

Manachaban School Council February 7, 2012

Present: Stephen Price
Krista Stronach
Sigi Sengl
Penny Beaudry
Dave Levson

Colleen Munro
Christina Lewis
Katt Hryciw
Marla Bosch
Sara Busby

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm.

Welcome and Intros

Additions to the agenda:

5c - Sara has comments from the Parent Council meeting at Cochrane High.

Agenda then passed by consent.

Minutes from previous meeting presented and passed

Action Items from Last Meeting

- Signing authority - Marla has done, Steven - not yet
- Walkathon money - cheque has been received and cashed
- RVS and Medical devices - will talk about in trustee report
- Canadian Parents for French - will talk about during admin report
- Letter for parents new to the school - Stephen has a draft copy for review
- Testimonials from school council parents - still need them
- New technology in the school - Penny will show during this meeting

Treasurer Report

- last statement balance - \$2763.21
- money in:
 - walkathon money cheque cashed - \$6831.76
 - grant money for school councils - \$350
- money out
 - grandparent program - \$150
 - microphones - \$142.05
 - Active living day - \$3850
- current balance - \$5802.92
- question was asked about our usual contribution to teachers meal during parent/teacher interview evening (last week) (usually chip in around \$300 for this)
 - we didn't arrange this ahead of time but should have
 - meal was ordered anyway - costing approx \$300
 - Krista motions to retroactively pay for this meal, Marla second - passed

Staff Report

- thank you for the meal last week
- Thursday is sweater & tuque day - all students should wear a sweater and the heat will be turned down
 - there will be prizes for wackiest sweater, etc
- grade 8s have spent the last week making documentaries/mockumentaries
- Manachaban spelling bee winner passed a written spelling test and will now move on to the regional competition at the beginning of March - winner is a girl in grade 8
- Active Living Day - Wed or Thurs the kids will find out what activity they will participate in
 - on Friday the forms for each activity should go out
 - approx 260 students were slotted in their first choice

- Grade 7s participated in a contest to design a maze for the Cochrane Winterfest
 - had to design the maze with a set number of hay bales
 - team of three boys had the winning design and were able to actually build their maze

Admin Report

- Penny and Thomas have been meeting with the teachers to discuss professional development and timetables for next year
 - also discussing the options for next year (this is the first year the grade 7s and 8s have been split)
 - asking each teacher what they would love to teach and whether it would be by semester or for the year
 - Thomas is doing Powerschool training next week and this information will be used as practical project data
- looking for suggestion for next year's timetable:
 - eg have all the grade 5 math classes at the same time - this would allow groups to break out from all the classes - perhaps based on learning style
 - eg. have the options classes be at the end of the day - This would allow some kids in the homework option who have after school activities to leave early and not miss instructional class time
- Grade 5s will be visiting the sugar shack soon
- Grade 6s will have their camp next week
- Band camp for grades 7 and 8 is also next week
- Hockey kids - Thomas has been after them to come back in clusters and use the sidewalks - seems to be working
- Grade 8 hallway has been good
- There are new Macs in the Mac lab thanks to the evergreening program
 - unfortunately the new macs are not as durable - the screen have been cracking so the students have to be more careful with them
- ipod lab - is now in the school and being prepped for use - students will not be able to add apps on their own
- ipad - there are 15 of them for the resource room - teachers will be able to take them home over the break and get used to them
- Mrs Patterson is beginning her maternity leave earlier than expected - Fri is last day - job was already posted so they are ready for interviews tomorrow
- Canadian Parents for French - Thomas will contact the FI parents to determine if there is a need.
- Professional Learning day on the 17 - ten teachers will be taking first aid courses
 - this is not normally done on a PD day, but there are now only two people in the school certified and RVS wants at least 6
 - certification lasts 3 years
 - RVS will pay training for six, Manachaban pays for the other four
- Other PD training will include the interweaving of subjects - eg Social Studies and Language Arts - studies have shown that this improves marks
- Newsletter went out today
- Healthy Relationships class - 3 grade 5 classes have completed - this is put on by Janet Greaves in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club.
- Infirmary - needs work - there are currently two ancient cots in there and the area is also being used for extra storage
 - would like to see two bunk beds in there
 - hope to get the mattresses donated - maybe approach Sleep Country
 - talk to Bruce Woolrich about source for bed frames
- Technology in the classroom
 - demonstration of multiple choice question on the smart board - student can touch their answer choice and get immediate feedback
 - questions are also available to view at home by going to the Smarttech Exchange Website (<http://exchange.smarttech.com/#tab=0>)
 - document camera can be used to show and edit student work (displays work on the smartboard)
 - Manachaban had one on loan for a trial, but does not currently have one
 - Penny knows of one school that used the document camera to show a live louse during a lice outbreak at the school
 - much use is being made of google docs
 - these allow several students to work on a project together without having to worry about copying to and from a thumbdrive
 - allows access from home
 - allows homework to be submitted at home

Trustee Report

- Colleen is now on twitter - should be able to find her through the Rockyview Website
- Colleen will be updating the message on the board website
- board had second reading of the school attendance area
 - currently when parents leave one school for another there is no feedback as to the reason for leaving
 - want this to change
- there is a new sports program at Crossfield
 - board has approved \$10,000 for bussing to bus students from Airdrie to Crossfield
 - don't want this to become the norm, but Airdrie can really use the breathing room since the schools there are so crowded
- a number of years ago, the board bought land in Airdrie with plans to develop and sell it
 - unfortunately the land value has gone down, but development fees must still be paid
 - capital reserve money is gone and board has had to dip into maintenance fund
 - Town of Airdrie has been approached about forgiving the last payment - worth a shot
 - this will probably be in the papers in the coming weeks
- on Jan 25, the premiere and the education minister visited one of the Rockyview schools - went well
- there is another opportunity to interact with Lukaszuk Feb 8 - online Q&A session
- contract negotiations between the province and the teachers is now stalled (contracts end at the end of August)
 - Provincial budget will be revealed this week - could signal a return to local bargaining (this could prove a good move since each school board has different needs)
- There will be a board meeting on March 1 with the minister
- Provincial parties are selecting their representatives - board will try to meet with candidates before the election
- Defibrillators - RVS has no formal policy about them in schools
 - closest reference is in the Emergency Preparedness document
 - all the high schools will be equipped with them thanks to donations from a group in Edmonton
 - the new first aid training includes the use of portable defibrillators
 - board will not buy them
- a question was asked about the Student Information Security Policy - was this supposed to be in place in September?
 - On Feb 1, the new Protection of Student Information policy passed second reading and now procedures must be worked on
 - more info next meeting

New Business

- School Council Association Workshop
 - Wed March 28 there will be workshop on School Councils and Fundraising
 - this was done at EB a few years ago & helped revitalize school council
- Cochrane High has issued an invitation to the middle school School Councils to attend their School Council meeting - believe in a closer working relationship
 - Next meeting date is TBD

Action Items

- members to provide testimonials about benefits of School Council attendance
- Stephen's letter to parents to be finalized
- Stephen to get signing authority
- Sara to let Manachaban School Council know the date of the next Cochrane High School Council

Next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2012 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13.