

# Manachaban School Council Minutes October 6, 2009

Present: Mark Kondro

Bruce Pettigrew

Dave Levson

Krista Stronach

Christine McKie

Mike Summersgill

Dianne Ivanitz

Dave Wilton

Colleen Munro

Meeting called to order at 6:35pm.

Welcome and intro was followed by approval of the agenda.

Minutes from the last meeting were presented. Adoption motioned by Dave W, seconded by Krista - passed

Still looking for a new treasurer - carry over to next meeting.

## Financial Report

- as of Sept 15, 2009 the balance is \$7193.12. Cost of the hotdog lunch from the Terry Fox run hasn't been tallied yet.
- teacher gift awards were discussed - In the spring of 2008 gifts for new teachers had been approved but none were given in Sept 2008 (an oversight), and the question came about should we have them for the new teachers in 2009. Should we have a welcome tea for the teachers instead. The June lunch last year came from Guy's bakery and cost \$300 to \$400.
  - Motion was made by Dave W to provide a lunch for the teachers on Oct 15 and spend up to \$400. Second by Dave L. Passed.
  - Discussion of awards to teachers tabled to next meeting

## Walkathon

- Walkathon information and pledge sheet was presented for discussion.
- Minor change on pledge sheet - "please print carefully" becomes "please print clearly" since legibility is an issue
- Prizes were discussed - Grand prize last year was an ipod touch given to the individual who raised the most money
  - Problem with this is that you can have one child that gets many pledges at a few dollars each that has worked really hard to get all those pledges, and then have another child that gets one or two big checks from a relative and wins the prize. The first child deserves recognition as well.
  - In the past there has been discussion of awarding a prize for the most number of pledges but then you can end up with the scenario of many small pledges from the same person just to boost the numbers.
  - Possibility of having extra effort awarded by the committee was discussed - this brings in the problem of value judgements. Perhaps it's better to pool the names of those putting in extra effort and have a drawing from that.
  - Possibility of taking the top five individuals for the number of pledges and do a draw from that.
  - Move the ipod to category 3 (prizes drawn from entire school with 1 entry for every \$20 raised)
- Dave W motions to cap the prizes at \$1000, Krista seconded - passed. (Prizes last year were \$850).

## Staff Report

- Everything going well
- Welcome breakfast with students went well
- interim reports are coming with interviews next week

## Admin Report

- Enrollment is up - 385 - predicted was 383
- there are:
  - 3 grade 8 classes (2 English, 1 French)
  - 3 grade 7 classes (2 English, 1 French)
  - 5 grade 6 classes (2 English, 3 French)
  - 4 grade 5 classes (2 English, 2 French)
- 94% of Budget is staffing - rest is operating costs
- year off to a good start
- Terry Fox run went well as did the head shave
- Annual Report was presented
  - French Immersion enrollment is up - used to be 1/3 French to 2/3 English but this is now approaching 50/50.
  - PAT results show some areas of concern
  - This report must be submitted by Oct 15 and signed off by the Council Chair (Mark Kondro)

## Trustee Report

- Colleen attended the opening day of Student Leadership Conference in Old on Sept 29
- Board of Trustees AGM was Oct 1
  - Three people stepped up to be Vice Chair so they will be rotating this position between the three
- Went over provincial achievement results
  - Grade 9 is down from grade 6, but grade 12 is up
  - Provincially grade 9 is low
- RVSD high school completion rate is 85%, up from the provincial average of 77%?
- Prepping for next year's budget - provincially it will be 300 to 400 million dollars tighter
- Provincial government is opening the School Act for revision. Change proposal is open for the month of October.
  - government wants it simplified
  - In BC this was done to remove a bunch of items from the School Act and put them in Regulations and Codes to make them easier to change
- AWE (Alberta Weekly Earnings Index) is 5.99% vs. the 4.92% that is being offered to teachers - very close to arbitration

## Casino

- Next Casino is 2010 or early 2011
- government is looking at redistributing casino money since urban centers make much more than rural (Calgary charities can make almost \$80000 every 18 months or so vs. \$40000 every 3 years for places like Cochrane)

## New Business

- Dave Wilton brought forward the case of Tristan Walker who went to Manachaban for Grade 5 and is now trying to make on the Olympic team for Luge.
  - Tristan is looking for sponsorship of \$1000 in exchange for a motivational talk, technical talk or other TBD (up to three presentations to the students).

- This could be considered a coup for us and would allow us to bring the grade 4s from Elizabeth Barrett.
- Dave motions to bring in Tristan for three presentations in exchange for \$1000 to be put in trust, Krista seconds - passed
- For Remembrance day - looking for a former student now currently in the military to participate in the ceremony. Lee Turco and Erik Buckley's names were brought forward as potentials. Dave W's wife also has contacts
- Grade 8's are going to Quebec in May and council was approached to help subsidize one particular student with financial difficulties in the amount of \$300.
  - concerns were raised about due diligence regarding need
  - concerns were raised that perhaps there are other students in need who haven't spoken up as well as others who never even considered going on the trip due to financial difficulties and it could become a slippery slope
  - matter tabled until next meeting
- Concerns have been raised about the grade 7 and 8 final exams being too bunched together (4 exams in two days). Consider spreading them out.

Next meeting dates were confirmed for Nov 3 and Dec 8.

Krista will type up minutes instead of Lea. Krista will contact Lea about getting access to upload minutes to school website

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm