

# Manachaban School Council Mar 1, 2011

Present: Mark Kondro  
Krista Stronach  
Dave Levson

Colleen Munro  
Thomas Elbel  
Sara Busby

Meeting called to order at 6:36 pm.

Agenda presented and passed (Krista approve, Sara second).

Minutes from previous meeting presented and passed (Mark approve, Sara second)

- add to agenda? - discussion of food in vending machines (should have healthier choices)
  - does this discussion belong in school council?
  - it has improved over the last month
  - it will be reviewed later in the year

## Review of Action Items from last meeting

- payment of tables from casino money
  - Mark will make sure this happens since Dianne is not here with an update
- review of teacher recognition - added to agenda

## Financial Report

- current balance is \$11071.15
- will have \$2811.15 after paying all outstanding bills (tool boxes, ipod touch cart, active living day)

## Teacher Recognition

- In June 2008 the following guidelines were passed by school council:
  - *Council looking at providing funding for staff illness (flowers, etc.) in event of retirement, maternity, family illness, death. Motion up to \$75.00 from Council funds for gifts, etc.*

<i>Transfers</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>Illness, death</i>	<i>up to \$75.00</i>
<i>New teachers</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>
<i>Retirement</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>
<i>Maternity</i>	<i>up to \$75.00</i>
- do we implement or discard this? Very little of this has been followed to date (with the exception of retirements)
- other schools do nothing like this, but they do have periodic luncheons and teas for the teachers (eg in September to welcome them and during parent/teacher interviews)
- no-one present recalls exactly who was involved in this initial decision
- it was probably done to codify an existing ad-hoc practice
- financial commitment could add up, especially with all the movement of teachers in the last few years
- Motion made to take off everything but gifts for retirement and serious illness or family death (as per the guidelines in the Rockyview School Division Compassionate Leave Guidelines) Sara 1st, Krista 2nd - passed
- This will be implemented going forward

## Staff Report

- Teacher convention - lots of good courses, especially on 21st Century Learning (eg. use of ipods in classrooms)
- Document Reader (for projecting documents on interactive white boards) - this just arrived on loan and Dave will be testing it
  - useful also for projecting 3-d objects - eg the manipulation of blocks or demonstrations of electricity and magnetism
- Grade 5s went to the sugar shack and enjoyed it in spite of the bitterly cold temperatures which limited the outdoor activities - there was a meal, and singing and dancing
- In basketball the Grade 6s did very well (one team won all three games)
  - Grade 7s and 8s are still playing

## Admin Report

- Chris Munson is on a leave of absence - Lisa Haig is filling in (Gr 7 & 8 math) which is working out well
- On Feb 14th three parents went to the re-visioning meeting where a rough draft was produced
- Gideon Bibles approached the school and wanted to distribute bibles - Thomas declined and the majority of staff agreed with this decision
  - Majority of school council also agrees with this decision
- Grade 8 Quebec trip starts on Apr 4
- Staffing transfers is starting
  - anticipate one new grade 7 French Immersion based on incoming Elizabeth Barrett students
- Rockyview satisfaction survey is coming out in April (want more than the 11 responses from parents for last year's survey)
- Not sure yet of participation on recent Grade 7 survey
- Newsletter reminder went out
  - had hoped to track the number of times the newsletter was opened but only Rockyview emails can be tracked
  - twitter participation is at 13
- Green initiative
  - looking at new recycling containers
    - trying to find them as close to home as possible in order to minimize shipping
    - current open containers are an eyesore
  - next year may require kids to bring their own plates for hot lunch
    - should be put on list for materials in the fall
  - may go "pack it in/pack it out" next year (as per Elizabeth Barrett)
    - the EB kids coming to Manachaban are already used to this

## Trustee Report

- No board meeting since the beginning of Feb
- Superintendent is looking at new programs
  - Lutheran School in Airdrie
  - Crossfield wants an alternative school ("Edge-lite") for sports (hockey) and performing arts
- March 24 will have news about the budget - it appears increases in funding will cover only the teacher salary increases already agreed upon, but there will be no new money for maintenance or transportation and the AISI grant will be cut in half.
  - class size initiative for Grades 4-6 will be cut
  - no new capital expenditures
- there will be meetings with the minister and the hope is that there will be a capital announcement in the spring
- next iteration of the three year plan is being worked on - next meeting is in May
- Calendar proposals are being discussed
  - 3 or 4 will be presented with instructional days ranging from 181 to 183
  - instructional hours are mandated by the province

- Rockyview is at the low end of instructional days compared to the provincial average
- substitute days are going down
- studies show that at least 175 instructional days are needed
- Teachers convention (provincial) had a large number of Rockyview presenters

## Action Items

- Mark to followup with Dianne and spending of Casino money for the lunch tables

Next meeting is scheduled for April 5 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52.