

Christina Lake Elementary School

Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes Nov 2/09

Attending: Bob Chapman, Julie O'Brien, Michelle Venne, Dani Collins, Dawn Sioga, Sally Garcelon

Principal's Report:

- School Improvement Plan: as part of addressing the School Growth Plan and the goal of improving Student Achievement in Writing, the CLES staff attended a BCTELA conference on "Developing Thoughtful Writers" Sat Oct 24. From this, they are looking at developing a series of writing workshops for the whole school somewhat like the Drop Everything And Read program.
- Reading and Writing assessments for the beginning of the year have been completed. These numbers will be compared with end of year results to help identify if School Growth Plan goals have been achieved. See Bob or Kim if you would like a copy of these statistics.
- Report cards will be taking on a new format as the school moves toward using the BCeSIS database. The long-term goal is for every district and school to use this database, but there will be a few growing pains as the staff learn to use it and deal with hurdles like our rural dial-up connections.
- Children in Care: This is an initiative by government that has looked at student success rates for children in care. Statistics show these children have higher drop out rates and lower graduation rates. The government has now mandated they must be identified by school administration for intervention and cooperation between related ministries and education plans put in place.
Note that Remembrance Day falls on a Wednesday this year. School will be in session Friday, Nov 13th.

Fundraising:

- Dawn has spoken to a number of sponsors who have agreed to help fund the swimming lessons we would otherwise have lost.
- Movie Night will be postponed to the new year as too many people are away Friday, November 13th and we are getting close to Christmas and Christmas-related activities.
- Dawn is still waiting for the gaming license and will prepare the raffle tickets when that comes in. The draw will be held at the Christmas Concert December 15th. PAC will also host a bake sale.

Trustee's report:

- Sally Garcelon attended to discuss the Board's findings and potential five-year plan as a result of the public forums. Essentially, the board has found that they are not in a position to make any solid plans until the Ministry provides more information regarding the funding that the board can expect. Sally's feeling is that the funding formula will change drastically.
- Two specific points that came out strongly from the first round of public forums were that Beaverdell should remain open and Midway Elementary should amalgamate with Greenwood. The board then ran the numbers and found that Beaverdell is in a very precarious situation with only 11 students. If it falls below 10, it will lose its rural grant and at that point will not be funded for even one teacher's salary.
- Closing Midway would actually cost the district \$50,000 due to the loss of the rural grant at that school.
- A glaring statistic that came out of all the Board's analysis is that the children with special needs are funded at approximately \$400,000 and the cost is actually closer to \$1.4 million.
- A lengthy discussion ensued about education funding as compared the health care, a lack of consistent leadership at the Ministry level by someone with an education background, and general dissatisfaction with current government. Write your MLA.

Other business:

- Next meeting: Dec 7th, 6:30pm. The PAC will meet at the Cascade House for a social hour. As with all meetings, all parents are welcome.