

Manachaban School Council October 4, 2011

Present: Stephen Price
Krista Stronach
Sara Busby
Penny Beaudry
Sigi Sengl

Colleen Munro
Thomas Elbel
Katt Hryciw
Christina Lewis
Bruce Woolrich

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm.

Welcome and Intros

Agenda passed by consent.

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

Financial Report

- Balance is now \$2736.21

Admin & Staff Report

- New english grade 8 class started on Monday with 21 students (remainder have 25 and 23)
- Walkathon - new organizing group met on Thursday - Dave Levson is advising the new organizers
 - set for Sept 28.
- resource allocation review for special education - had received quite a cutback
 - appeal to Rockyview brought back \$27000
 - still need to assess incoming kids
 - hoping that the smaller grade 8 classes will help
- Canadian Liver Foundation is presenting in the school again for 6 weeks starting Oct 11
 - one student per class will attend and will then present to their classes
- Casino Nov 29 & 30 - have 20 names - need 16 more
 - volunteers are continuing to trickle in - should have no problem filling the roster
- AISI (Alberta Initiative for School Improvement) for teachers will be on Friday (day off for students) - use of Powerschool (new system for tracking student and marks) will be one important topic
 - people have figured out bits and pieces, but not all
 - not yet available to parents
- First hot lunch is tomorrow
 - 130 reusable rubbermaid plates with lids were bought and to date 122 have been sold
 - this will reduce pizza boxes and styrofoam plates
 - students with reusable plates will be allowed first in line (will see how this works out)
 - there will still be disposable plates available to students
- RVS Satisfaction Survey
 - in 2010 there were 11 parents responding
 - 2011 had 160 parents which makes the results far more valid
 - satisfaction improved
- PATs (Provincial Achievement Tests) are lower though - still need to investigate this
- Terry Fox week went well.
 - this included events like head shaving and a talent show
 - don't yet know how much was raised
- lunch hour concern - some of the football games are becoming increasingly rough
 - seeing ripped shirts and minor injuries

- not grade specific
- may need to take away the footballs for a while - say for a week and then reintroduce by grade?
- maybe get flag football going
- maybe insist on contact below the belt
- Fair Marks Policy - seems to be rolling out well - Manachaban seems to be leading in this area

Trustee Report

- Political Landscape - Alison Redford was elected as leader of her party which makes her the new premier
 - has vowed to restore \$107 million in school funding to hire new teachers but it is school boards that decide where money is spent
 - she has yet to announce her new cabinet
- don't yet have headcount for Sept 30 (which determines how much money schools get on a per student basis)
- Schools are getting up to speed on Powersoft
- PAT and Sat Survey - still need to examine in detail - Grades 9 and 12 French Immersion scores are not where they'd like them to be.
- Policies under review
 - Attendance Boundaries & Attendance Areas
 - anyone can provide input
 - school at 85% capacity will trigger boundary limits
 - draft is up on RVS website, but it would be nice to be able to compare it to the old one
- Inclement Weather
 - if roads are impassible or the temperature reaches -40C with the windchill (at Springbank Airport) school closures MAY be triggered(full forecast for the day must be also be taken into account)
 - School closure call is made by 5:30am - Trustee Bruce Pettigrew makes the call for Cochrane since he lives here
 - Once conveyance begins (busses on the roads) schools will remain open
 - individual bus drivers may choose to delay their route by up to an hour but they must contact everyone on their route to do so
- Board reorg scheduled for Oct 20
- Next week Sir Ken Robinson will be the keynote speaker at a conference in Banff regarding transforming education

Old Business

- Annual report - will present at the next meeting

New Business

- Sample Work Plan
 - what is the purpose of school council?
 - work plan gives ideas for work through the year (eg review RVS policies, review PATs)
 - ideas can go to Stephen or Thomas
 - Thomas would like to see more feedback and engagement from parents beyond just volunteers
 - Bears paw has an inventory of parent skills to make use of during special classes or lunch programs
- Janet Greaves is putting together parent workshops on parenting skills (from Dr Neufeld)

Action Items

- none

Next meeting is scheduled for Nov 1, 2011 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12.