

## School Council Meeting

Minutes – June 19, 2024

6:30 p.m. School Library

### 1. Call to Order - 6:33pm

#### Attendance

Parents: Amanda Wheeler, Elizabeth Naas, Dan Pipke

Staff: Nicole Marcinkevics (Acting Principal), Dana Lakusta (future assistant principal), Treena Neumann (future Principal), Nicole Saulnier (future assistant principal)

Other: Caleigh Pagnucco (Co-Chair), Serene Wakelin (Co-chair), Landis Wall (Secretary), Amy Hennig (School Board Trustee)

### 2. Introductions:

- a. Caleigh resigned as co-chair due to a move. Serene resigning as co-chair. Landis also resigned as secretary.

### 3. Open floor for questions:

- a. Class sizes - numbers sitting right around the 30 mark. Variety for younger classes, several split classes. Split classes because of funding and being able to keep the two streams of FI and English separate.
- b. School capacity is good, sitting at about 630 students, will have an extra classroom to use. Been able to save the art room and breakout space in the basement for extra space for students to use.
- c. Each school gets their own school counselor? - EMHS has had one already for a while, Andrea Smith, she is moving on to Blueberry next school year, MaryAnn Hee will be taking over, there will be continuity of care.
- d. Received funding to bring in two French speaking assistants to help with French Immersion.
- e. Does our new admin team speak French? - Nicole is Francophone, Dana does not but she has worked with FI and she knows how to support them, Treena does not speak it either but she has been around the language and feels confident in supporting this community and parents who do not speak French but have children in FI.
- f. Current rep from CPF has resigned, will need to find someone else to fill that role in order to provide support to parents.
- g. Was this school able to fulfill all the FI classrooms with French speaking teachers? - YES, top priority.
- h. Community at EMHS feeling change fatigue as there have been several Admin changes in the past few years, we would love to see more

continuity, what are the plans for growing this community? - Hard to answer that question, every school community experiences change, not from this community yet so we don't know yet what it needs, will need to get to know, Treena is very good at listening to the community, and values listening to the school council, students and staff, has already seen a phenomenal community atmosphere amongst the staff here at EMHS, Treena would like to know more about the French side, where do they need supports, Meridian been good at blending the FI and English classes in extracurricular activities. Dana commented on the culture of the staff at EMHS, they want to do things that are right for the kids.

- i. Christmas Market was well enjoyed this year, and developmental sports teams, good community building things.
  - j. What is the turnover rate for admin? - EMHS is about average, about every 5 years for this school, the past few years have been different. Comments about having a good community but changing admin teams, doesn't seem to be able to work well long term...other schools having the same questions. Education is different from the private sector. This year was a large shift in the division, a large number of principals retired and principals left for another division. It seems like an exceptional year but generally principals change every 4 years or so. Hard for families to build relationships with admin with so much turnover. Hard to see the benefits. Students don't seem to be as bothered, it affects the staff moreso. Change isn't easy for anyone, Nicole has been working with Treena to make the transition as easy as possible and believes that EMHS is well set up.
  - k. Does academic testing change with all the transition? - Nicole has ensured that all the inclusive education information is passed on to future admin. She knows all the pieces and the full story and has done her best to ensure the pieces are all there to carry forward.
4. Thank you for coming and to the future admin team for introducing themselves. And thank you to Nicole for everything she has done here at EMHS and we congratulate her on her new role.
  5. Meeting adjourned at 7:19pm.