Our Communities Meeting – March 23rd, 2016 – 7:30 pm, MSFN School

Minutes

Present: 31

**Vision:** To create a safe and caring community for all.

1. Welcome, Opening Prayer-Tom Littlespruce opened with prayer.

2. Thank-you to the Loon Lake Catholic Parish for supplying the food tonight. Thank-you to Rivers West Sports and Culture Group for supplying the give-aways tonight.

3. Apology to Blue H2O and Car Wash re not including them in the last minutes as supplying a prize.

4. Ice Breaker – Superlatives- water bottles from Rivers West Sports and Culture were handed out to the winning group.
   - Wall walk -You can do a wall walk at any time to review information posted from past meetings and add any information you would like.

5. Results of Parent Surveys- Cheryl Smith
   - Both schools were asked to hand out a survey to parents.
   - We asked what was needed to have a safe community.
   - There is an agreement between the two schools that if a high-school student cannot get a class at his/her home school, he/she can take the class at the other school if it is offered there. With enough notice, students can be accommodated.
   - We have now heard from all sectors of the community and we have similar concerns – particularly a need for the two schools to get together so that we can get to know each other.
   - Dave Wright- Since the MSFN Youth Center is not operational could we get a team of volunteers together to help complete the project? Can our group help with finishing the project?
   - There will be talk between the two schools to create an Outdoor Ed. Program.
   - Summer Culture Camp – volunteers needed
   - April 21, 2016- Ernie Studer Rock Band to perform at MSFNS
   - April 7, 2016- Gr. 7 & 8 leadership group from both schools to plan further activities

6. RCMP Report –Sergeant Phil De Gruchy
   - Have held half a dozen meetings with Chief and Council regarding bylaws. We are able to enforce bylaws but we need lawyers and collections people to follow through on the charges and fines.
   - Spoke to Chief and Council regarding dog problem, community is supposed to hire a dog catcher
   - 1 mischief and 1 residence broken into; on reserve 8 mischiefs and 1 break-in – for January and February 2016
   - Office open in Band Office for RCMP
• Police week is in May 16-20, 2016 BBQ and Open House at the RCMP station
• RCMP involved in Opening Ceremonies of MSFN Pow Wow to be held in May, 2016
• RCMP came to MSFN School to give bullying prevention talks

7. What do prejudice, discrimination, and racism look like in our area?
   Step 1: Each person write of a time that he/she may have experienced racism or been a racist or been a bystander when racism was going on.
   Step 2: Defining prejudice (an untruthful thought in my head), discrimination (acting on the prejudice), and racism (prejudice and discrimination based on skin color). Helen Ben related about times when she experienced racism in our area.

8. At table groups discuss:
   • What do we gain from this information?
   • How do we use this to make it better for the children and youth in this community?
   • An article from Saskatoon Star Phoenix supplied by Susan Suek was used to add to the conversation.

9. Whole group discussion and suggestions to answer the above questions:
   • Give and receive respect
   • You have to explain to children that some people don’t like other people because of looks or culture or religion
   • Shouldn’t treat each other differently - Creator made us all with blood running through our veins. We are all a part of the same human race and same species.
   • Look at values of person.
   • Everyone is equal.
   • Body language more impactful than words.
   • We have a lot of commonalities and we need to celebrate our differences. Our differences are ok.
   • Embrace commonalities and build on those commonalities.
   • Goes back to us as individuals; it is a learned behavior; it is in the environment.
   • Dispel the myths and do fun things together.

10. Next Steps:
    • Sign-up for sub-committees for Pow Wow- Apr. 7-Jennifer Ben will be setting up a list of jobs that need to be done for the Pow Wow weekend.
    • Those interested in working on July 1st activities, sign up. Canada Day volunteer list to have more activities.
    • Anyone interested in helping the Women’s Group with Kids Summer Camp? Signup sheet for volunteers
    • Helping with Youth Centre setup – Who is interested?
    • Kinship Room with Helen Ben. She is looking to develop a community plan and family trees and a history room; timeline; connect to your roots to know who you are
    • Rick Langlais story – *dysfunctional* free book - if you want to take one
Internet Safety and the Digital World – tentative date – April 27th, 2016- Parent Council at Ernie School – must register by April 16th and $10.00 fee

Additional Information:
11. Thank you to the Rivers West District for Sport Culture & Recreation provided the give aways tonight.
12. Legion- Dale Wells- willing to give their building up for next meeting at Legion at no charge
13. Ernie Studer is fundraising to upgrade their playground.
14. Each participant was asked to participate in an informal survey and answer the following questions:
   - How has the individual’s attitude changed when talking about racism?
   - Should we continue with Our Communities Meetings?
   - The results will be shared at the next meeting.
15. Winners of the prizes from Rivers West - Tom Littlespruce- shirts; Roger Evans- Umbrella; Umbrella- Gerald Kiseyinewakup; Sunglasses- Bob & Jackie Haight
16. Closing Prayer – Tom Littlespruce

Next Meeting – April 27th, 2016, 7:30, Loon Lake Legion Hall