

LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 2014

Present: Kathleen Guillas, John McNeily, Jason Young, Lorraine Fisher, Carmen Kostenchuk, Moira Woods, Patricia James, Dale Swanton

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 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) No new business arising from minutes.
4. Topic One: Use of Technology In The Classroom – Personal Learning Devices (PLD)
 - Superintendent Jason Young commented that:
 - Technology in the classroom should be viewed as another teaching tool
 - Technology is changing so quickly that it makes it a challenge for all educators to stay current and trained. Having technology in the classroom is not about a specific device, rather about the capabilities that device offers to our students.
 - Students may be one of our best resources to learn new technologies and to help each other in their learning in using technology, a mindset for educators that may be difficult in the fact that other students will help with the teaching of the device.
 - Superintendent Jason Young reviewed the Tentative Plan – Long Term in this area. He covered considerations: philosophical considerations, technical considerations, staff and public considerations.
 - In the follow-up discussion:
 - It was noted that some students will need some technical support but in all likelihood they will seek that support from their classmates. Due to the fact that the division is looking at initial implementation in a middle years grade it was noted that the vast majority of students will have some general technology skills.
 - There will need to be an increased focus on educating parents and students around ethical use of technology.
 - It is vital that there is communication from all throughout the implementation process on what is working well and what needs to improve.
 - Within our schools we have teachers and students that are more comfortable with the use of technology and the collegial sharing and support between colleagues will be pivotal.

5. Topic Two: Resiliency In Students and Staff

- The fact that resilience has a connection to the three areas, BPSD is looking at concerns from the Tell Them From Me data (sense of belonging, mental health, and academic engagement) which makes resilience a relevant and important topic.
- Author Martin Brokenleg noted four necessary components in building resilience (belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity). These were discussed and noted as a way of looking at what schools are doing to build resilience within students.
- It was stated that staff as role models need to demonstrate resilience within themselves to help build resilience in students.
- Teachers having intentional discussions and teachings with students around what resilience is and providing concrete examples of resilience would be helpful.
- Getting more students involved in school activities and having student driven vs staff driven groups in the school is important.
- Having schools share their successes in relation to activities and groups with other schools would be worthwhile.
- Curriculum around mindfulness – emotional regulation was an area suggested to explore. It was noted that the new School Psychologist next year has some hands on experience with this and may be able to provide some leadership in this area.
- Strengths based approach and strengths based language was another area suggested to explore.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.