

Manachaban School Council Feb 23, 2015

Present: Thomas Elbel
Krista Stronach
Bruce Woolrich
Trinity Patterson

Colleen Munro
Gerry Gaudet
Ann-Marie Cinnamon
Annette Dobson

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm.

Welcome and Intros

Agenda adopted by consent.

Minutes from previous meeting presented and passed.

Treasurer Report

- currently have \$10,836.45
 - \$1000 for compassionate fund still to come out
 - \$600 for Quest theatre still to come out

Staff Report

- convention
 - sessions included:
 - Alex Russell - Big Bad World - how to deal with entitlement, lack of initiative and responsibility
 - shift responsibility onto kids
 - good to learn from non-catastrophic failure
 - has written a book "Drop the Worry Ball"
 - would there be any interest in a book study with parents?
 - also has a TED talk
 - Ed Dixon - helping boys learn
 - recent focus on the way girls learn has left boys behind
 - boys and girls learn differently
- field trips
 - in two weeks grade 7s will go to the Stampede Grounds
 - In Mar/Apr timeframe grade 7s will go to Heritage Park
 - Band Camp coming up
 - recently the Grade 8 hockey kids went to see the pre-game warmup of the Flames and Sharks - wonderful trip

Admin Report

- met with Blair Hatch from San Diego
 - focus on more project-based learning which would cross over multiple subjects instead of having constant subject shifts through the day
- thinking about changing the breaks during the school day
 - currently have two 55 minutes classes, then a ten minute break, then another two 55 minutes classes then 45 minutes for lunch
 - maybe shorten lunch break and add to morning break (eg. 20 min morning break and 35 min for lunch)
 - what about hockey kids that cut into lunch time already?
 - what about kids that go out for lunch - would they still have enough time to walk down the hill, buy lunch, then come back?

- “Race to Nowhere” is an American documentary that explores school pressures and whether what kids are learning is relevant
- Internet Safety - Nikki Neave and an RCMP officer will be presenting on March 9 at 7pm
- Career and Technology Foundations (CTF) is new curriculum for grades 5-9
 - <http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/ctf.aspx>

Trustee Report

- four year plan has been approved
 - focus on basic skills - literacy, numeracy
 - need real-life skills too - field trips
- already planning next school board budget
 - being conservative
 - expect province to cut budget
- attendance area consultation for when new school opens in Sunset Ridge
 - solicit input from parents
 - session on Wednesday at Mitford
 - session next week at Elizabeth Barrett
- already searching for principal for new school (to open in 2016)

Next meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18