

Manachaban School Council November 5, 2009

Present: Mark Kondro
Dianne Ivanitz
Krista Stronach
Mike Summersgill
Dave Levson
Marie Grenon
Brenda Koob

Meeting called to order at 6:38

Welcome and intro followed by discussion of the agenda. Walkathon results will be presented first.

Minutes from last meeting were presented and accepted.

Action items were presented and accepted

Financial Report

Balance is \$7193.12 as of Oct 15, 2009.

- \$1000 to Tristan Walker still to be paid out
- \$328.61 for teacher's luncheon has been paid but is not off the bank statement yet
- \$297.75 for Terry Fox Day lunch has been paid but is not off the bank statement yet

Walkathon Financial Report

- Approximately \$11 000 was raised.
- Net after expenses was \$4558.11 for Council and \$4558.11 for the grades
- This is less than last year's approx. \$18 000 (gross) possibly because last year's walkathon was held in April - this year's was quite close to the Terry Fox Run in September and people probably donated there first.
- The weather was better for this year's walkathon and having it earlier in the year means that this year's grade 8s can benefit from the money raised
- It may be better to hold it in November to give a bit more distance from the Terry Fox run
- Shifting the Terry Fox Run was briefly discussed - better to hold it at the same time as everyone else
- Timing should again be discussed in the spring
- Lea has all the details and receipts for the treasurer

Council Positions

- Still no sign of a replacement for the treasurer.
- Brenda Koob expressed interest but as she is a substitute teacher at Manachaban she is ineligible to be treasurer as per council by-laws.
- Brenda is eligible to be co-chair however. Mark nominated her for co-chair, seconded by Krista - passed.

Report on School Results

- There are six goals
- Some minor adjustments have happened since the last meeting. Goal 2 had improper stats and has since been updated
- PAT has is low in "Standards of Excellence"
- Trend has been down for years
- This is more meaningful when comparing with grade 3 and grade 9 results
- our results are pretty average when compared to Mitford and Springbank - we're generally better in language arts than Mitford, but less better in social studies

- Standard deviation can be significant depending on the test - 5 to 20%
- Principles of Manachaban, Mitford and Springbank had a meeting together to discuss the differences
- According to the teachers (at Manachaban), 97% of the kids are at grade level and 3% are below.
- In order to effect change an effective measuring system must be in place

Trustees Report

- Colleen Munro was absent - wasn't notified of date change in time

School Budget and Next Year's cuts

- Presented by Mike Summersgill
- Manachaban has a budget of \$2.2 million - \$1.7 million goes to certified staff and \$364 thousand is for support staff (representing 76.93% and 16.37% of the total budget). The remainder is for things like postage, photocopying, library materials, etc.
- Province is planning to cut \$340 million towards education in next year's budget
- Rockyview is the 5th largest school division in the province and is run with a staff of 3
- Rockyview's budget gives \$112 million to schools
- Mike says he can really only cut from staff
- There is a staff meeting on Nov 9
- Scenarios of 3%, 7%, and 10% reduction in budget will be discussed
- Photocopying can be reduced (current budget \$55 000) but it would really only be drop in the bucket
- can increase # students to increase budget (approx. \$4900 per student is received)
- very few staff are currently part time
- last year we had a councillor, but not this year
- we could retire expensive teachers (experienced staff) and hire cheaper ones (younger)
- more PD days cut transportation costs - days could be made longer to compensate
- four day week would really cut transportation costs but would upset parents who then need to worry about childcare the 5th day
- giving teachers another vacation day also cuts costs
- possibly get admin to teach
- cut back the hours of the librarian - reduce to three days or only mornings or only afternoons
- Rockyview's focus is to make cuts resulting in the least impact to the kids
- outsourcing payroll doesn't make sense because current payroll is very efficient
- feedback on scenarios for reduction (3%, 7%, and 10%) is required by Dec 2

Tristan Walker

- made his first of three presentations to the school
- This was his first time presenting and he was nervous, but it went very well and was very well received.
- he will present again in January (at which time we will know if he made the olympic team or not)
- final presentation will be after the olympics
- he presented people with tickets to the World Cup Luge event being held at COP later in November
- present conclusion is that the money donated to Tristan in exchange for his presentation was money well spent

Other Olympic News

- Marie is bringing in a another Olympian to talk of his experience in Beijing (summer athlete)
- the torch is scheduled to run through Cochrane on January 20
- 250 red mittens have been ordered to sell to students so they can wear them when they go down to cheer the runner(s)

Staff Report

- Marie and six other teachers went to the Alberta Assessment Consortium in Edmonton
- This was about assessing for learning rather than assessment of learning
- They all went to different workshops but had plenty of opportunity to discuss and share
 - teaching is moving into the 21st century

- assessment is not moving forward
- for comparison - when you attempt your driver's license and finally pass, all previous failed attempts are ignored and your final assessment is based only your most recent attempt
- there is a need to assess the arrival, not the struggle to get there
- snapshots vs. the whole person
- they plan to organize a breakfast group to keep the discussion alive
- keynote speaker [Rick Wormelli?] was very good. He is a middle school teacher and his speech is available to see online <http://www.aac.ab.ca/>
- school project is a balanced assessment

Walkathon Details

- Brenda reports that it was very good for school spirit
 - Great opportunity for parent networking
 - Great learning experience for kids and parents
 - not all kids participated at the same level (in terms of fundraising)
 - focus should be on media coverage for top earners & for overall fundraising
 - if 8 to 10 kids have raised \$400 then it raises the profile in the community (since people outside of immediate family must have donated)
 - Brenda reports a very positive experience with being personally asked to help via phone (emails and newsletters can be ignored)
 - late October was a great time and Terry Fox run should not be pushed aside
 - kids were networking and getting exercise
- Dave notes a special thanks to
 - Brenda
 - Sue Kennedy
 - Susan Kemper
 - Jeff Avery
 - Bobby Hora

Action Items

- awards to teachers - still not enough parents present to make an informed decision - carry over
- Grade 8 trip to Quebec - last month Mike asked the council if they would consider subsidizing one particular student's trip due to financial difficulty - the necessary funding was found from another source . This item can now be dropped.

Other Miscellaneous

- Remembrance Day assembly is on Nov 10 and one highlight will be the teacher's choir
- 28% of kids were absent last week with ~10% reporting flu-like symptoms (level 2 response in effect)
- newsletter is late
- Report cards will be out in early December
- Interim Reports went very well
 - should note that this year the booking software required everyone to re-register
- Grade 7&8s are off to Banded Peak to listen to Eva Olsson speak (Holocaust survivor)

Next meeting is scheduled for Dec 8 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13.