' theatre and toys for our toy bins. Principal did not order assessment kits as discussed at last meeting because unsure if we will be needing them.

Respectfully Submitted by P. Leger

Discussion around follow up of traffic issues around Rockingham Elementary School:

We spoke about how the morning is a little better because of the administration being there to help with the no stopping regulation, but the end of the day is still very busy and unsafe. ****who**** Spoke with Natalia about the program discussed last meeting. Only two volunteers were needed. This system was adopted in Europe. We talked about stopping traffic up to Wren Street and having them walk. The program was asking for a lot of data and it was only 2 days away from the application deadline so there were a lot of things to put together for this year. We will re-address at a later date.

The Walking school bus:

-Had a conversation again about the walking school bus that could still be in the works. Miles McCormick, co-ordinator.

-We also spoke with Mike Steven's liaison police officer for our school about making the street one way during certain hours. We talked about how people still don't listen and still stop, do three point turns, block residents driveways etc., making it very unsafe for our children. This might be a good solution. We should have more conversation about starting both times of the day or afternoon first. We are hoping traffic people will contact Pat soon to help discuss. Would like to speak with both staff and SAC more.

Equity:

-The equity team is going around to help educate and share with students of every grade. Two days were given to two equity members to do a lesson with each class. BHM assembly went very well. Quentrel Provo was a guest speaker. Otis Daye will come in the spring to speak and guide our Equity Ambassadors.

New Lunch Program rollout:

-There were Lunch program discussions with Pat. The program will start off over a 4 year period, starting at elementary and will be individual to schools. May start or is supposed to start in the new year. Spoke about how there would be lots of trouble shooting for a school like Rockingham because of the canteen, capacity, and number of kids. We also spoke about some of the potential of losing on instructional time for delivery and so on..

New Assessment Kits:

- The new assessment kits discussed last SAC meeting have not been ordered due to a change that may be coming. A conversation about a shift in the way kids are learning to read. Using UFLI and the science reading. Discussed how we see a great change in their progress. We talked about how Fontas and Pinnel is a good baseline use but they are missing those strategies on how to understand the mechanics behind the phonetics.

-SAC funding-5000

-Last two meetings-April 11th and May 9th at 7pm