



AGENDA

Bedford South SAC

6pm Tuesday November 12th, 2024 – Online

Present: Tracy Foster, Kaylee Hiscock, Anthony Zadeh, Adam Greenwood, Jane Taylor, Ainslie Rudolph, Karla McInnes, Philip Okunaiya

Regrets: Cheltyn Morgan

1. Welcome

Meeting was called to order.

2. Approval of Minutes of October 8th meeting

Minutes were approved.

3. SAC Membership- Community Members needed

Welcomed our new community member, Karla McInnes. We are still in need of 2 additional community members to balance the committee. Tracy might have a new member who can join next meeting..

4. Administrative Report

We are now at an enrollment of 798 students as of today.

Still need lunch monitors- monthly plug to send them our way.

Lunch program began on October 28th and has gotten smoother. Administration needs to hand out the lunch so lunch monitors are helping with that. The results of our student success survey showed that last years 11% of students who did the survey didn't eat lunch and 60% didn't have any veggies or fruit. Hopeful the new lunch program will help these numbers improve. Breakfast baskets program continues. Food from the baskets was used when school lunch didn't arrive on the first day. We also have new bins so we have room for recyclables/green bin and garbage.

We've held two fire drills and we are getting more efficient. We had one bus evacuation drill in October and are continuing to work on bus safety. The buses are very crowded and drivers are struggling to get kids to stay seated. Administration has been calling parents / educating the students.

A Remembrance Day ceremony was held on Friday and the students were very respectful. Grades 4 and 5 helped plan the ceremony and emceed the event. The choir also performed.

The Learning Centre now has music therapy two days a week.

There are currently 137 students on EAL caseload. Other kids have met the benchmark for EAL dismissal but probably could use more support. We estimate we have more than 40 different languages spoken at home represented at our school.

Report Cards Dec 3 / Parent Teacher meeting will be held Dec 5.

SAC Grant: We are using the full grant to purchase Chromebooks (we can purchase 12).

5. Student Success Plan Overview

Literacy: We're focused on literacy improvement and have planned 30-minute blocks of learning on phonics and learning to spell words. Getting to know students as readers and writers and using ongoing phonics in reading / writing.

Math goal- number sense. Two connected to literacy. 30 min block focused on developing basic math facts fluency, so they have automaticity. Second action is getting to know students as mathematicians. How do they use it, how quick are they.

Well Being goal: to improve student well being. Several actions are identified but we need to fine tune them a little bit- Student success data last year 57% of student who did the survey felt like staff knew what their lives were like outside of school. 28% felt unsafe at school. Well being goal will look at check in circles daily, building connections and relationships with students and families. And looking at having classes doing cross-age buddies and hosting monthly assemblies/student leaders to help plan them.

Administration agreed to help facilitate setting up buddy classrooms for teachers who did not already have an arrangement made.

Grade 3 results from provincial testing last year have been released. Results show 72% were meeting expectations for math (on par with province); 63% meeting for reading (close to region); 42% meeting for writing which is where we have more to work on (region is about 41%). In October pediatric society of Canada said literacy was a public health concern. Phonics needs to be introduced into early school aged literacy.

6. Innovation Grant Planning

The committee discussed options to focus on for the Innovation Grant application in the new year. The idea needs to focus on helping achieve the student success plan. The committee chose to focus on the literacy (reading/writing) since writing was our lowest score and an issue across the province. We will use our next meeting to finalize an idea. Tracy will speak to our librarian about ideas that support improving the library.

Some ideas included:

Library as a community space / changing physical space to be more communal
Cultural diversity / overall 40 first languages spoken at home.
Can we connect writing to art or a sensory experience?
Plant trees / something in nature?
Community Garden / cook book with different recipes from home.
Ensuring we have books that represent everyone and books in home languages.
Can we bring someone in to produce something the kids could write about themselves
"These are the kids at Bedford South".
Is a moveable writing station something we could create?

Stakeholder engagement: google form / initial ideas as a survey

We will determine a stakeholder engagement plan and some final ideas at our next meeting.

7. Next meeting

We will hold our January 14th meeting in person to better facilitate grant planning discussion.