

Manachaban School Council April 27, 2015

Present: Thomas Elbel	Colleen Munro
Krista Stronach	Gerry Gaudet
Bruce Woolrich	Marla Bosch
Dawn-Marie Cinnamon	Wayne Lenhardt
Trinity Patterson	Annette Dobson

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm.

Welcome and Intros

Agenda adopted by consent.

Minutes from previous meeting presented and passed.

Treasurer Report

- currently have \$9229
 - approx \$4000 for buses for active living day still to come out

Staff Report

- end of March, beginning of April, the grade 7s went to Heritage Park to explore life and hardships of early settlers
- there was a school dance before the Easter break
- grade 7s and 8s had a presentation from Dominique Libroiron who paddled down the Milk River to New Orleans
 - biggest message was one of strategies to deal with problems along the way
 - excellent talk
 - <http://www.canoetoneworleans.com>
- band went to Jazz Festival - only middle school
- this week is Quest Theatre in the school - 27 students participating
- many trips in May
 - grade 7s to Drumheller
 - grade 8s to Quebec
 - grade 5s to Frank slide
- track meet this month

Admin Report

- this year's budget not the happiest
 - losing 2nd WILD teacher
 - budget due the 8th of May
- Mrs Daigle resigning today
- Mme Ashley on leave
- renos
 - still ongoing
 - relatively non-invasive
- new custodian working out well
 - also helping out in other areas like supervising badminton at lunch

- grade 8 year-end trip
 - to Sylvan lake on the 24th of June
 - no one seems to miss the evening event
 - many activities available
 - water slide
 - beach volleyball
 - mini golf
 - arrive approx 11am, leave at 4pm
 - is there a backup in case of bad weather?
 - wieners at the Ranch with a walk to Big Hill Springs? (would need to contact the Boothbys since their land would need to be crossed)
 - default to Calloway park?
 - what about bus bookings - (not easy to change last minute)?
 - should grade 8 year-end trip and school Calloway Park trip be held on the same day anyway?
- 25th of June is Calloway Park for the whole school
- evening of June 25th is the Evening of Excellence
- grades 7 & 5 are going to the movie house
- grade 6 soccer started today
- economic downturn seems to be affecting local families
 - one family is unable to afford major trip - have not paid beyond initial deposit
 - why wasn't this flagged sooner (ie before school paid for entire trip)?
 - how much is fair for school to fund?
 - at Cochrane high, band trip deposits are clearly stated up front that they are non-refundable and final trip isn't booked until payment is received.
 - two are having problems with Drumheller trip
 - looking for more money for compassionate fund
 - school council will still have over \$4000 in its fund even after all pending allotments are settled
 - Dawn-Marie motions to allocate another \$1000 to the compassionate fund, seconded by Wayne - passed

Trustee Report

- transportation budget was passed
 - additional charge of \$25 per student for bussing with a maximum of \$400 per family for rural and \$440 for urban students
 - also using \$550,000 of reserve money (once province gives permission)
 - will still have \$750,000 in transportation reserve
- proposed budget
 - province has frozen school funding for K-9 at Sept 30 2014 levels
 - Rockyview currently has 20,000 students
 - expecting an extra 1000 students this fall which represents approx 44 teachers with no funding
- Colleen reached out to other growing school boards - 19 in total - including Calgary and Edmonton
 - had a coordinated press conference last Monday asking the province to reconsider the funding freeze and to work with school boards to find a solution
 - lots of good press - forced politicians to take notice - Colleen Rocks!
 - Ron Casey says he cannot support the budget
 - Education Minister replied that "these are school boards, not school banks"
 - schools across province currently have \$400 million in reserves (RVS has approx \$2 million) most of which is ear-marked (eg transportation, school maintenance, etc)
 - new education act comes into effect in the fall - must then accept students up to the age of 21
 - provincial election on May 5 could be interesting
- May 13 - new attendance boundary scenarios will be presented
 - final decision will be made June 4
- Fireside k-8 school and a new school for Airdrie are both back on the capital plan
 - schools were announced but no funds were released
- renos to Cochrane High (more classroom space) are on the Capital plan

New Business

- consider having half the council meetings during the day
 - this would allow grade 8 leadership to join
 - would allow for school walk-throughs to see how space is actually being used
 - mixed reaction - some people are flexible, some are not
 - maybe trial a couple?
 - maybe October - say 2pm?

Next meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01