**School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

Date: January 22, 2024

Location: Basinview Drive Community School

**Attendees:**

Tom Cleary, Courtney Gouthro, Heidi Sayle, Bridget Graham, Wafa Massad, Beryl Scott Dominix, Shannon McLeod, Shannon Christie

**Regrets:**

Shannon Cox, Chris Dawson, Heather Whynot

Welcome/ Introductions

* Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm
* Introductions were offered.
* Bridget Graham was welcomed as a new SAC Community Member

Principal’s Report

* Tom provided an update on some of the activities that have taken place since the last SAC meeting including:
* Delivered two P-2 Holiday Showcases
  + Emphasis was on kids learning in music.
* Hosted successful food drive in partnership with Bedford Lions
  + Friendly competition for how many items classes could collect.
* Responded to concerns within school community regarding offering better support to kids who are Sikh and broadening cultural understanding for other students.
  + Basinview organized a presentation for children in some classes to learn about this Sikhism from the World Sikh Organization

Student Success Report

* ***Literacy Goal:*** *We will improve achievement in literacy for each of our students, with a specific focus on our students of African and/or Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry.*
* ***Mathematics Goal:*** *We will improve achievement in mathematics for each of our students, with a specific focus on our students of African and/or Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry.*
* ***Well-Being Goal:*** *We will improve well-being at our school for each of our students, with a specific focus on our students of African and/or Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry.*

**Action:** Prior to future SAC meetings, Tom will email a copy of the plan to the committee

* Every classroom working towards implementing small group guided reading. Have seen an increase in kids taking chances when reading, which is excellent.
* Have started expanded implementation of ½ hour a day, every day lesson focused on fact fluency in math
* For the goal focused on well being, Basinview has taken actions such as having teachers call families to say hello in the fall in an effort to connect with families to build foundational relationships.
  + Staff will be looking at next steps as to how they can expand their work to support the well-being goal
* SAC members stressed the importance of creating opportunities for families to be present, active, and welcome in the school.
* Tom stated that Basinview plans to host a Family Reading Party at end of the February / beginning of March.

Financial Report

* Tom reported that the SAC has spent $3,162 to date this school year
  + The funds were used to purchase UFLI materials that support teaching literacy using phonological awareness for P-3 classrooms
* Basinview recently reviewed inventory of books and offered excess copies to other schools
* Currently have $11,259.21 in SAC funds available which includes the annual installment from HRCE
* SAC members are curious to hear from teachers about what they think would benefit the classrooms and school most for use of remaining SAC funds this year.

**Action:** Tom will ask teachers and learning center staff for feedback on what they could use most for the classrooms (within parameters of SAC funding rules). Tom will bring feedback to next SAC meeting for the committee to review

New Business

* SAC meeting dates for rest of the year
  + February 26th at 6:30pm
  + April 15th at 6:30pm
  + May 13th at 6:30pm
  + June 17th - plan for slightly longer meeting for end of year & provide dinner
* Gathering feedback from our community
  + Tom would like to have a write up on website about SAC

**Action:** Tom will include SAC email address in newsletter to promote the idea of community involvement/ sharing of concerns. Courtney will check email & respond to feedback.

* Arranging for school trips
  + School trip must be educational and have connection to learning outcomes
  + Some classes have already had trips
  + Busing is a challenge and severely limits the time which students can be away (essentially 10am – 1pm)
  + Tom will continue to promote the idea of organizing school trips to teachers and suggest considering options close / within the community where possible
* Celebrating diversity
  + Last year’s Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee has discussed the idea of a hosting a multicultural day or event. SAC members inquired about status/ plans.
    - Basinview staff exploring ideas for learning about cultures within the community to celebrate the diversity within the school
    - Suggestion was offered that Basinview could consider asking community to bring in foods from around the world
    - Hope to see this happen in Fall 2024
  + Classroom presentations where students can share about their cultures with their classrooms can be a wonderful was to celebrate diversity & offer learning opportunities. Are there ways to do more of this?
  + How do we encourage kids to feel confident/ comfortable with speaking & reading in multiple languages?
  + How is Basinvew providing support to Newcomers (academically and emotionally)?
    - EAL teacher support is available, however demand and case load continues to grow and more is needed
    - Hired additional support to provide reading/ writing guidance.
      * Although no qualified EAL applicants applied for to fill in for maternity leave, we have hired a retired resource teacher to fill in until April.
      * Whenever we get a chance, we hire utilize any extra staff to supporting lower-elementary students with their reading.
  + Could consider putting offer out to parents to create a conversation group that they could organize to host at the school.

Adjournment

* The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.