

Pioneer Middle School
School Council Minutes
March 2, 2020

Attendees: Patrick Wilbur
Lucas Brown
Tracy Schweder
Kim Ponto
Candace Colwell
Lacey Brown
Nicole Heath

1. Call to Order: 7:00pm
2. Additions to the Agenda: None
3. Approval of previous minutes – February 3, 2019 – approved by Candace Colwell
4. Reports
 - a. Trustee – absent
 - b. Principal
 - i. Staffing – Marilee Walker (librarian) resigned Feb 14, 2020. Currently there is a sub-replacement. Lori Kubos will be the permanent replacement effective March 9, 2020. She is currently an EA at Lochearn.
 - ii. Safe Arrival automated phone system – previously Marilee Walker was paid 1 hour per day for administrative support (mainly attendance phone calls). This amounted to approximately \$6,000 per year. The elementary and high schools use the Safe Arrival automated phone system. The staff like it, as it reduces staff time. This is paid for by School Division, so there would be no additional cost to the school. The school needs to ensure that it has accurate contact phone numbers for all the parents. There will be a test phone call sent out this week.
 - c. Teacher
 - i. Hard Work Café – New games going in. Waiting for installation of TV.
 - ii. Dance – Friday, Mar 13
 - iii. Ski Trip – Feb 26. Was a success. 99 students attended. 2 students missed their mandatory lesson. The lesson is necessary for insurance purposes. Mr. Brown will make sure next year that all kids know that skipping the lesson is not an option. Ski trip attendance decreases from grade 6, 7, and 8, respectively. About 1/3 of the kids go on the trip, 1/3 come to school, and

1/3 stay home and treat it like a “snow day.” This is frustrating for the teachers because of the poor attendance from kids not on the ski trip. Questions – Can there be “counter-programming” of something else interesting for kids that don’t want to go on the ski trip?

- iv. West Edmonton Mall trip – Tuesday, June 23
- v. Do trips disrupt classroom teacher – Mrs. Schweder says yes, they are very disruptive.
- vi. Current absentee rate at the school is approx. 20% on any given day. This is seemingly a lot higher than other schools.

5. Old Business

- a. Friends of Pioneer Society – still waiting for paperwork. Will likely take months.

6. New Business

- a. Funding model change – Previously, funding was based on the “Sept 30th count.” At the end of September, the number of kids enrolled was reported, and this determined the funding. The new model is based on a 3-year rolling average. This should minimize the year-to-year fluctuations. It seems to benefit rural school boards that are traditionally having declining enrollment, but may not be beneficial to some of the urban boards.

7. Next Meeting – Monday April 6, 2020

8. Adjourned – 7:40pm

Minutes recorded by Kim Ponto