

Manachaban School Council March 9, 2010

Present: Mark Kondro
Krista Stronach
Chris McKie
Brenda Koob
Dianne Ivanitz
Colleen Munro
Dave Levson
Raelyn Bauer

Meeting called to order at 6:33

Minutes from last meeting were presented and accepted.

Action Items

- Parent and superintendent meeting - should be at the April parent council meeting (April 13)
 - HR is looking at the hierarchy (holding off on posting the job position for principal)
 - can still go ahead with the coming meeting in order to discuss qualities for the job
 - need to advertise to parents about this meeting
 - recorded school phone message sometimes comes too late - (Mark got his message about tonight's meeting at 6:20 tonight)
 - we can put it on the plone website
 - we could get teachers to directly email their classes
 - can expand on the recorded school message - have the notification run for several weeks.
 - Colleen will confirm that Murray Besenski (Associate Superintendent) can be there
- Raelyn and signing authority - ATB refused her - she needs signed authorization from the council

Financial Report

- changes since last meeting - spent approx \$3500 for active living day (\$10 per student for transportation)
- Dianne doesn't have the Feb statement (should read approx \$10 thousand - before active living day cost)
- \$250 spent on chili for teachers during parent-teacher interviews
- money should be spent on kids (most has been)
- how do we decide how to spend the money that's been raised?
- Dianne reports that since she's been treasurer (beginning of 07/08 year) we have spent:
 - food for teachers is \$1595
 - house t-shirts (\$1600) - used one or two years and now in storage
 - teacher gifts \$553
 - donations \$1150 (eg Tristan Walker, senior/grandparents)
 - kids \$1939 - Terry Fox lunches
 - & now ~\$3500 for active living day
- previously on the wish list were things like:
 - weather station
 - cabinet for tools
 - cabinet for drama room
- previously money was only spent on items to benefit everyone, but why not a bit here, a bit there?
- how do other schools decide where to spend money (school council and casino)?
- Colleen mentioned:
 - Westbrook walkathon raises \$18 to \$29 thousand
 - pays for Gr 6 outdoor education
 - pays for active living day
 - Alberta Foundation for Arts pays for arts programming

- Bearspaw - Casino money
 - pays for hardware (like computers), handbells for band
 - school council holds a scrum (like Dragon's Den) for teachers to present why they need money and what it would be spent on (capped at \$500)
- Chris - in Invermere - applications for money requests were accepted twice a year
- What restrictions should be placed on the money? - We need to set out guidelines
- maybe we should use the October meeting for applications (with a deadline of Sept 30?) and then do it again later in the year
- teachers may not know council money is available
- Colleen can get the bylaws and guidelines that Bearspaw and Westbrook use
- Brenda likes the idea of allocating money per teacher/classroom for equity (would still need accountability)

Staff Report

- Dave reporting
- active living day went well
- Olympic day went well
- report cards are coming up
- internet safety - John Howard society came in for Dave's Gr 8 class
 - Calgary RCMP came in for a presentation to the whole school
- Tristan Walker should be back for final presentation
- band camp went well
- hand held devices (ipods, cellphones, etc) code of ethics decided a school level
 - Teachers Association is looking at this as well
 - guidelines and a range of consequences is under development
 - staff and kids will have input
- Martin Parnell (250 Marathons in a Year guy) is coming March 31

Admin Report

- March 26 is report cards
- grade 8's have gone through the core subject selection for next year
 - parent info meeting is tomorrow night
- internet online safety program can be accessed until Jan 2011
- Grade 8 will be going on two upcoming field trips (\$30 for both)
 - next Wed they will visit the U of C vet school
 - on May 27 they will go the Science Center to see Body Worlds
- Fundraising opportunity - "Links to Learning"
 - run by Board of Trustees
 - golf tournament held at Glen Eagles
 - looking for corporate sponsors at various levels
 - this year 20% of money raised will go towards awards (bursaries, scholarships, etc)
 - remainder of money will go to schools
 - players will receive a tax receipt
- request for money from school council
 - gifted kids (those in the school coded as "gifted") are eligible to go to "Odyssey of the Mind" on May 12
 - this program is open to kids grade 3 to 8
 - schools can send up to 7 students
 - the cost is \$70 plus \$250 for a bus
 - questions raised by council:
 - how do you choose which 7 will attend? (there are more than 7 at Manachaban)
 - why bus for so few kids? (get parent to drive)
 - should we be spending money on so few that would benefit?
 - this will be reviewed at the next meeting

Trustee Report

- spending of money - can bring up at joint council meeting on April 15 (Mark to attend)
- there will be a special board meeting for the 3rd reading of the boundary change
- in March the trustees will look at the budget and capital guidelines (but there is no new capital)
 - since 2007 - no new schools have been approved for Rockyview (and there are now 2500 more students)
 - the new school for Langdon was approved during the previous board (prior to 2007)
 - schools are at 95% capacity and the guideline is that at 85% capacity a new school should be built
- Edge School in Springbank (in Rockyview School District Area) has joined the Grand Prairie School Board
 - there are no provincial restrictions against this
 - will put forward a motion about the guidelines in the future (code of conduct)
 - why have an elected school board if schools within the district can cherry pick where they belong?
 - Rockyview was not approached prior to this announcement
 - Grand Prairie is 700 km away
 - Edge school was private, but now that they've joined a board they can access public money
 - similar thing happened in Calgary a few years ago - two Christian schools in Calgary joined Palliser (Lethbridge) but in this case the CBE didn't want them (CBE doesn't take in religious schools (Rockyview does though))

Mark identified five action items from this meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 13 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19.