
B.P.T.A. Executive/Board Liaison Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.
Division Office

Present: Kathleen Guillas, Bonnie Snezyk, John McNeily, Jason Young, Dale Swanton, Lorraine Fisher, Carmen McNabb, Moira Woods, Patricia James and Rhonda Dickenson

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. and chaired by Dale Swanton.

1. The Agenda was approved as circulated.
2. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as circulated.
3. Business Arising from Minutes

a) Substitute Teacher Shortage:

Dale Swanton reported that BPTA is willing (if BPSD wanted) to recruit at universities for education graduates who could sub in May and June each year. The superintendent reported that the number of subs is about the same as last year but sometimes it is a challenge to find subs. The superintendent also spoke to the need to promote and recruit applicants for future teaching positions.

b) Freedom from Violence (Policy J.D.A.)

The superintendent gave an update that this policy is now in place. It refers to violence against staff. Forms are to be filled out and turned into superintendent if there is an occurrence.

4. BPTA Topics

a) Reporting to Parents

- Positive feedback from staff and parents
- More time consuming
- Some concerns expressed on the 1-4 grading system, 80% - 100% a big jump.

b) Student Led Conferences (comments from CC and NACI only)

- Early time slot 5:00 or 5:30 maybe a positive move for some schools. 2 hour length still must be maintained. Superintendent expressed that he was okay with schools choosing the starting time of their SLC's.
- If teachers were circulating in gym, parents would have greater access to the teacher. Not all parents seek out classroom teachers.
- Grade 12 – career planning could be part of the conference.
- The school office could schedule times for parents to see teachers of students where it is deemed necessary. A coordinated process like this may help ensure that the parent and teacher(s) meet.

5. Changing Dynamics in Schools

Schools are facing more diversity in classrooms. Communication and keeping teachers informed and supported around the changing dynamics of classrooms is necessary. Need to continue to provide professional development and team approach when doing what is best for students.

6. Resiliency of Students

There are a variety of reasons why students may be struggling with resiliency. Conversation around ways students can develop skills and ways schools can support parents and children.

- Building relationships and connections
- Reaching out to parents

7. BPSD Topics

The superintendent spoke about the recent trends and clarity to a number of topics:

a) Use of Divisional Equipment / Electronic Devices

- Reminder to staff to use divisional electronic equipment and division internet appropriately.

b) Payment of extra days for part time staff

- The intent of the policy was clarified and process explained. Policy is not to allow every PD/Admin day being added on, only those that are necessary. BPSD will pay for extra days if it is the division's expectation for teacher to attend. Go back to the intent of the policy, request only what is needed.

c) Personal Leave / Extra Curricular Days

- The vast majority of personal leave / extracurricular days are Fridays or days in May and June, therefore it is a challenge to get subs.
- As long as admin can find suitable subs, leave is granted as in collective agreement.
- Extracurricular and personal days cannot be used together. Teachers are supposed to give 5 day notice to principals.

d) Movement of Staff

At times staff needs to be moved due to population fluctuations at different schools. BPSD process is to consult principals who then discuss with staff and proceed at divisional level.

e) Resignation dates

- Hired pre December 18th, 2004 - May 30th; hired after this date - April 30th
- Under current senior administration, requests to break contracts have been denied.

f) Storm Policy Review - Policy G.D.B. (2004)

- Schools closed / highways closed – staff not deducted pay
- If highways open / schools open – staff will be deducted pay as per policy unless they choose to use personal/extracurricular leave.

8. Next Liaison meeting will be called if needed.

9. Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.