Inquiry Hub Secondary School – Commons Room

Attendees: Dave Trust (Vice principal, lead administrator), Arlyss Turner (secretary), Jason Turner (chair), Katherine Isaac, Duncan Strong, Tanya Young, Cathy Hoy (Treasurer), Connie Silas, Brent Ward, Ruth Townsend, Heidi Gable, Tracy Wallace, Dana Strong, Shauna Turner (student).

Minutes recorded by Arlyss Turner.

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions:

* All were welcomed to the meeting. Round table of introductions was made.

1. Previous Meeting Minutes:

* Motion to accept the minutes for June 2, 2014 meeting:  Connie Silas
* Second: Jason Turner
* Motion carried.

1. Priorities for 2014/2015:

* **Food safe course for all students** – This will help to support the school's application for the school to participate in the food and veggie school program. Also interest by number of students and parent for this learning opportunity.
* **Student inquiry project grant funds** – Any donations submitted through SD43 with direction to be to the Inquiry Hub school’s student inquiry projects or the Inquiry Hub PAC are held in school account managed by the school administration. PAC requested that Dave provide monthly reports on the school held funds for this purpose.  Once those funds are used up, the PAC funds will then be utilized to support the student inquiry project grant requests. Students request funding through completion of form designed by the student leadership team. Requests are reviewed by the student leadership team and then by the PAC members that subscribe to review the grant requests.
* **Fundraising vs donations** - Rather than fundraising, in the past, the PAC has asked for donations to allow there to be funds for supporting the students and their inquiries. It was suggested that $30 per student as a basic donation. The actual donation amount is up to parent's decision. Discussion at meeting supported continuing with this approach.

1. Old Business:

* **Volunteering requirements for graduation** - It was confirmed that students need to acquire 30 hours of volunteering for graduation requirements from start of Grade 10. Documentation showing proof of volunteering activity is required to be kept.
* **Vice chair position** – This position is open. No volunteers stepped forward to fill this position.
* **DPAC rep position** – This position is still open as well. Heidi shared details of what the DPAC meetings cover and the benefit of those meeting and having a representative attend and bring back information to the school PAC. No volunteers stepped forward to fill this position.

1. New Business:

* **School Garden** - Over the summer the school's garden box was broken into and the contents (all garden tools, etc) was stolen.  The students have replaced the items they needed and are now keeping the minimum items in the unlocked garden tool box.
* **Student-led Charity Program** - The students are planning to support a family during the holiday times through the GOAL program. Last year the student supported a student and although there was limited time to pull it together, was very successful in gathering items
* **Parent teacher night -** Dave noted that with the late start, we missed the parent meet the teacher night. He has a plan on to have a parent/teacher appointment near the first report timeframe. Likely on November 27. Dave encouraged anyone that had concerns that needed to be discussed sooner to book an appointment to meet with the teacher.

1. Treasurer's Report:

* Update on current state of PAC accounts was provided.
* Gaming monies have been received for this school year.

1. Principal's Report:

* Mike McGlennan (the principle) will come to some of the meetings. Unable to attend tonight.
* Recognized that one of the first big projects undertaken by the students was applying for a World Wildlife grant to build and implement a community garden.
* One of the things that is different this year is the structure of the day.  Typically the start of the day was teacher lead and the end of the day was independent study or inquiry.  Now, they have moved to a theme lesson structure around design, identity, stewardship and communication. They will pick a theme related to those to bring into the theme (i.e., where are we?) and cover those in the classroom sessions during the mornings.  Feedback from the teachers are that even though there was a late start to the year, we are further ahead than where we were at this time last year.
* No changes in the teaching staff from last year.
* School planning committee is a priority for Dave to get in place this year.
* Courses - in grade 9, the students do digital literacy 10 and inquiry based learning 10 courses. In grade 10, the students would take on independent studies (IDS) which were self-directed that needed 100 hours of study. The grade 9's would come out with the 2 grade 10 courses and the grade 10s will come out with 2 grade 11 courses (IDS).
* There is a new secretary that covers Inquiry Hub and 4 other schools (under the COLA). With the slow start to this year, it will be the end of this week, all students will have access in all necessary courses online.
* Thursdays will have a one hour prior to PE in the afternoon, the teachers will have a team meeting session. During that hours, students are expected to work on independent study during that time.  The teacher team is meeting in the open in the commons year should students need to engage them during that time.
* Dave welcomed all parent to connect with him if there are any student or parent frustrations that he should be aware of or can help with.
* Online sites: parents.inquiry.org that is used to communicate information to parents. Dave noted that he would love to have a parent gather the details, and then on a weekly basis put up the info in a blog. The grants that are requested by students is online. Students fill out the online form, the student leadership reviews and has an opportunity to ask questions to vet the request. Then Dave posts it to the private blog site for the parents to review.
* Question on how the French requirement is being covered for the students coming from French Immersion. Most students that have come from the French Immersion program have been enrolled in the French online course above their current grade level (i.e., grade 9's from French Immersion are enrolled in FR11). Comments from parents noted that there are concerns with Rosetta Stone. Dave noted that there has been another avenue for another course. Shauna noted that there is an opportunity for the Student Leadership to organize a FR conversation time where those student desiring it could spend some time in conversation in FR.

New Business

* **Budget planning discussion** - gaming grant was received this year. The intent is to utilize these funds for the Food safe course for all students and any interested parents. Welcome input from parents as to potential initiatives for the parents to fund.
* **School fieldtrips** - The students are planning a ski/snowboard/tubing fieldtrip for January time.
* **School presentations** - Dave noted that the school is bringing an outside speaker on science as well as considering bringing in the same speaker as last year to cover sex education Clayton Bowler. Sex education workshop is November 5th and November 27th will be Math workshop with an SFU professor.

Next meeting scheduled on November 4, 2014 at 6:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm