



# dialogue)))

Community Engagement Meeting Comments  
Harold Panabaker School  
Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Below you will find a summary of comments at the meeting as they were recorded. Comments have not been edited for spelling, grammar, sentence structure, truncation or otherwise. Comments have been edited to ensure anonymity. We also edited or omitted abusive, discriminatory and otherwise inappropriate comments.

## Questions and Comments about the School Development Plan

- Which goals and strategies are grade specific in the SDP?
- Special needs students and where do they fit into the SDP?
- What is done to foster inclusion for the students in the specialized program into the school? Options classes, PE classes, fieldtrips, reading buddies, assemblies, activity days.
- Didn't notice a request for ALP money from parent council? Are they funded separately?

## Questions and Comments about Budget and Finance

- Teachers are worth every penny!
- There was a lot of discussion around losses in fees. Unpaid fees cause loss of revenue which comes out of the general pot. There was a lot of discussion around what it means when people do not pay their fees. The group was generally surprised by the number of unpaid fees and the impact of that on the budget.
- School Council is interested in supporting money towards field trip fees for kids who can't go. There is a recent casino that school council has completed.
- At EMJ, all field trips are funded by School Council. Paying for field trips is a change from last year.
- Just found out the zoo field trip was coming up in 3 weeks – suggestion of putting fees in sooner. The problem with doing the trips too early is that estimations don't work for the fee collection because they need to be posted as exact costs.
- If field trips are losing money year over year, how can this be changed? Can we pad the field trip fees, or give parents the option to donate for a kid if there is the option?
- Future campaign idea for school council – fundraising to sponsor families who need it for field trips.



# dialogue)))

Concern about the amount of paper – example the five piece of paper field trip forms. Is there a push to put a lot of the stuff online? Can field trip forms reside on MyCBE instead?

In what ways have you learned about our SDP?

School Council, School Messenger

Related – people at this meeting seldom go to the website.

Could improve social media presence. Instagram, Facebook etc. Caution about the needs to have people checking it every day – guidelines around policy.

Do you agree that your child's learning can benefit from the goals, actions and resources in the SDP? The learning of all students is reflected and prioritized in the goals, actions, and resources in the SDP?

Question: how are the teachers being taught to teach? With students being so different, different types of learning.

Shelly shared information about the different types of PD – such as PLC work, Collaborative Response Model, Central PD, Specialized PD.

This school has done a great job for my child. I provided the psych assessment, and it has been adhered to. He has been well taken care of in this building.

I really appreciate the budget allocation and the focus on the smaller class sizes. My one son is more engaged, more connected with his teachers. I feel that he is going to be well-prepared for high school.

School Budget and Fees – Schools must operate within their budget and too many fees can be unmanageable for families. Knowing that, what activities and services are most important to you?

Most important kinds of activities – All of them are important. Sports, field trips, complementary classes – i.e. construction, foods class. Getting more time to develop skills over a long term is a good idea.

Sports teams are great, but limited to a small number of students.

YMCA open minds school – was really great, how was that funded? It was heavily sponsored, partnership with different organizations, but highly competitive to get in.

Camp Chief Hector – happened for grade six year for one kid but not the other – reason, was Covid cancellation

Casino funds can and should fund things like artist in residence.