

## Cloverbar Junior High School School Council/Parent Group Meeting

**Date:** October 27, 2017 6:00pm

**Location:** Clover Bar School Library

### **Introduction by Stephanie Beale**

#### **Board Report-Krista Porter for Trina Boymook**

- The new Board will be sworn in on Thursday Oct 26. At this meeting the Board will elect the Chair and Vice Chair for the 2017/18 year. Thank you on behalf Trina Boymook, for having her at meetings. Your new trustee liaison (Trina?) will be in attendance to your next meeting.
- Letters will be going out to families that live in the affected areas by the June 15, 2017 Sherwood Park Boundary decision. You will be receiving a letter outlining how the decision affects you with a flow chart to assist with understanding options that maybe available to families.
- The survey for the 2018/19 calendar will be coming out at the end of the month. Public will have a two week window of time to respond. The feedback received will guide the building of the calendar options that the Board will review at the December committee meeting prior to a decision being made at the December Board meeting. - Everyone, happy or not with the calendar should provide feedback, regarding fall breaks and PD days.
- Junior high students will be able to access their report card digitally next month. There is no change to the report card other than it can be accessed through powerschool. Percentages will still be used for the core subjects and letter grades are used for complementary courses. Any parents wanting a paper copy of the report card will need to come into the school office personally and get one, they will not be provided to students. A parent of a student currently in Grade 7 cannot access their child's Grade 6 report card on powerschool, she would like to know if it is possible. Krista suggested she ask Mills Haven if they can provide the students marks/report card.
- These questions were shared at the Committee of School Councils and representatives have been asked to have these conversations at their school council meeting. It is expected that they will return to share their school council's thoughts at a future meeting.

As it relates to fees

1. **What makes up your fees?** Noticeable drop in fees this year as compared to previous years. The fees were late to go onto Acorn because they were waiting for approval. Discussion of lunch supervision fees and why it is necessary. Students prefer to eat in hallways and on the floor rather than structured lunch spaces.
2. **Are you in favour of fees?** Most parents in attendance at the meeting didn't know that the lowering of fees this year would affect the schools budget and delivery of programs. Most parents in attendance are in favour of slightly higher fees for better quality optional subjects.
3. **What would you be willing to pay or give up?** Most parents in attendance would be willing to pay for field trips that hadn't been previously approved. And are in favour of optional classes having a range of fees so families that cannot afford the more expensive classes have alternatives.

As it relates to field trips:

1. **How many field trips is enough?** No specific number, depends on course (math vs. outdoor ed)
2. **Should there be a minimum and maximum?** Depends on course, some subjects would be difficult to find a relevant field trip, others should have a lot of field trips.
3. **Can families afford to pay for all of these?** If most field trips were in non-core subjects they would know the cost before selecting the course. There was discussion about lost opportunities for students because some of the field

trips did not get approved and parents do not have the option to pay for them. Most parents in attendance would prefer to have the option to pay for field trips that have not been previously approved.

#### **As it relates to sports teams:**

1. **How many tournaments is enough?** No specific number but more tournaments = higher fees for that sport. As with options, if some sports have more tournaments and higher fees and others have lower fees and less tournaments, families can make choices.
2. **Should there be a maximum?** Cloverbar has a diverse range of sports rather than one big team/sport. Fees seem similar to county run programs, parents in attendance who are familiar with Cloverbar sports programs said they are happy with the current fee/tournament balance. No mention of a maximum.
3. **What is the role of schools with teams?** To provide kids the opportunity to play sports with their school friends and give them an opportunity to try sports they might otherwise not try out for.

#### **School Report - Krista Porter for Jacqui Holmes**

##### **a) Student Education Plan and Results Report -**

Copies provided at meeting and should be on the website after approval. Went over school goals, strategies, and performance measures. Details are in the report. We are on year three of the three year plan.

##### **b) Student Assessment -**

Information is provided on the school website, under Guide to Reporting Student Achievement.

Discussion regarding teachers communication with parents.

- teachers have different preferences, remind app, powerschool and eteacher page, etc. Some parents find it difficult to keep informed regarding upcoming assignments and tests with so many streams of communication. Krista advised parents to talk to their children's teachers to find out which method they use to communicate. Although students have responsibilities, their parents would still like to have the option to remind their children what is due and when to study. This is especially important for students with special needs.
- there were questions about how to use google classroom, Krista informed parents that it is the students only that can access google classroom as it is a classroom tool. If parents want to access it they will need their child to log on. She also mentioned that students have their own log in to access powerschool.
- Krista suggested parents use the surveys out out by EIPS to give feedback about things like communication. A parent who has filled out a survey in the past said a lot of the questions are not relevant to most parents (questions about what is going on during school hours). The parent also asked who decides what questions are asked in these surveys.

##### **c) Student-Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Most teachers will be set up in the gym, some will be in their classrooms. Parents will be given a map at the front doors of the school. Make sure you find out who your child's teachers are ahead of time, especially if your child will not be with you. There is currently no sign up for interviews.

No sign up typically has worked well for parents in attendance who have gone to the meetings before but it was discussed that sign up is efficient to make sure the meetings don't run too long.

It was brought up that a meet the teacher night as well as introduction to powerschool would be beneficial to Grade 7 parents at the beginning of the year. If parents aren't sure how to use powerschool and don't know their children's teacher's preferred method of communication, this meeting is late in the year to get informed.

#### **Topic: Supporting your teen from a closed mindset to an open mindset - Krista Porter**

Health day in November will begin with a presentation about bullying and then the rest of the day will focus on open vs closed mindset.

Watched a video (can be found at [trainugly.com/mindset](https://trainugly.com/mindset))

Krista discussed how all of her students have benefitted from the student directed math classes she has taught. And how it getting them into the open mindset, believing they can do math, helps students that already excel in math, those that don't and everyone in between.

**Parent Group for Fundraising**

The casino in Camrose will be November 5th and 6th, there are 8 volunteers. Melissa will find out if it is enough and will email Jacqui.

**The next meeting will be on November 30th at 6pm in the Library.**