

Manachaban School Council Feb 29, 2016

Present: Thomas Elbel	Colleen Munro
Krista Stronach	Gerry Gaudet
Dawn-Marie Cinnamon	Terry White
Wayne Lenhardt	Annette Dobson
Fiona Simoongwe	Joshua Lafleur

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm.

Welcome and Intros

Agenda presented and accepted

Minutes from previous meeting presented and passed.

Treasurer Report

- currently have \$11,670.24
- busses for Active Living Day still to be paid for (~\$3453.49)
- new cheques for account were \$60

Funding Request

- outdoor camps for grades 5&6
- only one class will be going (May 10,11,12)
- to keep costs down, requesting \$336 from school council for the bus - normally there would be more classes going which spreads the cost of the bus around
- Krista motioned that \$336 be spent on the bus for this trip, Dawn-Marie seconded - passed

Staff Report

- Active Living Day went well
- drumming workshop was a lot of fun for the kids
- WILD has been busy with outdoor trips - snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, avalanche awareness, and many others
- band camp is coming up
- book fair during parent/teacher interviews went very well
- grade 5s created and published a magazine "Rockyview Geographic": <http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/blog/posting.asp?ID=1814>

Admin Report

- one-to-one for the grade 8s (refers to each student having a device of their own to bring to class)
 - held a parent focus group (~ 6 parents)
 - grade 8s already have a high level of device usage
 - each day it takes time to track down school devices to use
 - Manachaban is one of maybe two schools in the division to not have one-to-one at the grade 8 level - already required at the high school level
- pros
 - teachers view this as advantageous
 - would improve student skill set with technology
 - would improve access to devices for the rest of the school (fewer students competing for the school devices)
 - may reduce the stress of the transition to grade 9
- cons
 - sometimes there is a miscommunication on the requirements
 - cannot require students to bring devices - must still provide some students with devices
 - some grade 9s view this as a rite of passage - something to look forward to at high school

- need to be aware of screen time
- must be clear about minimum requirements of device
 - may be as simple as - must connect to the internet and must have a keyboard
- must be compatible with requirements at high school - device should make the transition to the high school
- must be aware of security - ie theft of device
- school technology infrastructure must be able to handle the connectivity
- must have a plan for students unable to bring a device
- should take into account school restructuring in the next few years (will become a grade 6-8 school)
- school is finding that their devices are lasting approx four years
- may need more standing tables in the classrooms - some students prefer these when using a device
- phones would not be allowed - harder to regulate in a classroom (too easy to hide in pocket)
- is input from more parents needed?
- should there be an online survey?
- parents will need several months warning so they can make a decision and take advantage of sales
- Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Renewal (IMR) has granted \$200,000 to Manachaban
 - plan to upgrade shop, art, computer lab
 - would like to see a more configurable space
 - would like to have a science lab, more storage space
 - must sit down with planners and see how far the money will go
- staffing
 - Mme Ashley is due in April - start looking for a sub
 - Mrs Boiley will be leaving at the end of June - must find a replacement
- March 23 is the end of Term 2
 - report cards going out March 31-April 1
- Cochrane High presented to the grade 8s today
 - March 9 is the open house at the high school
 - March 23 option forms are due
 - couple of programs to be aware of at high school
 - new - grade 9 cohort - approx 60 students will have the same two teachers for their four core subjects - more like the middle school model
 - hockey program
- grade 8 year-end celebration will probably be much the same as next year (day-trip to the water slide at Sylvan Lake)
- Pi Day is March 14 - plan to have a bunch of fun activities
 - competition to memorize as many digits as possible
 - knitting pot holders with the "pi" symbol
 - make a pi paper chain
 - search for your birthday in the pi sequence
 - have PI day hats

Trustee Report

- board has had only one meeting since the last school council meeting
- are discussing bussing efficiencies in Airdrie
 - can reschedule school start times to allow for three inner city bus runs a day
 - ran into a problem with late finish times with one school - interferes with after school activities
 - need more parent feedback
 - will look at implementing for 2017
 - look for the same thing in Cochrane for 2018
- new H. Lorimer school in Airdrie has been renamed to Heloise Lorimer at the request of her son Buzz - says everyone knew her as Heloise
- will start looking for a name for the new school in Fireside
- budget and capital plans are coming up
- will start looking at ward boundaries - changes must be in six months before next municipal election
- March 1st - new bargaining begins - contracts up Aug 31

Next meeting scheduled for March 29, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 7:58