

Bjorkdale School Community Council  
Minutes from November 26, 2019

Members Present: Sherry Fredsberg, Jill Szeliga, Geoff Goldsworthy, Mark van Haastert, Ashley Babcock.

Mark opened the meeting. Sherry motioned to accept the agenda and the October minutes. Mark seconded the motion.

Results of the annual SCC elections: by a vote of 3:1, the positions remain the same: Mark van Haastert as Chair, Jill Szeliga as Secretary. Ashley Babcock made a motion to amend the signing authority to include Sherry Fredsberg, Ashley Babcock and Jill Szeliga. Sherry seconded the motion.

Business arising from the minutes:

1. No business from the minutes.

New Business:

1. The students are rewriting the cell phone policy for the school. They presented arguments for the pros and cons of phone usage at school and discussed ways they want to teach and learn responsible phone usage.
2. The Education Minister hosted a meeting on Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup> in Melfort. The main focus was on how to put power back in to the local school environment. Unfortunately, none of our SCC members were able to attend the meeting. There is an online survey as a follow up to the meeting.

Geoff gave the Principal's report as follows:

1. Curling is starting in early December.
2. There will be a lockdown drill, including the RCMP, on Thursday November 28<sup>th</sup>.

SRC Report:

1. The SRC is spearheading the 12 Days of Christmas, kicking off with a school potluck on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting will be in January.

Following the regular monthly SCC meeting was a meeting in Melfort between the Board and the Small Schools (Arborfield, Bjorkdale, Gronlid, Star City). The meeting summary is as follows:

- Review of actions by the school division since the completion of the Small School Sustainability review in April of 2019:
  - Board members reiterated that the school staffing allocations for the Small Schools is done outside the regular formula of number of students to teachers, and should stay the same over the next year.
  - The Admission of Students policy was revised so a parent/guardian needs to meet with the Principal as part of being granted permission for the student to go to a school outside of their attendance area.
  - Arborfield and Gronlid attendance areas were expanded (parent initiated).
  - The Board meeting package is posted on the NESD website following meetings.
  - The Board supports the Small School doing various planning together.

- Review of actions by each school:
  - Arborfield—moved to a project-based learning model.
  - Bjorkdale—moved to a flexible learning model for grades 7-12.
  - Gronlid—kindergarten focused on play-based learning. Second year of project-based/land-based learning in grade 1-3 class and grade 4-8 class, using the Sunwest learning maps and math using the Sunwest model (excluded from project-based learning).
  - Star City—moved to project-based learning for grades 7-9 and a 3 class per term block schedule for grades 10-12.
  - Each school is having its own successes and challenges with their new programing. All the schools are very open to working together and sharing ideas.
  
- Overall, the meeting was very positive and the Board members are committed to developing a stronger positive relationship with each of the Small Schools. We will all meet again closer to the end of the school year.