

Manachaban School Council March 6, 2012

Present: Stephen Price
Krista Stronach
Sigi Sengl
Penny Beaudry
Thomas Elbel

Colleen Munro
Bruce Woolrich
Katt Hryciw
Sara Busby

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm.

Welcome and Intros

Additions to the agenda:

- defibrillator
- vision mission draft

Agenda then passed by consent.

Minutes from previous meeting presented and passed

Action Items from Last Meeting

- letter to new parents about school council - almost finalized - still need second testimonial - Sara will provide one

Treasurer Report

- \$5925.92
 - \$150 for the Grandparent Program still needs to clear
 - \$315 dinner for the teachers still needs to clear
 - Walkathon money was \$7181.76, not \$6831.76 as stated in the last minutes
 - need an invoice for active living day

Fundraising Society

- Casino money is in - \$50,868
 - teachers have been asked to think about where they'd like to see the money spent
- next casino is slated for the 3rd quarter of 2014

Staff Report

- teacher convention had three keynote speakers and lots of sessions, including over lunch
- active living day had to be postponed due to the weather
 - everything has been rebooked for April 12
 - will new permissions slips be required? Thomas believes not, but is looking into
 - not everyone received notification about the cancellation
 - not every parent has an email in the system
 - different methods used - email, Manachaban website update, twitter
- Last PD day was Feb 17 - large focus on first aid training - went well - staff now prepared
- New Mac cart - now have 4 - two are full (30 laptops) and the other two are half full

Admin Report

- Brief videos of how several teachers use technology in the classroom
 - use of smartboards, student-created videos, wikispaces (to allow access at home)

- some students use their ipods to take photos of smartboard work for later study at home
- options for next year are being reviewed
 - consider moving to two options from three (Mitford is doing this)
 - Grade 8s in French immersion would only have one option then (-> so stick with three options)
 - check alignment with Rockyview
 - consider adding
 - culture and language class for Russia, Japan, or Italy
 - robotics
 - leadership (for a full year)
 - hope to have a schedule for April
- Healthy relationships program with Mrs Greaves (for grades 5 & 6) continues
- March 19-23 is internet safety week - presentations will be made to the grades
 - questions from parents:
 - is there a place within the school for students to discuss inappropriate chat (parents may not be aware or may not be available)
 - should have a safety session for parents as well
- Kool Kids program (promoting healthy livers) - 3rd session will focus on nutrition (will be able to see vials of fat from various foods)
- Vision and mission statements were presented (update of old one)
 - this represents a 13-month process so far
 - feedback is welcome
- last three weeks there has been vandalism at the school (mostly graffiti) - problems at the high school as well
 - this week the RCMP were called
 - any specific names in graffiti are swiftly removed by the maintenance department - rest of it cleaned up later
- Defibrillator has been ordered - \$2037

Trustee Report

- Education budget - three years of grant increases are 1%, 2%, 2%
 - RV education grant is up 7% for special needs (previously frozen for four years - RV has been funding special needs from instructional money - now it is properly funded)
 - pay grid rollups will take 3-4%
- talk of standardized fees for resources (as opposed to instructional)
 - transportations fees will remain the same - not raised for 6 years
- no new portables have been approved
- new school in Airdrie is "Heron's Crossing" (close to nature conservatory)
- sale of land around the education center in Airdrie - no takers - now try commercial realtor
- advocacy issues include:
 - capital plan
 - predictable funding
 - annexation from Calgary
- no new money for Maintenance and Renewal of Infrastructure
- Details of education budget can be found on the Alberta Ed's website (<http://education.alberta.ca/departments/budget.aspx>)
- have met with the education minister to discuss the infrastructure problems (crowded schools)
 - education and infrastructure are two different government departments
 - ed minister needs to talk to infrastructure
- need to meet with candidates before next election

Old Business

- Letter to parents about school council - almost finalized - need another parent quote
- School Council Association Workshop - information circulated

- Cochrane High invites Manachaban council and parents to it June 4 meeting
 - formal invitation will be presented later
 - includes tour of school, student presentations and others (suggestions welcome)

Action Items

- joint council meeting
- Feedback on vision statement - anyone
- extra parent quote - Sara
- internet safety - Stephen
- Letter of invoice for active living - Thomas

Next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2012 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10.