



Community Meeting

Doing What's Best for Kids

Meeting Notes

Location:	Dr. K.A. Clark Elementary School 8453 Franklin Avenue Fort McMurray, AB
Date:	Monday, June 27, 2016
Time:	7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Meeting Facilitator:	Board Chair J. Thompson & Doug Nicholls, Superintendent of Schools

Item	Topics	Discussion
1.	Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.
2.	Welcome, Introductions and Opening Remarks	<p>Board Chair J. Thompson welcomed and thanked parents, staff, students and community members for attending.</p> <p>Superintendent Nicholls thanked everyone for attending and for assisting in the evaluation of our community. We all recognize and acknowledge that we have many staff and families who have lost homes and many who are not able to access their homes. There are many stories that we have heard of staff who went above and beyond to ensure the safety of students. Thank you for all you have done.</p>
3.	Programming	<p>In terms of the Beacon Hill School site, the Board of Trustees approved a motion at the June 22, 2016 Regular Board Meeting to close the Beacon Hill School for the 2016 - 2017 school year. The Minister has the final approval. We know that the Beacon Hill school community has been severely impacted by the circumstances, therefore the decision was made to move Beacon Hill staff and students to Dr. K. A. Clark Elementary School. A school within a school. The Board of Trustee believes this to be the best solution in ensuring the health and safety of staff and students. Looking long term, that is something that will be discussed between the Province of Alberta and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. The Fort McMurray Public School District will have to abide by any decision made.</p> <p>Four core courses will be offered for Beacon Hill students with opportunities for extracurricular activities. Class composition is still being discussed and will be based on enrolment.</p> <p>We ask for flexibility and patience at this time. We need parents' support to ensure this model works for your children.</p>
4.	Principal's Message	G. Tebay, Principal of Beacon Hill Public School shared that on behalf of the Beacon Hill Staff, we miss our school community. School administration recognizes the community loss and are looking forward to getting back and healing together. Beacon Hill Public

		<p>School is working to be a hub for our community. Staff are looking at programming and how to move forward. A revitalization for early years programming, mindfulness and passion based learning are just a few options being looked into, more to follow. Depending on enrolment numbers, combined classes may be looked at in the new school year. Combined classes offer an exceptional amount of flexibility for the teacher to meet the needs of all students and support student learning.</p> <p>M. Mitsopoulos, Principal of Dr. K.A. Clark Elementary School thanked everyone for attending. School administration recognizes that students are missing their year-end awards, field trips, etc. Discussions are being held on how to incorporate this into the beginning of the new school year. Administration and staff are looking forward to seeing students and we welcome Beacon Hill students, staff and parents with open arms.</p>
5.	Mental Health Supports	<p>S. Noble, Director of Student Services briefed parents and staff on mental health supports. We know a priority right now is going to be building resilience. Having the supports in place when staff and students return is important. Work has begun with Calgary Board of Education and Alberta Health Services to bring the services and supports to our community. We have begun coordinating professional development for our staff. Each school will have access to intensive counseling. We are building a district resilience team. Each administrator will develop a mental health plan to deal with school start up, there will be no surprises next year in terms of safety drills. Our goal is to find a healthy balance as we work at getting back to normal business practice. Students, parents and staff are encouraged to seek out the supports that are already in place, if needed.</p>
6.	Staffing	<p>P. Meagher, Chief Deputy Superintendent - Human Resources and Administration provided an update on staffing. The challenge we face this year is the uncertainty in our community. Trying to predict how many students will be returning next year is difficult. Human Resources is working with School Administrators to ensure staffing requirements are met. Students will have very good, qualified teachers for next year.</p>
7.	Facilities	<p>A. Kallal, Associate Superintendent - Business & Finance provided an update on Dr. K.A. Clark Elementary School. The school has the capacity to house students and staff of Beacon Hill Public School. Remedial work continues at all District facilities.</p>
8.	Transportation	<p>A. Kallal, Associate Superintendent - Business & Finance shared transportation will remain the same for Beacon Hill Students. Students will be picked up at their normal points and delivered to Dr. K.A. Clark Elementary School.</p>
9.	Questions/Answers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Fort McMurray Composite High School Modernization will continue as planned. → Southside Grade 7 and 8 students will be moving to Fort McMurray Composite High School. → For Beacon Hill Public School students, staff and parents, class composition may look different next year. Combined/split/multi grade models have been around for a long time. Some students will have been out of school for four months. A tremendous amount of work will need to be done to provide support to students to bring them back up to where they need to be in their learning. → Start times for Beacon Hill Public School and Dr. K.A. Clark Elementary School are still being discussed. Look for more information in the coming weeks. → Registration is open online. The Board of Trustees waived basic instructional fees for the 2016/2017 school year to alleviate financial burdens to families. → There are some slight changes to transportation fees. This information will be communicated in the coming days. → Report cards have been a challenge this year. For high school students, their final mark is the mark as of May 3rd. Some students chose to continue their education. In those instances, the highest mark will be awarded. We will continue to work with staff and Alberta Education on final marks. → High school students were given the option of writing the diploma exams. → Parents will receive final report cards in August. The report cards will contain generic comments. → Retrieval of personal items from school lockers and desks has begun. Items have been bagged and labeled. Items have not been thrown out. Personal items that were damaged/destroyed can be claimed under your personal/tenant insurance policy. Please continue to monitor the District Website, School Website and Social

		<p>Media.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → A combined high school graduation ceremony is scheduled for August 27, 2016. → Year end field trips that were planned for Grade 7 and 8 classes will be discussed and information shared. → Currently there is no bussing available from Gregoire to Dr. K.A. Clark Elementary School. → Transportation from Sapræ Creek and Prairie Creek to Greely Road School will be discussed. → Some Beacon Hill staff will be moving to Fort McMurray Composite High School so that students returning will see familiar faces. → More information on Fort McMurray Composite High School programming will be available in the coming weeks.
10.	Closing Remarks	Board Chair J. Thompson thanked parents, students and staff for attending. If, after the meeting parents or staff have questions, please forward them to your School Administrator. We are here to support and assist in any way we can. There are three additional Community Meetings scheduled on July 11, August 15 and 22, 2016.
11.	Adjourn	There being no further questions, the Community Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.