

Manachaban School Council Dec 7, 2010

Present: Mark Kondro
Krista Stronach
Dave Levson

Colleen Munro
Dianne Ivanitz
Sara Busby

Meeting called to order at 6:38 pm.

Welcome and introductions

Agenda presented and passed (Sara first, Dave second).

Minutes from previous meeting presented. Sara first, Dianne second - passed.

Review of Action Items from last meeting

- tables for lunch - 6 have been ordered - can casino money cover these?
 - casino money can pay for these - current casino money must be spent within 24 months of casino (by Feb 2011)
 - next casino is 4th quarter of 2011
 - need to keep a small amount (\$2-3000) to seed next casino
 - current balance is approx \$9000
 - Dave Wilton would rather spend the money on technology
 - Colleen suggests a 'document camera' could be useful - this is the smart board equivalent of the old overhead projectors - it display documents on the smart board to allow for immediate sharing of student work (and other items)
 - she saw these at Westbrook today - cost is approx \$700
 - Casino money can also pay for toolboxes and shelves as long as they're not attached to the wall
 - Dianne checked for the expiry of casino money designation (submitted with each casino application), and they expire in 2100 [yes, nearly 90 years from now] (ie. all past casino requests - going back to 2003 from the Manachaban fundraising society - are still valid). This allows for a very broad allowance for the spending of casino money
- ipod touches (& cart)
 - Colleen has seen them used at Glenbow - K and Gr 1 seem the most excited about them
 - Mark would like to see more info on the use of ipod touches and make sure they are useful and needed
 - Mark will try to meet with Thomas & Chris before the next meeting to get a better idea of the direction & technology
- In the new year Mark would like to revisit other requests from teachers for money (eg cabinets for tools and the drama department)
 - any requests should come with specifics - eg cost

Financial Report

- \$5956.72 is balance as of end of Oct
 - \$800 to go out for Walkathon expenses
 - \$6452.27 will come in from the Walkathon
 - another request has come in for money (\$150) for the Grandparents Program. This was just paid in June for last year - this is a new request for the coming year
 - Sara motioned that we spend the \$150 for the Grandparent program, Krista seconded - passed
 - bill for the teachers meal during parent/teacher interviews has arrived - \$320.45 to be paid
 - council used to arrange this for the teachers
 - Elizabeth Barrett has a potluck provided by parents

Staff Report

- 150 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse were sent away - this is comparable to previous years
- volleyball tournament - Gr 6,7, and 8 all did very well
- Dance will be held on Dec 17 during the afternoon - alternatives will be available - computer lab or a movie
- Gr 7 will go on a field trip to the Science Center to see the exhibit on Einstein and Darwin
- Walkathon
 - Net amount raised was \$12904.54
 - Pizza parties for the classes (one for each grade) was \$708.37 - this was quite expensive - perhaps because two of the classes needed gluten-free pizzas [were all the pizzas gluten-free?]
 - next year should put a cap of \$100 for each party

Admin Report

- lunch tables are on order
- Conversations with Admin on Nov 29 - only two people showed up, but it was a very cold night which probably kept people away
 - will try again in Jan
 - Sara suggests that a later time might attract more people (eg 7:30 vs 6:30)
- Positive ticketing is being used - these are 'tickets' (eg to the movie house or to paintball) that are given to kids who really help out
- Admin is looking for parents for a Parents for French program - this would be to raise money to have French cultural programs
 - Sara would like more info about the program
- Recognition awards for honor roll achievement in academics and effort will continue
- In spring the goals of Manachaban will be reviewed and revised with input from parents (would like 2 to 3 per grade)
- All teachers are now on the new plone website
- Student newspaper - will look into starting one
- School wide Spelling Bee is Jan 4, periods 5 and 6 - each class will send one representative and the winner will move on to represent the school

Trustee report

- Rockyview website has Web Shorts - summaries of their meetings
- Thursday at 7pm there will be a meeting for all parents of Grade 8 students at Bow Valley
 - Cochrane high schools are considering requiring all students to have a laptop and want parent input
 - Springbank (with 750 kids) has implemented this
 - Bishop Carroll in Calgary has as well
 - 30% of high school students currently bring their own laptops anyway
 - provisions would need to be made for students that can't afford it (based on GST returns)
 - Springbank was able to get deals from computer manufacturers
- Board meeting - financial statement was passed - budget was pretty much bang-on
 - 25 acres was purchased on Sunset Ridge for a future high school
- 3-year plan - will be reviewed - big meeting in Feb with parents
- JL Resolution of Public Concern - lays out the hierarchy of who to contact in the event of a parent concern and who to contact next if the concern is not dealt with satisfactorily - teacher, principal, associate superintendent, superintendent, board, minister

New Business

- Dianne - question for Colleen
 - School trips (eg to Quebec) are required to have board insurance (which is expensive) but when traveling outside the country this insurance is inadequate (eg lost items are not covered) and so extra insurance must also be purchased
 - It is also priced based on the cost of the trip, not on coverage required

- this seems unfair - at times it would be better to just purchase outside insurance and skip the board insurance
- Colleen will look into
- Dianne would like clarification on whether the name of this council is 'Parent Council' or 'School Council'
 - Bylaws refer to them only as 'School Council'
 - this make them more inclusive (council is not just for parents, but is open to anyone in the community)

Action Items

- Mark to meet with Thomas and Chris to discuss the use and need of ipod touches in the classroom, as well as get an idea of the direction the school will take with regards to technology
- need to revisit other requests for money
- Colleen to look into board required insurance for school trips
- [this was left off the Nov meeting, but should be revisited next Meeting - from the Oct minutes]
 - Gifts for new staff - this was approved in the minutes of the June 3, 2008 meeting, but were not followed last year
 - do we continue this?
 - from the June 3, 2008 Minutes:
 - *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>
 - *Sandra Iverson motioned above. Carma Assel-Moore seconded*

Next meeting is scheduled for January 4 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22.