

Manachaban School Council November 1, 2011

Present: Stephen Price
Krista Stronach
Sigi Sengl
Penny Beaudry

Colleen Munro
Thomas Elbel
Katt Hryciw
Marla Bosch

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm.

Welcome and Intros

Additions to the agenda: Walkathon and the trustee survey. Agenda then passed by consent.
Minutes from previous meeting presented and passed (Penny approve, Marla second).

Financial Report

- Balance is still \$2736.21

Staff Report

- coaching is under way for volleyball
- walkathon went well - weather cooperated
- Mme Butterwick is now on leave
- students from the U of C are here (this week and last) to observe in the classrooms - it's been good to have them here
- Campus St. Jean at the U of A is the college for French speaking teachers -
 - an application has been made to have a student teacher here
 - usually student teachers come from the U of C
 - a number of teachers at this school come from this college (Mme Ashley, Mme Marie, Mme Katt, and Mr Raymond)

Admin Report

- Cochrane Youth Task Force
 - several weeks ago Thomas was approached with a survey for the students
 - after review of the questions, feedback was given that sections on smoking, drugs and alcohol use were perhaps inappropriate at the middle school level (survey seemed to be geared more to the high school level) - none of these are perceived to be a problem at this school anyway
 - this feedback was well received and a revised set of questions was presented and accepted
 - Cochrane Youth Task Force is hoping for 30% of grade 8s to participate - Thomas believes they should all be able to complete it
- Staffing
 - there are a number of faces in the school easing back into the workforce after leaves of absences - both support and teachers
- Excellence in teaching award
 - nominations opened on Oct 17 with Feb 3 the deadline
 - can kids nominate a teacher? - yes, but through their parents
- Powerschool - parent portal is open
 - next challenge is report cards (for the end of November)
 - need to focus on learning and the curriculum
 - two people (one from admin, one from the teachers) will be heading to head office tomorrow to get more information
 - are we aiming to eventually not have printed report cards?
 - ideally there would be no more dates to work toward and feedback would be continuous - this requires a balance of ensuring updates to the system happen regularly but are not onerous for the teachers
 - there are no parents without computer access

- the system used to leave voicemail messages to all parents is not yet working with the new powerschool system
 - emails have been going out regularly and seem to be working (each time, with 450 emails, there only ever a dozen or so that bounce back)
- attendance is taken at the beginning of the day and first thing after lunch (since grades 7 & 8 can get permission to leave the grounds at lunch)
- Walkathon raised around \$15,000 (exact count not yet done)
- Lunch room supervisor is needed
 - this is a paid position
 - should arrive about 12:30 to take out the water urn and plug it in (for hot water)
 - lunch tables need to be taken out
 - need to circulate throughout lunch and then supervise outside at 1:12
 - (lunch tables are put away by a group of students)
 - there is currently one supervisor already (who loves the job), but there should be one more
 - one email was sent already but no takers so far
 - perhaps try bus drivers?
 - perhaps see if a lunch room supervisor from another school (with an earlier lunch time) would be interested

Trustee Report

- Colleen helped with the walkathon and had a lot of fun (manned a barbecue)
- organizational meeting was held on Oct 20 - Bruce Pettigrew is the chair
 - committees were organized
 - new committee - General Governance - to determine how the trustees should be visible in the community
- Rockyview's share of the new funding from the provincial government was \$2.87 million
 - \$500,000 set aside for resource funding for special needs
 - \$725,000 set aside as human resources contingency (eg for when new teachers are needed for unexpected enrollment increase)
 - principles need to justify the spending before the superintendent will sign off
- there is a survey available to parents on the RVS website - open until Nov 15 for input on spending
- Friday is the sod turning for a new school in Airdrie
 - this is more of a 'half' school
 - Core building will be admin, bathrooms and a gym
 - classrooms will all be portables in wings off the core
 - this allows the school to be open in record time (for Sept 2012)
 - as money becomes available the portables will be replaced with permanent structures
 - initial population is expected to be 250 students in Kindergarten to grade 2 (eventually will go to grade 4)
 - this could become the Christian School if this program becomes operational in Airdrie
- Board is looking at portable requirements across RVS - in the past this hasn't happened until March which makes it difficult to get the in place for September
 - request has been made for 2 more portables for Manachaban (but this request is about sixth on the list)
- AGM for school boards starts on Nov 20 (lasts three days)
- Current teachers agreement is up on August 31, 2012, but as long as talks are ongoing, there shouldn't be any disruption if this date is not met
- Nov 17 is the joint School Councils/Board meeting - School Council Chairs attend this
- talk by Sir Ken Robinson was very good - left with the depressing notion that we are trying to implement 21st century learning with 20th century constructs (the 'factory model') although Rockyview seems to be in line with his thinking in many ways

Casino

- volunteers continue to trickle in - should have no problem filling

Old Business

- Annual report - will be presented at the next meeting

New Business

- School Annual Results
 - currently at 447 students (up from 397 last year) - 246 in english and 201 in french immersion
 - in the RVS survey - the school improved in all 17 areas
 - 75% of parents say their child's needs are being met (up from 50% last year)
 - access to specialized programs is below RVS average
 - parents say their involvement dropped by 6.4% - no explanation
 - like to believe the school is open to all
 - PATs (Provincial Achievement Tests)
 - Most scores at the acceptable level are above the provincial average while those in the excellence range are lower although there are some exceptions
 - Math and Science French are well above provincial average while English Science is lower
 - students that do not take the test are averaged in with a zero
 - participation at Manachaban is higher than the provincial average

Action Items

- none

Next meeting is scheduled for Dec 6, 2011 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22.