

School Council Meeting February 23, 2020 7:00 pm  
A.B. Daley School  
Virtual Meeting  
Chair: Tammy Demers  
Co-Chair: Danielle Sorka

**Purpose Statement: Monthly Meeting**

**1. Welcome and introductions**

**Attendance:** John McKee, Jolene Becker, Alana Millard, Alli Martin, Tracy Inaba, Tammy Demers, Coleen Phillips, Jillian Spencer, Sherri Lundberg, Devina Comstock, Christy Patton, Katherine Chattaway, Jessica & Ian MacPherson, Cassandra Graves, Tracey Wallace, Jocelyn, Rhonda Anderson, Lori Loree, Samantha Whitten, Jolene Welsh, Carla Wideman, Zszsanna Temperli, Shannon Wickett, Sara Anderson, Sandra Gammie, Jason MacDonald, Danielle Sroka, Alyssa Burgoyne, Veronica Lowe

**2. Agreement of Meeting Conduct:**

Intent: Healthy teams hold each other accountable so that everyone can participate, and contribute, for the best possible outcome

Raise hand to speak

Agree to disagree

Be open to others' ideas

No "sidebar" conversations

Stay on topic

Save questions for after speaker is finished presenting

**3. Trustee update by John McKee - see LRSD website 3 Key Messages for Feb 2021**

**4. Report from Principal – Jolene Becker**

**Highlights:**

- Lunch time Intramurals have started. Games are played in class cohorts. Students have been playing basketball in February. In March floor hockey will start.
- Pink Shirt Day was held. It was estimated 95% of students wore a pink shirt for the day. It was a good spirit raiser in a year with less togetherness. Tracy met with each class to host discussions about kindness and bullying. Rowan house presented to some classes virtually to present on positive relationships.
- Outdoor learning has been included in more lessons this year. Some students have been learning about animal habitats, town history and/or geography while outside during class time.

**5. Combined Classrooms Information and Q&A**

**Tracey Inaba** - a guest speaker from Vulcan Prairie View Elementary where this model is used. The Vulcan student demographic is similar to Nanton's. Tracey is currently the principal of the Prairie View Elementary School. The school was using a combined classroom model when she came on as principal. Tracey stated she had her doubts about the model when she started but quickly realized it was working well for students, parents and staff.

**Questions Summary (Leanne was too slow to type and too engaged in the discussion to record verbatim during the meeting)**

**Why is A.B. Daley considering a combined classroom model?**

#1 reason to consider this model is the trend A.B. Daley has been experiencing a slow decline in enrollment numbers. Enrollment numbers guide classroom configurations and funding for staff. The current and past enrollment numbers has meant that we have had, and will continue to have, some classes be "split classes" with the current system. Split classes are often not well received by students and parents as it often results in repeated class materials or missing parts of grade curriculum. For teachers it means year to year changes to learning plans and difficulty not missing curriculum or repeating assignments for learners in different grade groups.

**What does this mean for A.B Daley School?**

AB Daley has always had about 12-ish Full time teaching staff. Projected enrollment is 193 for next year (of course there will be some fluctuation in this number before 2021-2022 year starts). This means class sizes ranging between 15-22 students. With our current model the class configuration could look like K, 1, 1/2, 2, 3, 3/4, 4, 5, 5/6, 6

The combined classes model would change the class configuration to three classes of a mix of grade ones and twos (1/2), three classes of 3/4, three classes of 5/6

**How will the decision be made about transitioning into a combined classes model?**

Decisions about using, or not using this model will be dependent on the feedback from parents, teachers/staff. When considering this model our focus is success for all students.

**What are the benefits of this model?**

The benefits of a combined class model is predictability year to year. Students will most often be with the same teacher for two years. That teacher can plan for both years having the same group of students. This allows all curriculum to be covered and no repeated lessons. It can also reduce the Sept returning to school anxiety as students will be familiar with their teacher, classroom, expectations and classmates. Students will have enhanced leadership opportunities within their classes and relationship development between classes.

Under this model there would be 3 teachers teaching the same curriculum and thus can collaborate and assist each other. This would also provide students options for moving between classrooms if there are challenges. The predictability of having consistent class configurations also provides for some flexibility in programming options like outdoor ed. Etc.

**How does it work?**

In a combined class Social and Science, the class would learn the curriculum concepts as a group but the expectations/assignments and grading would be grade specific to the student's grade level. Social and Science are taught as concepts and thus the order in which they are presented to the student does not impact learning. For Math and Language Arts, skills are taught in order to build on each other. Students would be taught curriculum at their grade level for these subjects.

**Do all students benefit from the model?**

No not all. Students will not always be placed with all their friends in class. But this happens in traditional class configurations. In the case where there is a poor fit between teacher and student this model does provide more options for that student to change a class while maintaining consistency in learning progression. (Move from a ¾ class to a ¾ class. Whereas in the current structure that student might not have another class option or have to move from a full class into a split or vice versa)

**How does this prepare the students for transition to Jr. High when they have a different teacher for each class?**

Tracey reported that the students from Prairie View did not seem to struggle with the transition to the Jr. High and that Staff at the Jr./Sr. High School did not feel that students struggled with the transition from combined classes to the High School Structure.

**Would this change at A.B. Daley a pilot/is there a plan for evaluation if we do proceed into using this model?**

Yes the evaluation would be a significant part of the plan if this is a model that A.B. Daley families and staff chose.

Jolene is open to having further discussion with families on combined classes.

**Things to Remember**

- Lunch program can be ordered online. Deadline to order is the Friday before.  
<https://www.healthyhunger.ca/index.php>

**Important Dates:**

- Friends of A.B. Daley fundraiser, Purdys, orders due March 5 online only

**Next Meeting:**

**Mar 31, 2021**