Manachaban School Council Nov 25, 2013

Present: Thomas Elbel
Krista Stronach
Katt Hryciw
Nancy Pollard
Penny Beaudry
April R
Jonah B
Colleen Munro
Sara Busby
Marla Bosch
Annette Dobson
Bruce Woolrich
Shyla M

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

Welcome and Intros

Agenda adopted by consent.
Minutes from previous meeting presented and passed.

Treasurer Report

- $4085.25 in account
- there is still $1000 to go to the compassionate fund
- $60 set aside as gift for custodians
- approx $6000 coming in from walkathon

Staff Report

- A volleyball - 2nd overall in division
- B volleyball underway
- Remembrance Day ceremony held Nov 7
- Nov 8 was a PD day - topic was assessment
- there were two teacher conferences - one on the environment and one on French Immersion
- We Day was excellent
- the top four walkathon fundraising classes will be taking a tour of the RCMP facilities
- Dec 11 is the band Christmas concert
- Nov 29 is end of term

Leadership Report

- We Day - April R. went to We Day last year (courtesy of the sponsor RBC) as well as this year
  - excellent time - lots of fun
- Wednesday will be sweater day
- events are advertised through announcements and digital bulletins

Admin Report

- Evidence Summary and online reporting
  - working on putting report into pdf format (so it can be emailed)
  - lot of info available on the parent portal
  - still need updates from some teachers
  - students still getting used to new system - liked precision of old system

    - for parents the old system is instilled and change is hard
    - there are studies against percentage marks (see Thomas R. Guskey)
- must distinguish between assessing skills and assessing knowledge
- current weekly email reports do not have a key to the assessments - must refer back to the Manachaban website
    - also, much more information is available on the website
- one more parent portal training session will be held
- parents at meeting expressed their preference for emails over polling the website for student summaries
- staffing update
    - Tracy Kirby will not be returning from mat leave - Ms Berger will continue
    - Mrs Topps is coming back
- outdoor environmental stewardship
    - looked at magnets for mailboxes indicating no ad-mail was wanted
    - can buy 500 for $2 each, then resell for $5
    - Town of Cochrane used to reimburse for $2 each but this budget has dried up
    - want to raise funds for outdoor learning space
- Dr Dean Kriellaars from Manitoba presented at a meeting at Holy Spirit on physical literacy (http://www.physicalliteracy.ca/node/48)
    - He and Thomas have been emailing
- external safety audit was done - entire school is examined for safety hazards
    - this year was Manachaban's turn
    - phys ed storage room was one of best organized the auditor had seen
    - some places to improve were pointed out
    - good learning experience
- On Jan 22 a body-image speaker is being brought in - geared to middle and high school
- West Jet raffle tickets are available now for $5
- Active LIving Day is Jan 30.

Nancy Pollard

- attended the environmental conference Outdoor Experiential Class
- attempt to reconnect kids with nature
- more enquiry based learning
- Richard Louv (http://richardlouv.com) is a strong advocate of reconnecting kids with nature
- for example - a field trip to Canmore and Banff allowed students to examine upstream water quality and a sewage treatment plant
- costs for this are higher than conventional classroom learning - bus for the day is $400
- would like to see it used more in school
- pilot program with Grade 8 English students (alternative to Quebec trip?)
    - need to be able to say "this is the trip we want to take and this is what it will cost, who can afford it? Is corporate sponsorship possible?)
    - need to determine exactly how to roll out such a program
- Idea was enthusiastically received by school council

Jonah B

- student presentation asking for new outdoor basketball hoops
- current outdoor hoops are double rim which make them hard to use - ball more likely to bounce out
- would get much more use and be more fun if hoops were replaced
- new rims (7) can be had from Walmart for $565 - if they can be purchased in the US they are only $260
- installation would b extra - Bruce offers to install them
- must pass this by Mr Macmillan
- Sara motions that School Council spend up to $600 to replace the outdoor basketball hoops pending approval from Mr Macmillan. Krista seconds - passed.

Trustee Report

- Experiential classroom - if it works for the grade 8s perhaps the program can be extended to kids from Westbrook and Bearspaw (sharing arrangement?)
- Joint Board/School Council Meeting
  - Manachaban is a leader
  - new assessment is the right thing to do
- ASBA (Alberta School Board Association) AGM had the new Rockyview Superindent (Don Hoium) attending (official start date is Jan 1)
  - Helen Clease (from ward 4) was elected president for the 2013-2015 term
- Passed resolution asking for AB to direct funding from private schools to public schools
- Board news
  - Appointed new public member to Audit committee
  - Gave first read to Policy HBGH Programs of Choice -- embedded community engagement model in this policy
  - Gave first read to Policy EBB accidents and medical emergencies, wording change to make it more inclusive
- Christian school in Chestermere leases space in a church
  - province won't cover lease any more (were supposed to for five years)
  - RVS board will now cover the lease and Colleen will write a letter to the minister
- modular classrooms
  - can relocate 15
  - want 9 new ones
  - Mitford needs 10 new classrooms (in addition to the ones already approved and being installed)
  - board will spend up-front money for permits etc before the portables are approved
- Upcoming board business Dec 5:
  - Audited financial statements
  - 2013-2014 budget adjustments

Next meeting is scheduled for Jan 27, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02.