

Manachaban School Council April 10, 2012

Present: Stephen Price
Krista Stronach
Sigi Sengl
Penny Beaudry
Thomas Elbel
Marla Bosch

Colleen Munro
Bruce Woolrich
Katt Hryciw
Sara Busby
Dave Levson
Mme Ashley

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm.

Welcome and Intros

Additions to the agenda:

Agenda then passed by consent.

Minutes from previous meeting presented and passed

Funding Requests

- Grade fives will be heading to Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump and then to an overnight at Frank Slide (English classes May 28 & 29, French classes May 30 & 31)
 - after adding in the class walkathon money, the cost per student is \$110
 - request is for \$10 per student (\$1000 total)
 - Since students will be sleeping at the Frank Slide Interpretive Center, only two classes at a time could be accommodated
 - this split does not allow any integration of the French and English students, but it does allow the presentation at the Frank Slide to be in French for the French students
 - this is an unusual request for council (to be asked to defray the costs of an overnight trip)
 - would \$10 per student make or break a parent's decision for their child to attend?
 - perhaps for some, but not the majority
 - where should council be spending their money if not on things like this?
 - (brief review of Manachaban Funds Disbursement policy - <http://manachaban.rockyview.ab.ca/school-council/council-information>)
 - Question is called (Sara 1st, Sigi 2nd) - passed (council will fund this request)
- Standing tables
 - 5-6 teachers are interested in having one of these in their classrooms
 - these are round tables whose height can be adjusted and are meant to be stood at
 - some students with fidgeting problems would benefit from being able to stand to do some work
 - total in the range of \$700-\$1000
 - This is a good item to request from the casino funds - pass to them (along with the request for library furniture made back in September)
- Compassionate funding for the grade 8 Quebec trip
 - one student is very short of cash and in need of financial help
 - council is being approached for \$800 (about half of what still needs to be raised)
 - this type of request comes up every year and council's position has always been to decline
 - where would this type of funding end?
 - who decides how important the need?
 - in previous years, alternate funding has been found
 - should council set aside some money just for this sort of request?
 - this will be tabled until the next meeting

Treasurer Report

- \$5925.92
 - \$150 for the Grandparent Program still needs to clear
 - \$315 dinner for the teachers still needs to clear

Staff Report

- an example of an anti-technology answer to an assignment was presented (to contrast with the recent presentations of how current technology is being used)
 - a board game had been made by a student featuring everything hand-written (old-school technology still being used effectively)
- Report cards came out on March 30 - all comments are online (parents must log into powerschool to see them)
- dance on March 30th went well
- the rescheduled Active Living Day is on April 12th
- an addition to the laptop cart count from last meeting - there is also a mini-cart with 4 or 5 laptops which can be signed out individually (as opposed to an entire cart being wheeled to a classroom)
- in May - leadership will focus on a school wide food drive (food banks have a bit of a drought in this month)
- On April 18th, 30 students have been selected to write the Mathematica Contest (too costly for every student to write)
- April 9th was Community of Practice for the teachers (teachers from across the division get together to discuss ideas)
- Mrs Patterson had a baby boy

Admin Report

- 25 students will be selected to attend a We Day event in October in Calgary
- Mrs Greaves has finished the relationship course
- options
 - leadership will now be year-long
 - used to use a sign-up sheet
 - now students will be given a list of options and are asked to list their preferences in priority order
 - schedule will be driven by this information
- staffing - Mme Butterwick has returned - M Raymond has finished
 - there is a student teacher here from the U of C for French Immersion
- Student Agendas
 - these currently cost around \$6000 per year
 - more students are using electronic agendas or not using the paper ones effectively
 - considering doing away with them
 - some kids will still need them
 - maybe phase in this change - only buy for grades 5 & 6 next year see how this works
 - some people prefer the weekly emails or information on the class website - this latter allows both parents and kids to access anywhere
- more french needs to be spoken in class
 - students will be presented with a contract in which they will be able to agree to their commitment level for the month - this will then be reviewed with them at the end of the month
 - hopefully this will improve FLA (French Language Arts)
- Bell came into the school to give a presentation on internet safety
- On Friday the 13th, the grade 8s will be working on their Inquiry Project about the Titanic
- On March 22 an author workshop was held

Trustee Report

- Provincial election has been called
 - advocacy list has been forwarded to all parents (to give parents some ideas of areas of concern which should be addressed by the various candidates)
 - PCs are promising remodeling for 70 schools and 40 new schools province-wide
- infrastructure
 - on March 15 the capital plan was passed by the board
 - Cochrane is number one on the list for new schools
 - Airdrie is second and third
 - Alberta Infrastructure has a list of all schools with their maintenance requirements so that maintenance can be prioritized
 - board asked for 16 portables and have received 8 - priorities have been reshuffled (none for Manachaban)
- Transportation fees - there is a surplus - this will allow for some changes
 - each route costs approx \$50,000
 - surplus can be used to reduce fees or to add routes to decrease ride time

Action Items

- review compassionate funding request at next meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2012 at 7 pm. This later start time is to allow for the open house for next year's grade 5 parents which has been scheduled for the same day.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29.