

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 24, 2014

IN ATTENDANCE: Michelle Alm, Chael Wyper, Brenda Kuryk, Andrea Desjardins, Jeff Kearns, Christine Nunn, Bev LaPeare, Peggy Graham, Sherry Bishop, Kathryn Winkler, Sherry Crowe-Swords, Amanda Couture, Jackie Hill.

Chairperson: Michelle Alm
Secretary: Andrea Desjardins

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

The minutes from the January 20, 2014 meeting were circulated and read. Chael made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Kathryn Winkler seconded the motion. All in favour. Carried. There is a change to the minutes with respect to the Westjet fundraiser. It is not 25% - it is 5X value.

Principal's Report

Thank you to Council for the condolence card.

Recap of happenings at the school in the last two months.

Report cards will be coming out on Friday.

Book fair will be held next week. April 3 is Parent-Teacher Interviews

Staffing will be stable for next year. Not looking at any major changes. Myrna will be retiring. We are hiring Andrea Hanson from Irricana.

A Glee Club has been started – guided by band teacher – for Grades 7, 8 & 9.

Options – talk to students and get ideas, talk to staff of what they can teach in the constraints of our school. Business, robotics, art, science, photography, outdoor education, ultimate Frisbee, hockey. Ideas: drama, sewing (have tried in the past – difficult with facilities, equipment, etc.), mechanics (building and tools present challenges). Can the kids be exposed to some of these other options so that they are on par with other high school students and credits leading into career possibilities? We are limited by tools, equipment, storage and space. What about thinking on a smaller scale: hand sewing rather than sewing machines – working with models rather than wood working or mechanics, etc.

Track and field happens in fall and again in spring. Encompasses grades 7-8. Grade 9 falls into high school.

Division Wide Initiative - School Education plan has focussed on – 1) specialization in division 3 – specialized instruction rather than general teachers. Seems to be going very well - 2) implementation of divisional report card – have put that off for now as they learn more – 4 component reporting phase – report card, opening parent portal (attendance, up to date marks, etc. – work in progress) - 3) 3-way conferences with parent, teacher, student – 4) student learner profile part of power school – reporting to future teachers about the students – preferred learning, where they like to sit in the classroom, how they interact, etc. With respect to report cards, this is going to look very different– didn't feel staff was ready and need to educate parents on how to read these, etc. It is still a work in progress – a fundamentally different way of reporting. Peggy would like to have someone from council to help her get info out to parents and to help get background out to other parents. Then they can plan for this new piece of learning. How can we build the parent community to know what to look at, where to look, how to understand the information? Next year we are looking at opening parent portal. Likely look at new reporting the following year.

Student Led Conferences – this is part of the new division wide initiative. This round there is one day for Student Led and one day for interviews. Teachers feel if there are any big issues, they would like to have the extra time to speak.

Universal Learning Environment – improving teaching skills to encompass all the learning styles, learning curves, etc. for students to all grow from where they are. A lot of professional learning has focussed on these things this year. How do you take each student as far as they can go? Not all students can start and stop at the same level and not all students

learn the same way. How do we make our classrooms conducive to all of these things? How do you create a universal learning environment? This is a work in progress and can be a huge challenge. This is a recognition of the reality and how do the teachers address this? These have been big priorities in the school education plan. Does anyone have any ideas on this? Communication between parent/teachers.

See attached principal's report.

Jackie Hill attended. She is taking over for Jennifer Kaminsky while she is on maternity leave. She wanted to thank Parent Council for the cheque. When a new teacher starts – Council gives them a \$200 stipend or starting bonus to use to support initiatives in their classroom.

Trustee Report

Passed the new school calendar for 2014-2015.

Curriculum redesign – strong emphasis is still on numeracy and literacy.

Provincial budget – did not increase the budget – 3.2% addresses new students coming into the system. Budget will be passed approximately June 6. Likely will be in a deficit. \$18.6M in reserves but most of it is already allocated. There is a \$5M reserve – this boils down to 5½ operating days.

10 years – projecting the division to double the students – equates to 2 new schools per year. We are growing approximately 1200 students per year.

Capital plan was approved on Thurs – 3 year capital plan, but it is revisited every year. Chestermere will be getting a K-9 school. Prince of Peace K-12 school is #5. Langdon High School #7, Langdon K-5 has moved down to #9. Also on Capital Plan are schools for modernization and renovation. Indus is at the top of this list. Province looks at many factors, so the Province will likely not ever get funding. RVS will end up using their own money. Funds will come from cash in lieu. Planning for a general modernization to the North end of the school. (Eg cannot see into infirmary from the office. Moving office closer to front door – modify library to be more open and accessible.) Plans not fully drafted or finalized yet. New windows will be part of this. Looking at a multi-phase project spanning a few years. Might start next year, but all speculative. Happening soon: Utility room built – duct work cleaned out.

No increase in instructional fees. Transportation fees will likely have to increase as grants are not keeping up with the costs. Do not want to see rides of more than an hour. Fuel contingency grant was taken away. 1.7% increase to bus drivers. Hard to keep bus drivers.

Treasurer's Report

Casino Account balance - \$41,157.54

General Account balance - \$11,618.00

Coco Brooks funds will need to be deposited and Coco Brooks paid.

Hot lunch will need to be reconciled.

Myrna will need to send in any field trip requests.

At the last meeting, we approved out of casino funds transportation for outdoor school. We need to clarify if that can happen. Camp Kiwanis typically gives us an overall bill which includes costs and transportation. Can Camp Kiwanis separate out the costs and transportation costs? Peggy will check into this. \$250 in the circumstance, that Camp Kiwanis cannot bill separately. If not, Michelle motions to pay out of general. Jeff seconds. All in favour. Carried.

Funding Request

To be a parent driver for Kindergarten, you have to supply a Driver's Abstract. There is an annual cost involved - cost varies based on driving history.. We cannot pay parents for driving, as it changes their insurance. How can we work with

this? Maybe we simply need to communicate with parents if extra costs will be involved for volunteering. Then they can decide if they are still willing to volunteer. Or we could check with the Strathmore Registry shop to see if they would give us a discount when it is for volunteer purposes. Chael would like to make a motion to reimburse parents for the full cost of the driver's abstract for this year at \$25 per person. School will cover staff. We will look at a way to deal with this next year. Sherry Crowe-Swords seconded. All in favour carried.

Fundraising

We want to target to have a Fall Fundraiser and Spring Fundraiser. Coco Brooks in the Fall and WestJet in the Spring. This will set some consistency so we are not having fundraisers overlapping each other.

Staff Appreciation is well underway.

Jackie Hill advised that at her son's school, the school estimates how much they are expecting to fundraise throughout the year. Then they send a letter home at the beginning of the school year asking for your cheque in the amount of \$X. They advise that if they do not hit their target amount of \$X, they will be looking at fundraising throughout the year. Rocky View Schools would issue a tax receipt over \$20. Is this something we want to consider? Not at this time. Better to do Spring/Fall Fundraisers.

AED Update

A parent with children in the school works for a company that donates money to groups in instances such as ours where we are unable to obtain funding elsewhere. Andrea has been in touch with this lady and has provided her with all of the pertinent information. We are awaiting word on whether they will fund our AED purchase, either in full or in part.

Hot Lunch

Seeking nominations for Hot Lunch Coordinator. Can we find someone who will shadow to make an easier transition? Let's put a Want Ad in the next newsletter. Let's spark interest prior to the AGM.

GAIN Casino Gaming Conference

Andrea to look at dates and courses.

Student Council Report

4 members are going to the Middle School Leadership Conference on March 27. 2 reps from Grade 6 & Grade 7 and 1 from Grade 8. This is a full day conference with activities for leadership available to schools in Rocky View where they have an opportunity to share and give different ideas. This is held in Airdrie at the Education Centre.

Classroom Reps

Grade 6's headed to Outdoor School at Kamp Kiwanis with Peggy Graham.

Mrs. Griffin's Retirement

Can the Board do something separate from group gift to show appreciation?

Community Liaison

No news from the community

Additional Items

AGM

Ways to make the AGM more fun – Pot Luck brought from the Executive. Is everyone on board for this? Yes.

Plates, napkins, cutlery, salt & pepper.

Want to get a parent to head up a table at the Back to School BBQ.

Parent Council Table at book fair – Andrea to sit at table to show WestJet fundraiser and have merchandise present.

Thank You

Thank you to Kalyn Gosling who babysat this evening.

Meeting Dates

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The last meeting of the school year will be the AGM on May 12, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary