

# Clarenville Middle School Council

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### In attendance:

Troy Mitchell, Chair  
Paula Roberts, Secretary  
Craig Pardy, Principal  
Rod Short, Parent Rep  
Dave Hains, Community Rep  
Gerry Organ, Vice-Principal

Dr. Vas Vasanthan, Parent Rep  
Dr. Paula Pye, Parent Rep  
Lisa Drover, Teacher Rep  
Rhonda Holloway, Parent Rep  
Gwen Hiscock, Parent Rep  
John Mahar, Community Rep

### Regrets:

None.

#### 1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by the Chair, who welcomed everyone to the first school council meeting of the 2009-10 school year.

#### 2.0 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted without changes or additions.

#### 3.0 Election of Secretary

The Chairperson opened the floor for nominations for the position of Secretary. Mr. Organ nominated Paula Roberts. No other nominations were filed. Ms. Roberts accepted the nomination and was elected by acclamation.

#### 4.0 Building Learning Communities – Handbook for School Council

- Mr. Pardy reviewed several documents with the new council. Copies were circulated for review, with particular attention to the role of the school council and its members, and the Protocol Agreement.
- The main role for the council is to help with the development and monitoring of the school's development plan; to monitor student achievement results; and assist with school fundraising activities.
- The contact list for the council was circulated and new members were asked to add their information, and existing members to update theirs. This confidential information will be used by the school and will not be posted on the school's website.
- Council discussed how it could improve communication with parents and the community. Minutes to the meetings will be posted on the school website. It was also suggested to have council members present at curriculum nights so parents can provide feedback and suggestions to council.

#### 5.0 School Development Plan 2008-11

- Council was presented with the results from the recent CRTs. Clarenville Middle School (CMS) performed well compared to the ESDNL. It was noted that improvements could be made in the areas of listening for ELA and for shape and space for Mathematics.
- Mr. Pardy shared the results from the recent Grade 4 survey, and the survey completed with new students attending CMS. Results were positive overall.

## 6.0 School Tidbits

### 6.1 Co-teaching in Grades 4 & 5

- This is the first year CMS has participated in a co-teaching, or team teaching approach. With an increase in the class size quota, there were space issues at the school. In order to keep special areas such as the science lab, it was decided the school would pilot a new approach to teach Grades 4 & 5. These two grades are being taught some of their subjects (mainly ELA and Math) through a team teaching approach. Teachers are being given additional time for planning sessions. Teachers and parent reps at the meeting commented that the approach seems to be working well thus far. It will continue to be monitored throughout the school year.

### 6.2 Community Schools

- This item was not discussed and will be reviewed at the next council meeting

### 6.3 Clarendville School System Restructuring Update

- No update has been received from the ESDNL. Engineers have been to Clarendville and have analyzed three schools. Their report has been sent to the Board but it will not be made public until it has been tabled at a School Board meeting. The council will be notified as soon as the report is tabled and is made public.

### 6.4 H1N1 Update

- The H1N1 virus was discussed at length. It was noted that some parents are keeping children with health concerns (e.g., asthma) home voluntarily. Some council members questioned why our schools were being used as vaccination sites when in other communities they were using other public buildings. Mr. Parady explained the ESDNL has an MOU with the government over using the school gyms as a place for mass health inoculations. About 30% of sites being used in the province are schools.
- To help fight the spread of the H1N1 virus, CMS has stepped up cleaning services around the school, paying particular attention to areas such as bathrooms. Pump stations located around the schools are being well used.
- ESDNL has cancelled all school trips in the province until all the vaccinations have been completed. All in-house school events will proceed where possible.
- As the H1N1 infections continue to rise, the school may have some challenges getting substitute teachers to replace sick teachers. As a result, the *school* has postponed some upcoming PD days to a later date to ensure substitutes are utilized where they are best needed.

### 6.5 School Parking Lot – Safety Concerns

- The school council at Clarendville High has written to request a joint meeting to discuss safety issues on the joint parking lot for the schools. Several council members agreed to attend. The Chair will notify members when the date has been set (note: this meeting was later scheduled for Monday, November 2, 2009).
- Concerns were raised over the impact of the H1N1 vaccinations on traffic and parking at the school. Mr. Parady advised council that security personnel will be hired to deal with parking issues at the school so as to minimize the impact on staff, parents and students.

## 7.0 Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM. The next meeting for the school council will be Thursday, November 26, 2009 at 7:00 PM.