

Manachaban School Council Sept 11, 2012

Present: Thomas Elbel	Colleen Munro
Krista Stronach	Sigi Sengl
Bruce Woolrich	Stephen Price
Penny Beaudry	Dawn-Marie Cinnamon
Heidi Aram	Vanessa Fischbuch
Zoe Musch	

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

Welcome and Intros

Agenda adopted by consent.

Minutes from previous meeting presented and passed

Election of Officers

- Co-Chairs - Stephen and Marla let their names stand - passed
- Treasurer - Sara lets her name stand - passed
- Secretary - Krista lets her name stand - passed
- Directors at Large - Sigi lets him name stand - passed. Bruce and Dawn-Marie also step forward, passed

Treasurer Report

- Current balance is \$3460.92

Admin Report

- Walkathon/Terry Fox Run
 - Walkathon is usually in October - major fund-raiser for school
 - Terry Fox Run has been held separately in September
 - this year, plan to combine them with walkathon running as usual and bring a 'Tooney for Terry' for Terry Fox
 - Looking at Sept 28 for event (Friday)
 - Dave Levson has traditionally organized this - looking for help from school council
 - First meeting is tomorrow at 3:30
 - Zoe, Dawn-Marie and Vanessa step forward to help
 - in past, BBQ has been held near Mitford Pond - this has involved logistic challenges with BBQ and supplies
 - proposing a snack there instead with BBQ to be held at the school
- Staffing, Enrollment, and Class Sizes
 - there is a new classroom assistant from Winnipeg - very experienced and bilingual
 - class sizes are large - 27 to 33 on the English side, 24 to 31 on the French side
 - additional teacher for grade 8 has been requested - hope to have this in place by October
 - some staff that were part-time are now full-time
 - there is one spare classroom right now
 - enrollment is currently around 450 (two years ago it was 397)
 - school capacity is 459
 - last year Manachaban was sixth on Rockyview's list for additional portables (two requested, none available), will continue to lobby for more portables
 - Gym has 72 blocks of time available for phys ed, 80 are scheduled for all classes

- some phys ed blocks must be taken outside, including walks to Cochrane Ranch
- may need to reduce gym time to 4 out of 6 days and have resources in classrooms (eg balls, skipping ropes, hula hoops, etc)
- May need to reduce number of option classes available - currently students can choose three, possibly reduce this to two as Mitford has done.
- Hockey is currently an option for grades 7 & 8 (incorporated into Phys Ed for grades 5 and 6)
 - Hockey enrollment in Grade 6 English hockey is currently low and may not run this year (deadline is Monday the 17th)
- Parent Portal
 - online access for parents to see student progress - more information will be available on the meet-the-teacher night on Thursday
 - long term goal would be to have timely updates about students from the teachers with parents monitoring online in order to eliminate report cards at set times through the year (feedback would be ongoing instead of at discrete times)
 - stats on parent usage of the portal would be useful
- Meet-the-Teachers night is Thursday night from 6:30 to 8:00
- Quebec trip meeting (for parents of Grade 8 students) is Thursday night at 8pm
- Friday morning is a pancake breakfast 8am to 8:45
- volunteer form that parents fill out at the beginning of the school year - would be useful to have times that parents are available
- Building update
 - this summer a new HVAC (heating, ventilating and air-conditioning) system was installed -
 - difference in air quality has been noticed already
 - this should also take care of the roof leaks that have plagued the school
 - 25 new lockers will be installed shortly (currently very close to being out of lockers)
 - last of the chalk boards will be replaced with white boards
- We Day (<http://www.weday.com/event/alberta>) is taking place Oct 24 in Calgary
 - 25 tickets have been purchased for this event (to be used by 21 grade 7 & 8 students and four adults (Mme Kirby, Mrs Greaves, Mrs White + 1 TBD)
 - this ties in with the leadership program at the school
 - students have not yet been selected
- AISI (Alberta Initiative for School Improvement) cycle 5 is started with a focus on action research
- hot lunch program will start in October
 - by January hope to have School Cash (online payment system integrated into Power School) implemented for payment (Elizabeth Barrett is already using School Cash for its school fee payments)

Trustee Report

- Police Check Policy for school volunteers - Rockyview is currently working on a policy - Colleen is on the committee
- RVS is currently up nearly 800 students across its schools (this number takes into account the 300 lost when the Edge School left RVS)
- Manachaban was originally built as open-concept. Open area was later closed off to make classrooms, but this resulted in a number of them being only .75 the current regular size
 - Manachaban also has a tiny gym (EBs gym is bigger)
- Manachaban portable request will probably move to the top of RVS' list (last year RVS requested 10 new portables from the province and received 4)
- RVS used some of its Infrastructure and Renewal money for the new HVAC system at Manachaban
- There is currently a contingency plan in the works to manage school populations (Manachaban is very close to over-capacity, EB not far behind, and no new RVS schools are confirmed for Cochrane at this time although a K-8 has been put on the wish list)
 - this plan will be presented to the board in October
- During the last election, the province announced it would build a number of new schools and rejuvenate others, but none of these have been identified yet
- Premiere and the Minister of Education were on hand to open a new school in Langdon (Sarah Thompson K-5)

- Cochrane Turf Group (<https://sites.google.com/a/cochraneturf.com/www/>) has approached the town, county and board about creating an outdoor professional turf field suitable for soccer, football, and rugby
 - an area near Bow Valley High School has been identified as a likely candidate
- Board considered allowing audio or video streaming of its meetings, but this was defeated
 - meetings are open for parents to attend anyway
- labor negotiations with teachers are still ongoing.
 - RVS chose to publish opening positions of the two side earlier this year
 - union has objected to this
 - a decision from the Alberta Labour Relations Board is still pending as to whether this move constitutes bargaining in bad faith
 - province is also negotiating
- Board is in last year of its mandate (Oct 2013 is next election)

Old Business

- Staff appreciation lunch last June - went well (Sara organized this)

New Business

- Discussion about moving the meeting dates from the first Tuesday of the month to another day
 - EB has theirs the third Monday, Cochrane high is second Monday
 - Fourth Monday of the month was chosen
 - Meetings for the year - Sept 24, Oct 22, Nov 26, Jan 28, Feb 25, Mar 25, Apr 22 and May 27
 - no meetings for December or June

Next meeting is scheduled for Sept 24, 2012 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00.