

Manachaban School Council December 8, 2009

Present: Mark Kondro

Dave Levson

Raelyn Bauer

Micheline Butterwick

Chris McKie

Mike Summersgill

Colleen Munro

Krista Stronach

Brenda Koob

Meeting called to order at 6:39

Welcome and introductions.

Minutes from last meeting were presented and accepted.

Action Items

- Gifts for new teachers
 - Funding was approved for gift (\$25) for new teachers in June of 2008, but wasn't done this past Sept
 - not sure what to do
 - too late for this year's teachers
 - they weren't given last year either
 - propose we do it for next year
 - should do a review in June of 2010 to prepare for next September
 - copy of June 8 2008 Council minutes passed to the secretary (Krista)

Financial Report

- Dianne Ivanitz (treasurer) absent
- Dianne is waiting for a check from Lea for the Walkathon money
 - This morning Lea indicated that check was ready so it's in the works
- Casino money has been used for (among other things):
 - headphones for Windows Lab and for Macs (class set is 30)
 - cameras for classrooms (approx \$2000-\$3000)
- Dave Wilton and Dianne are part of the Casino group
 - Dave has been very busy with his new job (unable to attend tonight)
- Mark Kondro now has signing authority for School Council account
- Dave Wilton needs to take himself off School Council signing authority

Council Positions

- Raelyn asked if she would consider treasurer's position
- she has concerns about the work involved as her spare time is limited
- Mark and Mike both expressed willingness to help with details
- Raelyn nominated for Treasurer by Krista, seconded by Mark - passed

School Budget

- Mark brought in his budget cut worksheet (schools were asked for input on budget cut scenarios of 3%, 7% and 10%)
- worksheet handed to Mike

School Trustee

- Colleen presenting
- Provincial budget
 - school trustees joined the lobby group "Stop the Cuts"
 - Minister of Education is not happy about their membership in this group

- Indications are that the cuts may not be as grim as first predicted due to the price of gas rising
 - interpret this as the 10% cut scenario won't happen
 - is this a result of the rise in gas prices or the "Stop the Cuts" program having an effect?
- lobbying still ongoing - send a note to Janice Tarchuk (MLA for Banff-Cochrane) asking that the cuts be stopped
- provincial government spends 167 million on private schools
- we'll have to wait until March, April, or May for the next provincial budget
- there has been value in discussing the cuts even if the worst doesn't happen
- Rockyview School District Ward growth
 - ward populations are out of whack with each other due to growth in areas like Airdrie
 - eg. Airdrie has two trustees for a population of 40000 while rural Cochrane has one trustee for 10000
 - wards are under review (see Rockyview website).
 - ward 5 (rural Cochrane) is affected by just about all change proposals
 - there is a meeting tomorrow or an online survey can be submitted by Dec 18, 2009.
 - change requires
 - the approval of the minister
 - order in council takes a week
 - changes must be in place at least six weeks before the next election (Oct 2010)

Joint Programming

- task force meeting was held to discuss joint programming between Cochrane High and Bow Valley High
- Mike Summersgill was there - it was a good meeting with interesting discussions
- talked of syncing the timetables of the two schools in order to share resources and allow the shuttling of kids between schools
- this would allow more rich programming (more variety of programs available to kids at both schools)
- if it works in Cochrane the program could expand to Airdrie, Chestermere, and Langdon
- improving learning opportunities for students is the consistent message

Staff Report

Dave Levson:

- Remembrance Day ceremony was excellent
 - all grades and the staff contributed
 - Chris McKie put in a lot of work
 - staff choir was well received (although some people lip-synced)
 - lots of talent at the school
- Christmas shoebox program - 100 boxes were sent out and returned in a week - excellent turnout for short notice
- Report Cards - reporting cutoff used to end two weeks early - this has now been extended to the full reporting period but has created some difficulties - some kinks to work out
- Red Mittens (250 pairs) for the Olympic torch run are expected to arrive on Jan 16.
 - order was tagged on with RBC
 - can get mittens for \$9 a pair as opposed to \$10
 - can sell them for \$10 - tax included
 - RBC goal is to have as many kids as possible with mitts to cheer on the torch runner
 - date the torch is to pass through Cochrane is known (Jan 20?), but not the time or exact route - ideally it will be during school hours

Micheline:

- on the 1st or 2nd of May the grade 8s will be going to Quebec (& back the following Sat)
- 51 students are going
- Grade 8 farewell will be at the end (run by grade 8 teachers)
- things are going well, parents are supportive

Chris:

- on the 17th of Dec there will be a recognition assembly for:
 - honor roll status
 - work ethic
 - sports
 - outside of school achievement
- scheduled for the afternoon but it may be moved to the morning so as not to impact hockey

- there are lots of kids to honor so each home room will create a power point presentation which will be shown instead of calling each person up separately
- sports teams will be done separately
- there will be entertainment by the kids as well
- Mrs. White took 10 kids to the leadership conference
 - it was a great time, the kids came back wanting to organize events like pyjama day, movies, hot choc. etc
- there will possibly a grade 7/8 dance so they can practice the dance skills they are learning

Admin Report

- Computers for Schools
 - businesses donate their old computers which are then refurbished and given to schools for free
 - Manachaban has just received 50 IBM computers with flat screens from this program
 - 25 will be used in classrooms
 - we are still on the list for laptops and will hopefully be eligible in the fall
 - Dept of Education also has the Evergreen Program for gradually replacing computers in schools. This is a separate program
- Now looking at LCD projectors on arms for the classrooms (14 here)
 - assumes all the classrooms have smartboards
 - installation is a problem
 - we must pay ~\$1100 for each white board - from casino money
 - projectors will be on carts until the smart boards are all installed

Chris:

- Imbedded Coaching Program
 - Leslie Wait, Joanne Davies & some teachers are meeting approx. every two weeks to take the new curriculum and devise new units
 - Grade 5 is new this year
 - Grade 6 will be new next year
 - Grade 7&8 are already done
 - take the old and new math program and bring in new items - like manipulatives, which used to be shared around the school and are now available in the library
 - math will be taught with multiple ways of solving problems
 - some kids use physical manipulation
 - this is different from how we were taught
 - eg. to take 25% of something you can multiply by .25 or add together multiplying by .10 + .10 + .05
 - promotes 21st century learning
 - AISI finances some of this, Rockyview some as well

New Business

- we need a contact list of everyone on the board with phone numbers and emails
 - Krista will compile this and email to everyone

Tristan Walker (luge) - was 14th in his last race - doing very well (needs three top 20 finishes to qualify for Olympic Team)

Next meeting is scheduled for Jan 12 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42.