

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

IN ATTENDANCE: Michelle Alm, Chael Wyper, Brenda Kuryk, Andrea Desjardins, Charlene Gosling, Jodi Gingras, Amanda Jo Couture, Jeff Kearns, Christine Nunn, Bev LaPeare, Peggy Graham, Sherry Bishop, Jennifer Kaminsky, Meghan McKenzie, Lorrie Potter, Kathryn Winkler, Sherry Crowe-Swords, Tammy Troute-Wood, Bev Busslinger, Herman Kranendonk, Rhianna Royds, Michelle Spencer, Linda Hopp, Daniele Istchenko, Susan Wall

Chairperson: Michelle Alm
Secretary: Andrea Desjardins

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

The minutes from the May 13, 2013 meeting were circulated and read. Amanda Jo Couture made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Char Gosling seconded the motion. All in favour. Carried.

Trustee Report

Introduction of our Trustee, Bev LaPeare. She gave the Trustee's Report. The Report will be attached to the Minutes.

She reminded parents to do the Survey for the New Education Act. The link to the website can be found on Rockyview School's Home page.

Communication of Student Learning Handout – There is a link on Rockyview School's website to this handout. The way reporting is communicated to parents will be changing and they are looking for feedback. This can be done in several ways. You can tell Chael, tell Bev (or cc her on emails) or do it on Rockyview School's website. There will be an email coming from Indus School to parents soon.

At the last meeting, a parent brought up a concern with the poor condition of the parking lot. Chael has submitted maintenance requests, but maintenance is stretched right now. Bev will take our concerns to the Board. There will be people coming out in October to do a maintenance review. The parking lot would be one thing on their review. Paving has been done at some schools in the division. All schools with gravel parking lots are being looked at. There may be an option for cash in lieu wherein 10% of developers money goes to land or recreation. The county holds it and this may be another funding source. There may be other things that take precedence over the parking lot.

Principal's Report

A list of requests has been sent in to the Director of Planning at the Department of Schools based on our Value Added School Review. Some of the things included on the list are more outlets in classrooms and room dividers.

A breakdown of class sizes is attached in the Principal's Report.

With changes in funding from the Division, we are trying to maintain class sizes that are larger than 16-18. The average is around 23. Division funds by classroom. Funding is down a bit because of the possibility of having multi-aged classrooms. We have been funded for 8 rather than 9 classrooms for grades 1-9. In grades 3-6 we have created blended classrooms. There are about 25 kids in each that meet for 1½ hours per day 3 days a week for Phys Ed, Music. English Language Arts extension. These are subjects where grade configuration is less pronounced

A French option has been offered to grade 7-9 through Rocky View School online. The students have assignments and work with Rosetta Stone. They meet online with the teacher and the teacher has been to the school a few times.

Tech Ops; There are 4 students who are building a score clock for the gym. They are programming microprocessors to do LED letters. This is very independent learning, supervised by Chael.

Parent student conferences – looking at a new model for this year.

A parent asked Chael to discuss how blended classrooms came around. – The students are lined up by birthdate and 3 groups were created, split by 18 month increments. This is based on age, like grade structure. The school will be looking at how they are working effectively; looking primarily at what does each student need and are those needs being addressed. There will always be a range in any class of levels of understanding. Please provide feedback to the teacher of that section. Please bring forward any concerns and kudos.

Fundraising Report

We are looking at the following fundraisers for the 2013-2014 school year:

Epicure – kick off mid-October - close mid-November – deliver orders by the end of November (\$1200 profit last year)

Christmas Raffle

Coco Brooks Pizzas – Jeff and Amanda Jo will run this fundraiser. Will look at for Feb/Mar.

WestJet Gift of Flight – April. We can apply for the gift of flight every 12 months. We are able to get this due to having a parent who works for WestJet and puts in volunteer hours with Parent Council.

Tupperware – consider this for Feb/March or possibly kick off to school next September

Ten Thousand Villages – Julie Meier is looking after this

Treasurer`s Report

Michelle Alm handed out our financials which finish off July 31, 2013.

Casino – We received \$46,929.04 in August. Because of drained casino funds from the previous casino, we are drawing on current casino funds to backpay some events (swimming and field trips from Jan-June 2013). This past year, we spent approx \$7000. This approval must be finalized with our casino annual reporting in fall 2014.

What we are looking at going forward from a budget perspective is \$6,000 for 2013-2014 for classroom spending. Each class including PEAK, band and Kindergarten will be granted \$500 per class per school year. Sometimes there are combined field trips so these numbers may not be exact, but this is what we will budget for. Field trips have been fairly consistent from year to year.

Other things we have paid out of casino funds in the past: Sound system, Mad Science Lab, Microscopes, Computers.

Casino funds need to last 2½ years roughly until our next casino. This would be approximately 16,000 per year based on funds we have received. This is approximately what we spent last year for all of the field trips.

Expenditures:

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| 2000 | Bow Valley Ag (\$1000 donation per year in lieu of paying for skating, rental for Christmas Concert, etc. We deferred last year due to low funds) |
| 1800 | Accelerated Reading |
| 2000 | Swimming |
| 6000 | (\$500 per class) |
| 5000 | 1 to 1: In 2005, we received a Provincial Grant. Each student in grade 6 was issued a laptop to carry them through to Grade 12 (which is this year). Council has purchased these each year since and the students pay the tech fees and damages. The cost is approximately \$300 per laptop. In most schools across division, the computers are personally owned devices that students are bringing in. Chael is not in favour of this as the teachers then have to be able to troubleshoot every system. As well, if a teacher has to look at a student's computer for any reason, if it is school owned, there are no privacy issues. It would be about \$8400 for computer expenditure. Last year we moved from supplying computers in grade 6 to start in grade 7 instead. |

The suggested \$16,000 per year is conservative. We also have fundraising planned for the year. General funds can contribute to shortfalls in the budgeted amounts. However, this should be a reasonable amount and we need to be accountable at the end of the year so as not to overspend our casino money.

Funding requests still need to come to the Board. We need to approve each request and we would like requests to come in sooner rather than later.

All of the above are approved to come out of casino funds. We can transfer money from general to pay for these things but we cannot transfer casino money to the general account to pay for other things.

Roughly \$7000 for the year.

Motion to reimburse everything that was not paid to be paid out of current casino funds:

Military Museum - \$235.30

Glenbow Museum – \$470.40

Frank Slide/Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump – \$1000

Band Trip Chestermere High School – 235.20

Calloway Park - \$400 took place of Kindergarten Butterfield Acres trip which was cancelled

Michelle Alm made an omnibus motion to reimburse Indus School \$2,340.90 as stated above out of casino funds. Jeff Kearns seconded. All in favour. Carried

Michelle Alm made a motion to reimburse general account for swimming costs from last year. Amanda Couture seconded. All in favour. Carried.

Michelle Alm made a motion to pay BVAS \$2000 (\$1000 for last year and \$1000 for this year). Andrea Desjardins seconded. All in favour. Carried.

Fundraising Requests

\$250 Grade 6 and Peak for bussing to Sandy Cross Conservation for Oct 3 (approximately 20 students)

\$9000 Chael Wyper - 30 Net Books – computers for grade 7 students

\$1800 Lorrie Potter for Accelerated Reading Program (\$1800US funds approximately based on past year)

3 requests for division 1 from Meghen McKenzie:

\$250 Heritage Park for bussing

\$250 Science Centre for bussing

\$500 Calloway Park for 2 busses (kindergarten attends so 2 busses)

\$2500 Jen Kaminsky - Swimming - This is for bussing and there would be an approximate additional cost of \$189. This amount is based on last year: swimming costs were \$26.40 per child. Parents were charged \$25 and counsel paid the additional \$1.40 = \$189 extra cost. Swimming would be for 5 days from January 6-10 and would include grades 1-5.

3 requests from Danielle Istchenko

\$651 \$1700 to fill out music play curriculum for K-6. We have several binders to teach music from but we do not have all the grades and some have not been updated since the 90's. She has requested a grant of \$279 (30%). Remaining funds requested from council are \$651.

\$1050 For music carpet. K-6 will be taught in the music room this year. This is a sitting on and teaching carpet. (Cost includes shipping: \$749 for the rug \$120 for shipping and \$120 for customs and \$61 for GST.) This is about 2 years of a per class budget and has not included any field trip funding. Not approved from council.

Rockyview Band Festival at Chestermere High. The request is for bussing and parents would cover the entry fee. This would accommodate 48 kids from grades 5-9 so would require only 1 bus. The hope is that parents can take instruments. The entry fee is usually less than \$100 per band and we would be taking 2 bands. Ms. Istchenko would request both bands perform on the same day that only 1 bus would be required. Not approved from council.

A question was asked if the carpets in lower grades are typically paid for through Parent Council. No, they are mostly through the school equipment budget. One was paid for by scholastic funds. This request was put forth to Chael and the school budget.

Michelle Alm made an omnibus motion to approve the following funding requests totalling \$15,201.00:

\$250	Grade 6 and Peak for bussing to Sandy Cross Conservation
\$9000	30 Net Books for grade 7 students
\$1800	Accelerated Reading Program (\$1800US funds approximately)
\$250	Heritage Park for bussing
\$250	Science Centre for bussing
\$500	Calloway Park for 2 busses
\$2500	Swimming
\$651	Music play curriculum

Seconded by Sherry Crowe-Swords. All in favour. Carried.

All funding requests are to come to Michelle Alm for Parent Council. Chael will receive copies.

Upcoming Special Events

Terry Fox Run – Sept 26

Michelle Am made a motion for \$200 to be paid to each new teacher to get their classroom up and running. This would be \$600 total. This would come out of our general account. Jeff Kearns seconded. All in favour. Carried.

Should childcare be offered for the general meetings? Is this a factor for parents to attend? It was discussed that yes, for some parents, this is a factor in whether or not they can attend. Michelle will put this offer into the meeting notices and as long as we know ahead of time that childcare is required, we can arrange it. This will require parents to advise if they require childcare for that evening.

Bulletin Board / Parent Council Corner in Indus School Newsletter - Andrea Desjardins will put a blurb in the monthly newsletter to keep parents in the loop of what is happening with Parent Council. Chael has said there is a digital bulletin board coming that would flip through various information. We will look at putting Parent Council information on here.

Volunteers are required for various events and we wonder what is the best way to reach them. As well, Criminal Record Sector checks must be done in order to volunteer. Chael will send an email out to parents advising them how to go about having this record check done.

Copies of bylaws and meeting minutes will be available on the website. We are working on getting this done. Minutes will be one meeting behind as they will go up once we approve them. A link to Rockyview School Council Resource Guide will be put on the website as well. Chael will do the updating. Andrea will monitor the Parent Council tab.

First Aid

There is a standard set by Rockyview Schools for the number of staff required to have first aid training and what a school of our size requires in our first aid kit. We had one trained staff member leave the school but after this week we will have 3 Standard First Aiders on staff. This will have us exceed the standard. 99% of first aid requirements at the school are basic needs (bandaids, ice packs, etc.) We meet the standard of having the #3 First Aid Kit contents.

In the past, a company had offered to donate an AED to Indus School. At the time, the plan was for Rockyview Schools to put AEDs in each school so we declined the donation. The plan then changed and Rockyview Schools did not end up putting an AED in each school. Can we look at having a corporate or personal donation? Andrea will draft a letter to be sent home to parents. If we do not find a donator, we will discuss at a later date the potential for Parent Council funding based on fundraising initiatives. It was mentioned that AltaLink is coming into the community. Andrea will attempt to communicate with them for a potential donation.

Issues we need to consider are the need to have someone trained to maintain it. Chael advises we can tie this into the school's Emergency Preparedness Plan. We also need to look into the cost of maintaining the AED (eg battery replacement, etc.).

There was a question from a parent as to what the standard emergency response time is to get emergency services out the school. It is usually 10-15 minutes. They generally come from McKenzie Fire Hall.

Class Reps

Teachers were to ask parents for reps. Some did and some did not. We do have the following classroom reps at present:

Sherry Crowe-Swords - Kindergarten

Rhianna Royds – Grade 1

Kathryn Winkler – Grade 2

Tammy Troute-Wood – Grades 3 & 4

Julie Meyers, Susan Wall – Grade 5

Michelle Alm will communicate with the teachers to follow up to try to obtain a representative for each classroom. Council is interested in getting more parents involved with Parent Council. The more people involved, the better planning, communication, etc.

Community Liaison

Herman Kranendonk will be on our board as our Community Liaison. He may not be able to attend all meetings. We would like to have him spread the word to the community about events happening at the school. For example, the Terry Fox Run. Can he put this out to the community to come and participate. Herman suggested that if bus drivers could donate their time, this would reduce the cost for parent council.

Meeting Dates

Meeting dates for the 2013-2014 school year:

November 25

January 13

March 24

May 12

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on November 25, 2013 at 6:30 pm.

Chairperson

Secretary