

Manachaban School Council December 6, 2011

Present: Marla Bosch
Colleen Munro
Krista Stronach
Sara Busby
Penny Beaudry

Murray Besenski
Bruce Pettigrew
Thomas Elbel
Buce Woolrich

Meeting called to order at 6:38 pm.

Welcome and Intros

Additions to the agenda: Murray will present at the start of the meeting. Agenda then passed by consent. Minutes from previous meeting presented and passed (Sara approve, Thomas second).

Murray

- Need to look at Elizabeth Barrett regarding its capacity - school population is growing
 - very limited space for adding more portables - most obvious spot is at the back of the school but this would mean moving the playground
 - Grade 1 entrance may have gas lines in the way - cannot build over a gas line
 - Grade 4 portables are standalone - this becomes an issue with getting into main school for the bathrooms, etc (time consuming to put on and take of coats in winter, path is not visible from the school)
 - Computer lab can be converted to a classroom and have everyone use computer carts instead
- Manachaban has more room to add portables
- Board is recommending that a committee be formed to look at the options and make recommendations
 - this was done with high schools (Cochrane High and Bow Valley) as their numbers shrank - result was a combinations of programs at the schools - not a perfect solution, but probably the best, and it allowed everyone to have input resulting in greater buy-in from the parent community
 - Murray would like a school council rep from Manachaban to be on the committee (to be added to a rep from Elizabeth Barrett, as well as teachers from both schools)
 - Final solution probably not ready for 2012 - most likely fall 2013
- Murray can provide info to the committee - zoning, cost estimates, floor plans, etc
- Committee could decide to have a survey or focus group or town-hall style meeting
- Capital wish list includes a K-8 for Sunset Ridge (this is currently third on the list - but new schools typically take 3-4 years to be built)
- Population bubble is coming due to Cochrane's growth in recent years
- Manachaban is up fifty kids this year
- Dual track (English and French Immersion) complicates things - could designate one school all english and the other all french, but Manachaban has facilities (woodworking, food and fashion, etc) that Elizabeth Barrett lacks.
- there is little to no money
- portables are a cheap fix
- hope to get 2 or 3 solutions from which the best can be picked
- Bruce Pettigrew would be ex-officio member of committee
- would like to max out at 10 or 11 people with a minimum of 8 (from each school - member from admin, staff (french and english), and school council rep)
- Board could pay for an outside facilitator
- Meeting time would be what worked for everyone - the high school committee held theirs at 7am for two hours approx every two weeks
- start in the new year and expect to be done in April-May
- Murray and Bruce leave the meeting
- Marla, Krista, Bruce and Sara express interest
 - Marla and Sara both have kids in both tracks
 - Bruce is a builder
- All names put in a hat, along with Stephen - Sara and Krista pulled - Manachaban School Council will send two reps

Financial Report

- Balance is still \$2736.21

Admin & Staff Report

- Honor and Effort Roll are under review
 - new tracking system doesn't give the same information as the old one
 - grades 5&6 and 7&8 are judged differently
 - some kids aren't motivated by honor and effort roll - others feel bad for a slight miss
 - possibly more fair to recognize these at the end of the year rather than interim
 - maybe recognizing those who improve most is better
 - Cremona has a Buster award with a percent increase in improvement criteria for the award
 - at the same time, we must not celebrate mediocrity and give everyone an award
- Report cards are now online - parents like this
 - comment bank was used - wordings are questionable at times - kinks will be worked out
 - musing - instead of another report card, try continuous updates - maybe an email would be send when information has been updated - may be in violation of school act - looking into
 - plenty of room for online comments
 - printout from new system - either include comments or attendance (latter is required by school act) so for now comments can only be viewed online
 - perhaps - set out criteria for outcomes (between teacher and student) and allow teacher to feedback when student says they can do it
- PAT scores still need to come home
- school spelling bee final is Jan 12
- parking at dismissal - there has been some concern expressed about the cars lined up in the parking lot - probably not a problem - where else where cars go?
- Seniors for Kids - annual request for \$150
 - Marla motions that we donate \$150 to them, Sara second - passed
- band teacher has requested two more microphone stands at \$60 each
 - Marla motions that we buy these, Sara second - passed
- still looking for a lunch room supervisor - getting used to only having one right now

Trustee Report

- Janice Tarchuck (Banff-Cochrane) will not be running again
- Election will be March-May
- all 62 provincial boards have agreed that assessment needs to line up with learning
- expect government model to change (along with trustees and boards)
- passed financial audit
- Powerschool package was upgraded - access more help
- Edge School pilot has been extended another two years (sports school features hockey and dance)
- Wireless bandwidth is being severely taxed in schools - need to look at wireless infrastructure

Casino

- should find out in January how much money was made

Action Items

- cheque for Seniors for Kids
- still need to present annual report

Next meeting is scheduled for Jan 10, 2012 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21.