

Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting

February 9, 2010

Present:

Mark Kondro Colleen Munro Mike Summersgill Dave Levson
Terry White Raelyn Bauer Brenda Koob

Meeting was called to order at 6: 40

Minutes from the last meeting were presented and accepted

Agenda was approved

Welcome Terry White, coordinator of Olympic Day at Manachaban

Review of Action Items

Transportation costs for Active living day were presented by Terry White.

14 buses are booked for Active living at a cost of \$400.00 each. The average cost is around \$370.00 Busses to Nakiska are slightly more. 220 forms were received in one day.

Manachaban is looking for ways to cut the costs of bussing.

Most kids participate.

Nakiska skiing with rentals will cost students approximately \$50.00 each.

We have 80% participation so far.

Mike suggested council donate 10.00 per student for a total of \$3500.00

Brenda made a motion to provide 10.00 per student toward active living day activities.

Motion was passed

Discussion on New principal

Colleen will speak with Murray Besinski. They are waiting for results of the budget cuts to see what impact it will have on the school. This will affect the hiring.

Financial Report

Diane sent a financial report. A deposit of \$458.11 was made. We now have \$10144.87 as of Feb 9th. What will we spend it on?

We may donate \$1000.00 to dongles and student remotes if the Bearspaw transaction doesn't come through.

Raelyn will take minutes to ATB and get signing authority.

\$250.00 will come out for the chilli at Parent teacher interviews

Reports

Dave enjoyed the “embedded coaching” that has been taking place at the school to enrich teachers in their professional practices. Teachers watched other teachers plan and prepare lessons on subjects of interest.

Two classes of Grade 6s had a John Howard Society presentation. It is a free program with meaningful and applicable information for students.

Gr. 5s participated in a game that involved internet safety, bullying, vandalism, gangs and shoplifting

F.C.S.S. (Family and Community Support Services) has internet safety workshops that would be beneficial to our student population.

R.C.M.P. liaison can also do presentations for the school.

Administration

As a staff, Manachaban is looking at the safety and ethics of personal electronics.

The goal is to revisit the issue with input from the students.

The school R.C.M.P. liaison will be asked to come in and speak to ramifications associated with personal computers and hand held devices (H.H.Ds) Kids would get an opportunity to see what the facts are before ethical solutions can be developed.

Mike suggested there may be a need for an ethical statement that students sign before using them in classes.

There is a need for a code of ethics on H.H.Ds.

Colleen looked up and summarized Rockyview’s policy on H.H.D’s

Martin Parnell from “Marathon Quest” will be coming in March 31st to speak to students about his vision. He will be asked to come in during advisory. Teachers will take kids to run with him afterwards.

Junior Achievement for grades 5 and 6 is a go.

Terry stated that the hidden agenda in many of these activities is character development.

Leadership in Airdrie is also a good way of helping students to become responsible citizens.

This Friday Manachaban is having its own mini-Olympics – 16 teams will be competing in Olympic style events such as mogul skiing, biatholon, Luge etc. It is a full day of events: Lead teachers will be taking kids back to their room to build team. They will be cross graded (mixed groups).

Mike stated his goals for the school was in maximizing student learning. The hidden agenda is to develop good character. Manachaban Olympics, Junior Achievement, Active Living etc., help to do that. Mike looks at the outcomes they want to achieve. They look at pre and post learning of all activities at the school.

Teachers are at convention on 18th and 19th. Band camp for grades 7 and 8 is the week following.

Interviews: The biggest problem is they aren’t long enough. Some parents don’t get to see the teachers they want to see.

Trustee Report

1) Cochrane High Schools programming: The board has approved the recommendation of the Cochrane High Schools Task Force to initiate collaborative programming between

Cochrane High and Bow Valley High starting September 2010. The board authorized the task force last spring as a progressive way to address population inequities between the two high schools. Administrators, teachers, parents and students from all Cochrane schools including Westbrook and Bears paw, spent many hours looking at how to enrich the high-school experience for all students in Cochrane.

The vision is to share resources and strengths between both schools and give students more choice. Students will still have a home school according to their attendance area; both schools will retain their culture and their sports programs.

Administrators will be working on the details of how to accomplish this vision this spring.

Colleen is excited about this initiative and how it will enrich the choices available to all students attending Cochrane high schools.

2) Ward boundary review: The board has approved a change to the division's wards, subject to a bylaw change being approved by the Minister of Education (mostly a formality), for the upcoming election in October. The review was initiated to address the uneven population growth in the division since the last review, trying to take into account the tenets of representation by population.

The board will remain at seven trustees, but change to six wards.

The City of Airdrie will become one ward, with two trustees elected at large.

Ward 1 (Beiseker, Kathryn, Irricana) will now encompass rural Airdrie residents.

Chestemere, Cochrane and Springbank wards will remain the same.

3) Edge School (private) joins Grande Prairie School Division (public).

Neither the Edge School in Springbank or Grande Prairie School division gave us any notice of this request. Our board is gravely concerned about the ramifications for the public education system in Alberta and what it may mean for the current model of local board governance. We will be taking this issue to our provincial representatives, the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta and the Alberta School Board Association, as well as the Minister of Education.

4) Provincial budget -- still very early to understand how it will affect our board, but it's safe to say this is definitely the best-case scenario after what we prepared for last fall.

Next meeting: **March 9th. Tuesday. 6:30**

Meeting adjourned at 8:05