

Manachaban School Council Apr 5, 2011

Present: Mark Kondro
Krista Stronach
Dave Levson
Christina Lewis

Colleen Munro
Thomas Elbel
Sharon Brooks
Stephen Price

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm.

Welcome and Intros

Agenda presented and passed (Christina approve, Mark second).

Minutes from previous meeting presented and passed (Thomas approve, Mark second)

Terry White dropped in briefly to thank School Council for their contribution to Active Living Day.

Review of Action Items from last meeting

- payment from casino money for lunch tables - done

Financial Report

- should have \$2811.15 after paying all outstanding bills (tool boxes, ipod touch cart, active living day)
- Sara should have a full report next meeting

Staff Report

- Report cards went out - all parents should have seen them by now
 - Staff were asked about the timing of the parent/teacher interviews (4-6 weeks before report cards) - most want to leave it as is
- Awards Ceremony - how are kids recognized?
 - recognized for activities outside of school - eg athletics
 - Honor Roll - requires all 'A's and 'B's on report card with no more than 2 'B's
 - Effort Honor Roll requires all '1's and '2's for effort
- Library Changes - presented by Sharon
 - want a more versatile space in the library - move it towards a 'Learnings Common'
 - reference books (dictionaries, atlases) have been removed since all this information is being looked up on-line (teachers have taken these books for their classrooms)
 - non-fiction books have been culled - only popular subjects (eg. war, cooking) and those directly related to the curriculum will remain. The remaining non-fiction have been condensed onto two of the freestanding racks, which leaves two racks empty.
 - it is believed that these racks were purchased by school council many years ago (10+?) but there seems to be no one who remembers for certain. The surplus racks will be passed on.
 - Fiction books will stay but will also have the low interest books removed.
 - a fish tank will possibly be moved to the front entrance of the school
 - useful additions to the library include:
 - three to four study carrels for those individual students who come in to catch up
 - more tables (to replace the now-empty non-fiction shelving)
 - these table should be smaller than the existing ones which would allow them to be moved more easily and would allow more configurations for the various groups that use the library
 - would like a display to highlight new books - perhaps a wall unit like the periodicals
 - CDI Furnishings has been contacted for quotes but these items could also be sourced second-hand

- more kids are bringing in their own laptops and ipads and tables to work on would be useful (current desk areas all have computers on them already)
- working with the school board for virtual resources - eg e-books via overdrive
 - grade 7s and 8s already have access to math books this way
- This is the direction the library should head towards - this is the long-term goal
- This information is presented now for future fundraising ideas

Admin Report

- more kids are doing online learning
 - two are doing advanced 8 math
 - one is doing grade 7 FSL
- use of Google Documents is moving forward - three workshops are scheduled (2 intro and 1 more advanced)
- SEP (School Educational Plan) is due on May 16 - Learning Commons (library changes) and online learning will be added
- May 10-12 is the grade 6 outdoor trip (to Camp Kindle)
- Green Team
 - \$2200 has been spent on unified recycling containers
 - hot lunches - next year will require washable plates (perhaps it will be added to the supplies list for the beginning of the school year)
 - perhaps having such a plate would give a student faster access to hot lunch
 - pack-it-in/pack-it-out will be implemented at Manachaban (as it is at Elizabeth Barrett)
- Breakfast club
 - permission forms were added to the last page of the last school newsletter
 - starting with \$1000 to purchase supplies
 - food handling license for a couple of people should cover health requirements
- Fair Marks Assessment
 - there is a difference between formative and summative assessment
 - there is still some confusion about what NMA (no mark assigned) on an assessment means - need to explain to parents how this works
 - more will be presented at next meeting

Trustee Report

- regarding the marks assessment changes - other schools in Rockyview have tried to change the assessment method - parent involvement is key
- Board of Trustees
 - working on a number of items right now (nothing final to report)
- 3-year plan
 - had student focus groups
 - plan will be ready the beginning of June
 - this document will be used for budget
- Budget Allocation Committee
 - 3% of budget is for their needs
 - rest gets distributed to schools by formula
 - formula is being examined closely and a different allocation method may make more sense based on individual schools
- May 19 is the budget discussion
- Met with the CBE (Calgary Board of Education) today
 - we are in better shape because of growth
 - RV probably has similar staffing
 - RV has no reserves, the CBE does
- Capital expenditures -
 - will meet with Ted Morton in Chestermere tomorrow
 - already met with the Liberal education critic

- three new schools are needed in Airdrie
- 3-year capital plan will be ready soon
- IFCL Digital Citizenship policy is under review (for use of cellphones in classrooms, etc.)

New Business

- Calendar for next year has been approved
- Manachaban Fundraising Committee is in need of people
 - next casino is coming
 - email parents to find volunteers (Thomas to do)
- Other fundraising ideas
 - what about a Cheque Writing Night?
 - just write a cheque and get a tax receipt
 - Balzac Meat fundraiser at Elizabeth Barrett was quite successful (almost \$4500 was raised)

Action Items

- Mark to add review of Fair Marks Policy to next month's agenda
- Mark to contact Dianne to get a list of casino funds and where they have been spent in the past. This information to be provided to Thomas to help generate parent interest in forming the next Fundraising Society Board
- Thomas to send out an email to parents to find volunteers for the next board of the Manachaban Fundraising Society

Next meeting is scheduled for May 3 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29.