

Manachaban School Council Feb 24, 2014

Present: Thomas Elbel	Colleen Munro
Krista Stronach	Penny Beaudry
Katt Hryciw	Marla Bosch
Annette Dobson	Dawn-Marie Cinnamon
Vanessa Fischbuch	Bruce Woolrich
Fiona Simoongwe	

Meeting called to order at 6:32 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

- Feb 14 was PD day -really productive
 - time to develop common grade by grade outlines of evaluation policies
- convention downtown calgary
 - variety of sessions: pick and choose
 - new ideas/info to share back at school
- pink shirt day (anti-bullying day)
 - Wednesday Feb 26
 - tri-school photo will be held at noon
- CHS info/registration
 - Monday March 3
 - for grade 8s heading to Cochrane High School
- French presentation - March 4
 - "Les Boucherons"
 - cabane a sucre: info/syrup extravaganza
- Gr 7s to Heritage Park in March
 - Grade 7&8 band camp is in March
 - A basketball done
 - B basketball underway
- Science Fair - Fri, March 28
 - optional for interested students
 - can submit a proposal to Mme Arsenault
 - emphasis on scientific thinking, creativity, new ideas, accuracy of data collection
- Parent/Teacher interviews
 - happened before the break
 - quick, but worthwhile
 - contact teacher for any concerns

- New Teaching Contract reached through arbitration
 - 0.41% increase in Sept 2014
 - lump sum payment of 1% in Dec 2015
 - 1 day of personal leave allowed
 - possibly losing in-lieu days
 - these two days in Feb allowed for the family week break (added to family day and PD days)
 - up to board on how to proceed
 - one more week of paid mat leave
- Term 2 ends Friday March 28
 - expect Evidence Summary [report cards] by March 28

Admin Report

- awards for academic excellence - how do they look?
 - Honors with Distinction and Honors criteria being decided
 - will allow a combination of “proficient” and “exemplary” in core subjects
- selection for grade 8 outdoor program
 - this is the new program proposed for a class of 20 (english only) students with a focus on learning outside with an extra cost to parents of \$500
 - next year expect 66 kids in grade 8 english
 - what if 45 want to join?
 - should there be an interview process? essay from child? lottery?
 - need to make sure both parent and child want to join
 - probably need to start with a letter to parents, then an info night.
- staffing
 - resource assistant hired for Gr5 and Gr8
 - would like to hire another so that each can focus on one grade
 - getting info from staff for next years plans (who is staying, who plans to move on)
- Penny went to a conference in Florida focusing on new technology for schools
 - conference was amazing - too much to fully absorb at once including:
 - colAR Mix - app for ipads that allows physically colored pages come to 3d life when photographed
 - display of full-wall white board with projectors
 - google glass
 - discussed implications of technology and privacy laws with all this information being kept on external servers
- Mme Ashley applied for a trip to Waterton Park and won - class will be going June 1

Trustee Report

- teacher contract settlement
 - as outlined above
 - in lieu days will probably not change for the coming year, after that board will rethink
- Communication of learning to parents
 - includes:
 - parent portal
 - parent/teacher interviews
 - evidence summary
 - student portfolios
 - learner profiles
 - all schools in RV must use these but migration is going at different speeds
 - date to implement has been extended (have until 2015-2016 for full implementation)
 - feedback survey coming in March
 - board will be paying for on-site support for Powerschool
- expect static budget provincially

- new K-5 school in Airdrie has been approved
- next on wish list is adding to Heron's Crossing in Airdrie, then another new school for Cochrane
- RV received new modular classrooms, but not as many as requested
 - March 6 will be a discussion
- School Board school tour wrapped up before the break
- New Superintendent Don Hoiium has a video reflecting on his first 60 days on the RV website: <http://www.rockyview.ab.ca> or directly on youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUuXv8t4nnI>
- March 5 is the grade 8 parent meeting for kids going to Cochrane High
- Rockyview has a very high FNMI (First Nations, Metis, Inuit) graduation rate compared to the provincial rate (60% vs 35%) (reserve graduation rates tend to single digits)
- there is an somewhat underground LGBT group at Cochrane High (as per question from last meeting)
- board wants to find some radio time for some of the cool things happening at Rockyview Schools

New Business

- Grandparent program is requesting \$200 for the coming year
 - Krista motions to grant them \$200, Bruce seconds - passed
- question about how the physical changes to classrooms made last year are working out (eg. knocking down walls between classrooms)
 - some good, some bad
 - seems to work well when classes are on the same schedule, harder when classes are different
 - has reduced hallway congestion at class change
 - breakout rooms are great

Next meeting is scheduled for Mar 24, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01.