

Manachaban School Council January 12, 2010

Present: Mark Kondro

Krista Stronach

Chris McKie

Mike Summersgill

Brenda Koob

Dianne Ivanitz

Colleen Munro

Dave Levson

Meeting called to order at 6:40

Welcome and introductions.

Minutes from last meeting were presented and accepted.

Financial Report

- Raelyn was absent, but Dianne was present
- Books have not yet been passed to Raelyn
- Dec balance was \$5566.67 with another \$45584.11 to be added to this the walkathon
- No requests for funds have been made and there are no outstanding payments to be made
 - Lea had made a request for payment for cards, batteries, and cameras, but this should go to the Fundraising Society
- receipt for \$1000 for Tristan Walker is still needed
- Teacher's luncheon in the fall was \$328.61 and has been paid

Mark K wanted to make mention of the Fundraising Society (FS)

- He's not a part of it
- previously, the Fundraising Society had members on the school council
- now seems to be harder to get together
- Current Fundraising Society is made up of Mark Cheadle, Dave Wilton, and Dianne Ivanitz
- There is no rep from FS to the Student Council - should there be?
- Requests for funds from the casino need to go to the FS

Fundraising Society

- Mike S is requesting that the FS pay for 10 more interactive white boards (IWB)
 - FS has already paid for 3 (\$3600 - includes projectors and mounting arms)
 - money was set aside for projectors for all the classrooms but Rockyview has provided the projectors and installation of the same so this is no longer needed.
 - Rockyview offered to install the IWBs for free at the same time they were installing the projectors as long as there were IWBs to install at the same time. Mike took this opportunity to buy 10 more from the school board (~\$1100 each) and get them installed at the same time.
 - Now all 13 IWBs with projectors have been installed
 - Mike is asking for money to cover the 10 additional IWBs (~\$1100 each) (reallocate projector money to IWBs)
 - FS has \$30,758.10 left in the fund (started with \$40,000 while the initial wish list came in at \$71,000)

Chris would like to see one set of clickers that the classrooms can share

- Some teachers are already using the IWBs and would like to try them
- ~ \$1000 as set (~ 30 clickers)
- Clickers are used to provide feedback from students interactively
- May be possible to borrow them from another school (like Bearspaw) to give them a try and see how useful they are
- May also need dongles and speakers to go with them

Budget Cuts

Colleen

- rumors of a cabinet shuffle this week
- budget expected to be released in early Feb (Feb 9?)
- In November the Minister for education, Dave Hancock, said that things are not as bleak as they had been last spring - gas prices have come up so the cuts may not have to be so deep
 - this is good news
 - the 10% cut scenario is unlikely
- The ideas that were generated to deal with the budget cut scenarios were gathered up and discussed.
 - Colleen doesn't want to see the effort wasted
- An early budget means schools will have plenty of time to deal with it and come up with solution

Staff Report

Dave

- Alanna Clarke came to talk to the students
 - she's a former student at Manachaban and is now in Grade 12 and she is a singer/songwriter of country/rock music
 - grades 5 & 6 got to see her first, then grades 7 & 8, then she held a special session for Q&As about composing music. This latter was attended by about 40 kids, which was an excellent turnout
 - Alanna approached the school about doing the presentation
 - Brenda remarked that it great to see someone so close in age to the kids as a role model
- Embedded coaching
 - teachers get the opportunity to have their teaching critiqued
- Active Living Day
 - set for March 2
 - all grades get an opportunity to go outside the classroom and try an activity such as cross country skiing, downhill skiing, swimming (in Calgary), hiking, photography and others
 - skiing and swimming are the most popular activities
 - day should be used to try try something new
 - some new activities can be hard to organize
 - scuba diving can only take limited numbers (max 25) which means the activity is expensive so it has been dropped
 - last year gymnastics at the Spray Lakes Sports Center was full
 - this year they are trying to get curling going
 - Brenda suggested using the running track at Spray Lakes
 - Dianne reported that last year 45 activities were set up and kids all did the same stuff (ice fishing fell through although it was popular the year before)
 - Dianne also suggests that the School Council pay for all transportation costs
 - to be brought up again at the Feb meeting
- John Howard Society
 - would like to do a presentation for the grade 6s
 - this would include a mock trial and demo of how lawyers and judges work
 - John Howard Society hasn't come out to the rural schools in a while and now want to start again
- Martin Parnell - 250 Marathons in a year guy
 - he'll come to the school to do a short talk (10 minutes), then he'll start running around the school field until he's run a marathon
 - kids will be welcome to run with him
 - he'd like to do this in late spring

Admin Report

Chris gave a demonstration of the Smart Board (Interactive White Board - IWB)

- computer screen was projected onto the IWB - touching the screen provides feedback to the computer
- These are an interactive tool for the classroom
- IWBs become another “center” for the classroom
- Smart Technologies has a website for sharing lessons
- IWB can become a giant touch screen
 - eg. an image of various circles was projected and a kooshball (a rubbery spiny ball) thrown against it
 - the circle that was hit then revealed a question to be answered
 - this is a popular exercise with the boys since there is a physical element to it.
 - eg. an image was projected of several labels and pictures and the labels could be dragged onto the corresponding picture via touch
- It is also possible to use an attached keyboard or a wireless keyboard to interact with the IWB
- Mike indicated that it might be possible in the future to use iphones or bluetooth to download information
 - lots of potential with this technology
- may need to get some stools so the shortest kids can reach the top of the screen

Olympic Torch

- will be coming through Cochrane on Jan 20, 2010.
- route takes it up the hill to Cochrane Heights and ends at the old Arena at 11:50 am
- kids will get to line the route
- On Friday Jan 15 there will be a rally for the torch run at the school. It is hoped there will be some ideas generated for celebrating on Jan 20
- The red mittens have arrived
 - 250 were ordered in Sept (Chris initially wanted to order 400)
 - they are selling well
 - the school has fielded calls from the people in the community looking asking if they can buy mittens
 - Mme Grenon is really pumped

Mike

- Hot lunch forms went home with a calendar of events
- web pages also have the calendar of events

Mike announced his retirement this year

- He's been principal at Manachaban for three years
- Also taught here for six years at the beginning of his career
- officially done on Jan 31, then will be hired on with a 5 month contract to finish out the year
 - this allows for time to find a replacement and then transition time
- Chris Lees, the principal at Cochrane High is also retiring this year
- Colleen indicated that the superintendent will allow parental input at a meeting (to be held sometime in the future) to determine what kind of administration is wanted/needed.
 - She also indicated that she will be part of the interview process once they have a shortlist of candidates

Trustee Report

Colleen

- Rockyview Adult Education has called it quits as of Oct 2009 and the Rockview School Board will take it over
 - the board of trustees will create a new board for adult education
 - the plan is to make money with the program instead of a cost recovery as was done in the past
- Ward boundary review
 - On Thursday (Jan 14) there will be a special board meeting to discuss the ward boundary report and vote on the recommendations
 - eg go from 7 to 5 trustees, or rejig the boundaries

- There was lots of opportunity for public input but not many participated (statistically insignificant)
- On Feb 6, 2010 there will be a school council professional development day that anyone on the school council can attend

New Business

- Grade 8 grad will be held using money from the walkathon
 - date not picked - usually the last Thurs or Fri in June
 - this is an evening event - usually a snack and dance
 - Grade 8 committee organizes this
- Next round of interviews will be held on Feb 3 & 4
 - should council provide a lunch again?
 - Guy's Bakery did it last fall
 - Krista motions that school council pay for a lunch for the teachers as was done for last fall's interviews, Mark seconded, motion carried

Next meeting is scheduled for Feb 9 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04.