

# Manachaban School Council March 24, 2014

Present: Thomas Elbel  
Krista Stronach  
Katt Hryciw  
Bruce Woolrich  
Jackie Godard

Colleen Munro  
Penny Beaudry  
Sara Busby  
Dawn-Marie Cinnamon

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm.

Welcome and Intros

Agenda adopted by consent.

Minutes from previous meeting presented and passed.

## Treasurer Report

- \$9291.25 in account with Walkathon money (\$5991)
- bussing from Active Living Day still to be paid for (last year it was \$4500)

## Staff Report

- FI presentation did not happen - too expensive
- Field trips
  - Grade 7s to Heritage Park
  - Cochrane High School had the leadership students
  - Band Camp for grade 7&8s was successful
- term 2 has ended - options have changed - hockey is done for the school year
- Evidence Summary (Report Card) will be e-mailed by the end of the week
- B Basketball has wrapped up
- Badminton is starting
- Arctic Lights presentation by John Dunn - three sessions
- Grade 5 vaccination this week
- Spring Fling dance is the Thursday afternoon before the Easter break
- Grades 5 and 6 will have a planning meeting for outdoor camps (Grade 5s will not be going to the Frank Slide this year due to rising costs)
- Meeting for parents planning the Grade 8 farewell is coming up
- Quebec trip is in May
- Mme Katt has a student teacher

## Admin Report

- have observed that grades 5 and 6 at lunch in the gym are spending a lot of time on personal devices
  - being asked to unplug themselves
  - wondering of making this a policy starting in the fall
    - council supports
- Grades 7 and 8 are not as much of an issue

- Proposed outdoor class for the fall
  - this is a class of grade 8 english students who would be outside for their learning as much as possible with an extra cost for parents (est \$500 per student)
  - senior executive at school board have received the idea well, except for the \$100,000 required for another teacher (new class would be limited to 20 students, at least for the first year) and another teacher would have to be hired to keep remaining Grade 8 classes to a reasonable level
  - talked to kids, but not parents yet - approx 45 students expressed an interest
  - still working on criteria
  - meet with Murray B tomorrow at 11
  - what about after grade 8 - some students would greatly benefit from this new program, but what will they head into in grade 9?
    - Bow Valley has a really rich outdoor program
    - Cochrane High has much more outdoor programming available starting in grade 10
    - no definitive answer
- proposed Literacy, Numeracy block for the fall (reduces english options from 3 to 2)
  - progressing along - looking at essential outcomes
  - numeracy is straight forward
  - literacy is not as simple
    - are being advised that it might be better to focus on the teachers
    - (teachers are taught how to teach reading at the elementary school level, not at middle school level)
  - maybe start with numeracy block and add in literacy
- Evidence Summary
  - still some technical issues
  - should be sent on later this week
- staffing
  - extra support staff previously needed is no longer needed - student left
  - Mr Levson is retiring after 46 years - send-off in June
  - may have 2 FI postings for grades 5&6 (job must be posted if currently held by a temporary or probationary teacher)
  - currently have three FI classes in grade 5
    - not sure about next year
    - currently looks as though there will only be 1 1/2 grade 5 english classes arriving in the fall
- recognition of academic achievement
  - continue with Evening of Excellence for grades 7&8
  - recognize grades 5&6 in class

## Trustee Report

- meeting with MLAs to advocate for new school
  - current top three on wish list
    - another K-8 for Cochrane in Fireside
    - school for Airdrie
    - school for Chestermere
  - RVS has had 6 new schools approved in the last three years
    - when all are finally built, will still be at 100% utilization
    - very fast growing school board
  - another 8 modulars at Mitford (brings the total to 20)
- student fees staying the same
- transportation fees
  - need to see the budget to determine whether fees will rise or stay the same
- board heard a proposal looking at an alternate calendar (shorter summer break, start sooner in fall, more breaks during the year)
  - Ralph McCall school in Airdrie has used this calendar for years (staff love it) but must now conform to the RVS calendar due to new feeder schools
  - motion was made to look into all of RV using the alternate calendar
- budget arrives in June

## New Business

- Next casino is scheduled for Sept 16 & 17
  - shift times have changed since the AGLC has allowed gaming tables to open earlier and close later
    - early shift now starts at 10am instead of 11am
    - late shift ends at 3am instead of 2am
  - will need to start paperwork in May to indicate what the casino money will be spent on
- Mme Katt has been nominated for the Excellence in Teaching award
  - motivated by a parent whose student was in grade 8 last year.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54.