

Manachaban School Council June 7, 2012

Present: Thomas Elbel
Krista Stronach
Bruce Woolrich
Penny Beaudry
Barry Allen

Colleen Munro
Kat Hricyw
Marla Bosch
Sara Busby

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

Welcome and Intros

Agenda adopted by consent.

Minutes from previous meeting presented and passed

Constructivist Studio Kit

- presented by Barry Allen
 - proposes repurposing technology within schools
 - described a classroom he worked in eighteen years ago which was divided into pods with each pod being dedicated to a small group of students and having a couple of computers, a scanner and microphones with the idea being that students would share the existing technology and use it as needed
 - contrast this with use of laptop carts today where the technology is available only to a few classrooms at a times
 - also, there is tendency for some technology to be reserved for special needs and it should be available to everyone as the need arises - just as in buildings there are automatic doors, ramps, elevators, etc that everyone uses without stigma
 - advocates breaking up the laptop carts and have a few permanently in all classrooms
 - use other, cheaper technology to gather ideas (video, recordings, info lookup) - ipods, ipads, cameras, drawing tablets - and use laptops/computers for final creation of reports
- Thomas has presented these ideas to the staff
 - input suggests these ideas will be adopted selectively
 - won't be breaking up the carts, but would like to have one cart for each grade
 - lots of sharing technology is being used - eg. google docs, wordpress - both within the school and with other schools

Treasurer Report

- Current balance is \$3460.92 with all outstanding cheques having cleared

Staff Report

- lots of overnight trips:
 - Grade 8s went to Quebec
 - Grade 7s went to Drumheller
 - Grade 5s went to Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump and the Frank Slide
- grade 7 & 8 band received a rating of Superior at the band festival
- June 27 (last day of school) is the Calaway Park Trip
- fire drills and evacuation drills are being done now
- Grade 6s are writing PATs (Provincial Achievement Tests)
- Grade 8 grad is scheduled for next Thurs
- June 22 will be a BBQ fundraiser for a former student diagnosed with a rare neurological disease - money raised will help the family buy a wheelchair and retrofit their house for wheelchair access
 - other fundraisers will be happening as well (bake sales, etc)
- this week is environmental week - tomorrow is the waste audit of a week's worth of school waste
- sports are pretty much wrapped up now

Admin Report

- AISI cycle 5 is about the Universal Learning Environment

- plan for a learning coach is being worked on
- french speaking in class - small improvement has been made - will continue to focus on
- staff changes being worked on
 - Mrs Thomas is retiring
 - Penny will stay on as assistant principal (Chris McKie is moving to Cranbrook to be a principal there)
 - Elizabeth Barrett currently has five grade 4 classes, but there will only be four grade 5 classes in the fall - Manachaban has had to enforce out-of-bounds rules (must when school is 85% full). This means that some kids that may have switched from the french to english program at EB have been allowed to finish at EB, but must now move to schools within their boundaries (Mitford, Holy Spirit). This reduces the number moving from EB to Manachaban.
 - currently have five grade 8 classes, but in the fall will have only four - Mr Fuller is the fifth grade 8 teacher
 - budget will be tight since number of kids will be down - class budget had been \$2500, will now cut to \$1500

Trustee Report

- Rockyview nominees for Excellence in Teaching and the Edwin Parr award have been honored (including Manachaban's Lisa Haig) Details can be found at: http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/staff/assets_staff/staff_news/June7_AwardsProgram.pdf
- Board meeting was today
 - Airdrie Christian Program did not have enough interest to start the program, but this will be revisited in the future (these programs can take several years to take off)
 - discussed the recording of votes - will not be done as a matter of course, but any trustee can request that their vote be recorded
- Jeff Johnson is the new Education Minister
 - he was the co-chair for Inspiring Education
 - want the new Education Act passed with some tweaking
 - will focus on infrastructure - will sort through capital plans for new schools and upgrades to existing schools
- Teacher contract talks
 - RVS has begun the bargaining process and has taken the step of publishing the initial positions of both sides in the interest of transparency
 - this has proven unpopular in some circles - RVS is the only school board to have done this
- Special board meeting was held to discuss the Trustee Code of Conduct
 - A decision had been made about allocating portables to Prince of Peace in Chestmere instead of Airdrie but one trustee chose to publicize their opposition to the decision - this is not in accordance with the expected code of conduct (once a decision has been made, then it's time to move on) and the board voted to censure this person (no other repercussions)
- Elizabeth Barrett/Manachaban space review committee has not met in several months - Colleen will request a meeting before the end of the year

Old Business

- Cochrane High School Joint Meeting
 - went well
 - school highlights were given in a slide show
- Mission and Vision Statement - done
- Satisfaction Survey - last year had 34% participation - should at least make that this year
 - students are at 96% participation
- staff appreciation lunch is set for June 11
- Manachaban fundraising committee has approved buying tables for the library

New Business

- School Education Plan (SEP)
 - will be posted and will be translated to French
 - achievements were highlighted
 - challenges were discussed, including the current building

Next meeting is scheduled for Sept 11, 2012 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58.