

# **Three Oaks Family of Schools District Advisory Council**

## **April 26, 2016 Meeting Topics**

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills: Learning and Innovation Skills**

- Team projects – need to learn how to work together
- More flexibility to scheduling. Longer school day which includes life skills, music, cultural activities.
- Allow students to be more autonomous
- Organize and grade students on a continuum of learning.
- More access to online resources

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills: Digital Literacy**

- More training for teachers in using technology
- Use technology for more assessment.
- Online collaboration tools for students, especially in high school
- More options to take online courses
- We need computers that work and are maintained.
- Awareness of cyberbullying, dangers and consequences.

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills: Career and Life Skills**

- Focus on real-life skills, how to budget and do taxes
- Learning to work on a team. Responsibility and accountability.
- More independent study courses available for students
- Basic communication skills and being able to make a presentation
- Online work with students from other countries

### **High achievers: The need to challenge students who are high achievers**

- Challenging projects and independent studies – self-guided courses to allow high achievers more options.
- Self-guided learning in more courses
- More AP options in regular classes
- More online courses for students

### **Mental Wellness: a more proactive approach**

- Have more professional help with the system

- More knowledge available to high school students on prevention/treatment of mental illness
- Pre-screening at early ages to identify high level issues
- More availability of resources for parents and students in dealing with this issue.
- Increased physical activity for high school students to improve mental wellness.
- Supports for students before high-stakes test.

### **Interagency support: all agencies working with students need to work with each other**

- Community agencies – Speech and Language; Youth worker; OT; Physio; Mental Health counsellor in each family of schools; Public Health; Police Liaison
- A policy to encourage corporate sponsorship
- Look into Municipal Service agreements

### **Role of community/parents**

- Increase communication between school and parents
- More parent/teacher/student interaction
- Parents as reading buddies.
- Parent and community members volunteering at the school.

### **Wonderings: Questions or information that is requested**

- A need for alternative DAC members who cannot attend meetings
- Can TOSH be a pilot for exam exemptions?
- Budget allocation: What is the comparison from province to province?
- What are the implications of a 5 block schedule which would allow more electives?

## **February 23, 2016 Key Themes**

- High achievers: need to challenge students that are high achievers
- Mental wellness: need to catch mental health issues early before they become too much for the student to handle
- Interagency support: all agencies working with students need to communicate with each other
- Role of community: is there too much asked of parents in supporting things like breakfast programs and playground fundraising?
- Equity: are school resources spread equitably throughout the province?

### **Programming for student differences**

- Learning disability assessments need to be complete before students reach TOSH. If they have reached TOSH and are still struggling, it may be too late
- Need to challenge students that are high achievers. Independent study would be valuable to some who know how to use their time wisely.
- Teaching students skills that will be useful but are not typically taught in the school. Budgeting, financial management, plumbing, etc.
- Entrepreneur course for those that are thinking of going into a personal business related field.

## **Assessments**

- Grade 11 Math is an issue as students can appear to do OK in the course throughout the semester but then the Assessment is 30% of the overall mark. This causes anxiety and greatly affects the marks of some students.
- How beneficial are provincial assessments? Some test are written at year and no results until the next year – how can that be beneficial to the student?

## **Curriculum**

- Wondering why reading/writing and math courses are not full year courses in high school as they are noted as being of importance in the ELSB Strategic Plan?
- Need more clarity on course requirements for French Immersion students
- Feel that the junior high level math program has improved, therefore easing pressure on students and parents.
- Suggestion for specialized schools for those who want a career in a specific area (agriculture, medicine, etc.)
- Students opt out of AP classes as they are fearful of bringing down their average.

## **Student wellness and engagement**

- Some course expectations have group or student presentations. This causes anxiety for some as they are not comfortable presenting. Cannot cope and fall behind.
- Inequality in breakfast programs across schools. If this is a public school system all students should be able to access the same funding and not rely on parents or an administrator to apply for it.
- Schools seem to be more aware of mental health issues and are not shying away from the topic
- Lack of EAs at TOSH. Need for at least three more.

## **Parent engagement and wellness**

- Student fees should be transparent and universal among schools
- Inadequate playground equipment. Is this a Home and School issue? Should it be funded by government?

## **Technology in Learning**

- Technology can be positive and negative in the world of education. Technology is here to stay and very important to students therefore is it best to go use it to an advantage.
- SAS is invaluable. Great form of parental communication with the school.
- EMF exposure due to wireless access in the schools – is this anything that has been discussed?