

## **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**MAY 12, 2014**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Michelle Alm, Brenda Kuryk, Andrea Desjardins, Charlene Gosling, Jeff Kearns, Christine Nunn, Bev LaPeare, Peggy Graham, Sherry Bishop, Katherine Winkler, Sherry Crowe-Swords, Amanda Jo Couture, Jackie Hill, Rachel Cairns, Monique Williams, Erin Sefton, Linda Hopp

Chairperson: Michelle Alm  
Secretary: Andrea Desjardins

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

The minutes from the March 24, 2014 meeting were circulated, read and Michelle summarized the minutes from the last General Meeting. Jeff made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Linda seconded the motion. All in favour. Carried.

### **Trustee Report**

Bev LePeare delivered the trustee report. Her report is attached. Highlights:

Math Curriculum – There has been a lot of negative press in the media and Trustees have been receiving calls. Trustees have asked the Superintendent to put information on the website and send home with parents so that they are aware of what the facts are. They may possibly do an information night in each ward so that parents can come out and ask questions.

Trustees have had meeting with MLAs to look at getting ideas on how to advance advocacy efforts in getting school sites from the Municipalities. If there is no available land when the announcement for a school comes out, then we don't get the school and they move on to the next one on the list. The Municipal Government Act is being rewritten. They are looking to change how school sites are allocated.

Policy is out for feedback right now on the Emergency Closure of Schools – Chael sent this out to parents earlier this month.

There is likely going to be an increase in transportation fees next year. The Superintendent proposed an increase of \$35. A motion was not made. Trustees asked to have this revisited. They could not find any savings that would affect parents so there will likely be an increase. Grants were taken away so the School Board either has to increase costs or take away service. They do not want to take away service. A big debate at the Board level was had regarding costs. What did pass was a \$10 increase to transportation for this year and probably a bigger increase next year. Please email Bev if you have any concerns with this.

A Cochrane group just partnered with RVS to get artificial turf at Bow Valley High School. This might be something we want to look at in our area. Do we know of any big business that may want to partner with RVS to do the same at Chestermere High or potentially Langdon High School. There is a large initial cost but a very long life span with minimal maintenance.

A motion was put forward at RVS to investigate an alternative calendar for Rocky View Schools. This is being investigated. Bev is not sure if it will even come to light to talk about. Nothing would happen without a lot of consultation with parents. Bev simply put this out there so that if it comes out as a survey, etc. we are not blind-sided by it. It is still being investigated at the RVS level.

### **Principal's Report**

Given by Peggy Graham. Chael had carpal tunnel surgery today and is doing well. He will be away until next Tuesday.

4 young people attended at the Leadership Conference and enjoyed it very much. There are many things still in the new phases and much will be a work in progress.

The school had an amazing Talent Show. A great variety of talent was showcased.

Just prior to Easter break, the school had the bunny scavenger hunt. Many classes had the opportunity to get up close & personal with real bunnies.

Mrs. Griffin's retirement – many staff were involved with the assembly and in having the classes perform.

Me to We Assembly took place after that. This gave students an idea of how their fundraising efforts did. This will be handled through Student Council going forward.

Spring Dance grade 6-9 will be coming up.

Options – Chael would like to offer a fabrication option. This would require a 3D printer. He may do a personal fundraiser with the proceeds going to fabrication. They also surveyed kids from grade 6 up to see what they were interested in. Chael wants to raise more money for other options.

On the school website is a parent survey that is critical to help our school planning and jurisdictional planning. Please take the time to do that survey and tell others to do so as well.

Looking at the future – We have had to look at some changes to staffing. We had to look at trimming our budget by 1 person. Instead of cutting a staff member, we hope to cut a bit in a number of areas rather than 1 whole person. For 2014-2015, we will be looking at blended class for grades 4-5 and 5-6 on a full time basis. This will bring changes to scheduling classes as well. We will figure out a way to blend and rotate teachers and students. The AB Government says that by the fall of 2015 they should have Curriculum Redesign in place. This Friday's Professional Learning day will be looking at the curriculum. We had to trim librarian hours. Plan to look at the library as a "learning commons", an active learning place all the time. Kids will flow in and out of the library in place of having a specific library block.

Creating a Constitution for Indus School – student focus groups will be occurring – what do they want the school to be like? what do they enjoy? what do they want to see more of? In September, we would like to get a feel for community being involved at the school and put together ideas for bringing forward a Constitution. This would be the foundation of the character of the school. Hope to have a tangible constitution we can build on. Peggy is hoping parents will also be very involved in this phase.

### **Communication Regarding Student Learning**

Peggy, Michelle, Jeff, Erin Sefton and Jackie Hill have formed a committee. The first meeting was held May 1. The basic intention of the committee is to determine how we best communicate with parents and get exposure out about what is happening within RVS – eg. Parent portal, report cards, parent teacher interviews, creating learner profiles and student portfolios. This came about after the last parent teacher interviews and student led conferences. Change is happening and the school is going to do its best to gradually introduce the different elements of this to parents. Currently grades 7-8-9 are on parent portal. In September it will be introduced to grades 4-5-6. Parents will have access to go on line to see attendance, exams, marks, etc. If you wish to join this committee, you are more than welcome. The next meeting will likely be in October. The school also needs to bring staff into alignment with the expectations. This is all new to both parents and teachers. We would like to ease into it. Let's get the knowledge out there and have everyone in the know so that people can ask questions and provide their information.

Bev says parents get a lot of information out of the Parent Portal. If you find a lack of information on the report cards – there will be more information on the portal. You can also set it up so that it emails you. RVS has sent home a survey to parents whose schools are using parent portal and they are making modifications based on the feedback. They want to launch parent portals across the division before launching new report cards as they go hand in hand.

Discussion occurred surrounding student led conferences and parent teacher interviews being held separately and whether this is the best way to have our meetings with the teacher. An intention is to want your child to take ownership and be proud of what they have accomplished, but sometimes parents don't want their child present for certain conversations with the teacher. Can we possibly look at making adjustments to this?

## **Treasurer's Report**

Tabled to the AGM

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Funding Requests**

Upcoming Field Trips: Calaway Park Trip for Division 1 + Kindergarten is scheduled in June. This will utilize 2 busses. Funding has already been allotted for this.

### **Last Day of School**

Last day of school is Thursday, June 26. Teachers will still be here until Friday. Last day BBQ will be planned by Katherine and Sherry. Previously there has been a hot dog table outside of the staff room and students have been called up by grade. Older students managed the centres.

### **Back to School BBQ**

Meet the Teacher BBQ is normally the second Thursday after school starts – can be inside or outside dependent on weather. There is a need for volunteers to help out so it can free up the teachers to talk with parents. Char says some staff like to serve at the BBQ. We can figure this out to encompass both. We would like to have some members of Parent Council on hand to discuss Council, parent portal, etc. Last year teachers did two separate 15 minute sessions for parents to introduce them to classroom, and give a year at a glance, etc. Also, this is the time we try to find classroom reps.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **AED Update**

Suzanne Hammond is a parent with children at our school. Her company, Tree for Life, has agreed to fully fund the purchase of an AED for our school. Purchasing must go through Rocky View Schools. The AED has already been ordered. Chael is not available at the moment to find out where this stands right now, but we believe the AED should be here before the end of the school year.

We also had the Indus Ringette Team offer us \$500 towards the AED purchase. As we already had it funded in full, we would like to propose another use of this donation to the Ringette Team. Michelle is awaiting a response from Chael for ideas on where to use this money – safety, community, etc. Michelle has responded to Katherine Winkler stating we are looking into what to use it for. We are hoping they will still be willing to provide this money. Currently Council will cover ongoing replacement/maintenance costs. Maybe Ringette will allow us the money to use for this.

Andrea advised that if we register the AED with Alberta Health Services, then if any 911 call goes out from the school, they will know there is an AED on site. Monique Williams also advised that if we happen to use our AED, AHS will replace pads.

### **Staff Appreciation Week**

Staff Appreciation Week was a success.

### **Fundraising**

WestJet – We sold 927 tickets and made \$4635. The winner was Pauline Raymond, who is the grandmother of a Grade 1 student.

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. We may look at some other small fundraisers such as Christmas Raffle, Ten Thousand Villages, etc.

### **Hockey Elective Grant**

Chad Gosling had advised us of a grant that would match what Indus School is paying for the Hockey Elective. This grant is only available to non profit organizations. Therefore, Indus School is running this through Parent Council. It has been approved by Bow North Recreation and will be approved by the MD in July.

### **Myrna's Retirement**

Parent Council gave Myrna a \$200 South Centre gift card. This was given to her at her Retirement Tea.

### **Awards Committee**

Peggy advised that they are putting together an awards committee that will look at ways of recognizing student achievements throughout the school. She thought Parent Council might want to promote something. Let's look at different ways of celebrating our children's successes.

### **Upcoming Events**

Parent and Volunteer Appreciation Tea will be held on May 21. An Invitation has gone out for all to attend.

### **Additional Business**

Sherry Bishop has had Langdon Oddfellows agree to pay for piano tuning on the piano that was donated to the school. Sherry and Mrs. Ischenko have been in contact and are currently working on having this happen.

### **Thank Yous**

Thank you to Rhys Malone who babysat this evening.

### **Meeting Dates**

Meeting dates for the 2014-2015 school year (subject to any conflict with the school calendar) are as follows:

September 22

November 24

January 12

March 23

May 25

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on September 22, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Secretary