

Manachaban School Council Jan 27, 2014

Present: Thomas Elbel
Krista Stronach
Katt Hryciw
Annette Dobson
Jacquie Mirtle
Fiona Simoongwe

Colleen Munro
Sara Busby
Marla Bosch
Dawn-Marie Cinnamon
Bruce Woolrich

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm.

Welcome and Intros

Addition to agenda: Jacquie's presentation
Agenda adopted by consent.
Minutes from previous meeting presented and passed.

Links to Learning

- 7th annual Links to Learning Golf Tournament set for May
- Put on by Rockyview School Board
- money is raised for schools
- teams can enter for \$175 per person
- 80% of money raised goes directly back to schools
- details can be found at <http://trustees.rockyview.ab.ca/golf>

Treasurer Report

- \$4085.25 in account
- there is still \$1000 to go to the compassionate fund
- \$60 set aside as gift for custodians
- approx \$6000 coming in from walkathon

Staff Report

- Cool Kids Liver Foundation presentation is coming
 - select grade 5 & 6 students will attend to learn about healthy eating and other healthy lifestyle choices
 - they will then bring the presentation back to their classes
- Tomorrow afternoon will be a presentation from Canadian Parents for French
- Active Living Day is on Thursday
- Parent/Teacher conferences will be before the 11th and 12th of February (before the break)
- conferences will feature an all-french book fair
- John Dunn (<http://www.arcticlight.com/home/introducing-john-dunn.html>) will be coming to give three presentations to students
- the school now has new cross-country skis and they have been used a lot
- have also borrowed snow shoes from Rockyview
- Don Hoium the new superintendant will be coming on Wednesday along with the other trustees for a school tour
- A Basketball is finishing this week
- B Basketball is starting up
- Feb 26 is Pink Shirt Day
- West Jet Raffle raised \$1500 and a grade 6 parent won

Admin Report

- Requests for funding:
 - \$375 for the Oh Canada presentation from the Canadian Parents for French
 - this represents 1/2 the cost
 - \$375 for the John Dunn presentations (normal cost is \$500 but he is giving us three for the price of two)
 - Sarah motions that we spend \$650 to fund both of these requests. Dawn-Marie seconds. Passed
- literacy and numeracy work
 - next year plan to have a block every day to work on literacy and numeracy (this will reduce the number of options)
 - this will function sort of like the high school flex block
 - looking at mixing grades and alternating days of literacy and numeracy
- powerschool
 - Jan 14 staff meeting revealed that most teachers are not loving the “mode” method of presenting grades.
 - “mode” means that the most common grade is presented as representative
 - eg. If a student were to get three “basic” marks and then two “exceptionals” in a subject the overall grade is shown as “basic”. Or if the marks were two of each, then no grade is shown. Teachers are spending a lot of time monitoring each students and then manually overriding to a reasonable grade
 - want to move to “average”
- Outdoor Experiential Classroom
 - this would involve a lot of outside learning and overnight camps
 - proposal is being finalized
 - want a classroom of 20 students
 - would cost an extra \$500 per student per year
 - want pilot to run the whole year next year for a grade 8 class
 - how are kids chosen for the program?
 - first come, first serve?
 - class will be english kids only since teacher in charge (Nancy Pollard) is an english teacher
 - what if French Immersion kids drop out of the french program to get into this class?
 - can't sacrifice one program to start another.
- thoughts on outdoor play rules
 - a school in New Zealand has formally scrapped all outdoor play rules
 - eg. Manachaban has decided to stop the play of “King of the Hill”
 - when the snow was fresh everything was fine
 - recent warm weather has turned it into a mountain of ice - much more dangerous
 - do too many rules prevent kids from learning how to take reasonable risks?
 - eg. cars with the highest safety ratings are most likely to be involved in accidents
 - do drivers feel invincible and take unnecessary risks?
 - do drivers of less safe cars make better decisions?
- students in grades 4,7, and 10 have been sent a survey
- students in grade 6 presented Thomas with a letter asking for a longer morning break (five min or so)
 - Thomas will probably decline

Annette

- U of C students were given a LGBT presentation
 - studies estimate between 3 and 20% of students identify as not heterosexual
 - Manachaban has 451 students which means that 14 to 90 fall in this category
 - average age of coming out is 15
 - this group has a higher rate of suicide
 - approx 25% of homeless youth identify as LGBT
 - Is Manachaban a safe place?
 - comments like “that’s so gay” are quite commonplace - need to think more about the language being used
 - GSA - Gay Straight Alliances are students led groups with schools [mostly at the high school level and above]
 - Is there one at Cochrane High?

Trustee Report

- New superintendent Don Hoium started Jan 1
- Usually the new board does a tour of the all the schools shortly after the election (this past Oct) but they chose to wait until the new superintendent could join them - will be touring Manachaban later in the week
- board has passed a motion to buy a new High School site on Horse Creek Road (44 acres for 15-20 years down the line)
- New school for Airdrie was announced (K-4) on Dec 18
- Next on Rockyview's wish list is K-5 in Airdrie, and another K-8 in Cochrane
- still waiting to hear about latest request for modular classrooms
- In December the amended budget was approved and the audit was ok. All docs are online:
<http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/publications/capitalplans>
- Feedback for the next three years of school calendar can be given online
- communication of student learning
 - implementation time will be extended
 - opportunity for parent feedback
- Board will be holding its retreat at the Cochrane Ranchehouse
- Attended Alberta School Boards Association conference for new trustees/new board chairs. Jamie Vollmer's keynote address about being champions for public education and talking to our communities has sparked some new ideas.

Next meeting is scheduled for Feb 24, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07.