

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 25, 2013

IN ATTENDANCE: Brenda Kuryk, Andrea Desjardins, Charlene Gosling, Jodi Gingras, Jeff Kearns, Christine Nunn, Bev LaPeare, Peggy Graham, Sherry Bishop, Kathryn Winkler, Sherry Crowe-Swords, Tammy Troute-Wood, Herman Kranendonk, Shawn Fritz, Michelle Spencer, Gordon Shrake Sr., Gordon Shrake Jr., Adam Winters, Pam Tanner, Emma Tanner

Chairperson: Brenda Kuryk
Secretary: Andrea Desjardins

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

The minutes from the September 23, 2013 meeting were circulated and read. Tammy Troute-Wood should have been listed as classroom rep for grades 3 and 4. Christine Nunn made a motion to adopt the minutes as read and with this change to be made. Jodi Gingras seconded the motion. All in favour. Carried.

Classroom Reps – nothing to report from any rep for this meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Casino Account balance - \$42,150.67
General Account balance - \$14,457.51

We have not yet received the invoice from the Accelerated Reading program. This should be approximately \$1,800 US. Peggy Graham will look into this.

The casino report is almost completed and must be submitted annually.

AED Update

Andrea Desjardins has been in contact with Rocky View Schools regarding purchase of an AED. We have an estimated cost of \$2,100 which would include a battery and 1 set of pads, a carrying case, adult smart pads cartridge, child smart pads cartridge, extra battery, DVD/CD instructors toolkit, fast response kit and alarmed wall cabinet. This also includes an initial training session. Ongoing costs would be to replace any pads (if used) and to eventually replace the battery, although word from RVS is that they have not had to replace theirs in 6 years. We had approached AltaLink for a possible corporate donation, but were declined. We were going to pursue a personal or corporate donation, however Bev LaPeare has indicated that there may be grant money available for this. Andrea will follow up on this.

Funding Request

Adam Winters has approached Council regarding the Grade 7-9 outdoor education camping trip to Kananaskis Country this week. He is asking for \$500 to offset bussing costs. This is about half of the total cost. Grades 7-9 may be looking at a social studies field trip later in the year, but other than this, he does not anticipate any other funding requests to be brought forward this year. This \$500 request would fall within the approved budget previously set for \$500 per grade for funding requests. Kathryn Winkler brought forward a motion to approve this funding request. Jeff Kearns seconded the motion. All in favour. Carried.

Trustee Report

The Trustee Report is attached to the Minutes. Highlights include:

Report card format is changing with RVS. They are trying to streamline throughout the schools at Rockyview. Check out the link at <http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/news/communication-of-student-learning>. Please provide your feedback to your teacher or principal or email to assessment@rockyview.ab.ca. Please cc Bev LaPeare on any comments or concerns at blapeare@rockyview.ab.ca. As way of explanation, if child transfers from one school to another, the reporting is streamlined. They want to have it reflect 21st century learning. Assessing and reporting will be different. The report card is just one of the ways of communicating from teacher to parents. If there is anything in the language that you don't understand or don't think is appropriate, if you have comments on the percentage range – if you are concerned with it, or if you love it – please let them know. Bev is asking to be cc'd on your comments so that they can gather all feedback and try to put forward something that works for parents. Peggy Graham, in her role as Assistant Principal, works with teachers to look at ways of assessing and reporting learning and competencies. If you have comments, please also let Peggy know.

It is always your right and your responsibility to send or not to send your child to school in inclement weather, regardless of whether the school is open.

If you have a classroom concern, please talk to the teacher as first point, next to a school administrator (Chael Wyper or , Peggy Graham). If at this point you still feel a satisfactory resolution has not been achieved, contact the Associate Superintendent of Schools. After that point, it would go to the Rocky View School Board. If that is the case, please contact Bev LaPeare and she will advise of the appropriate channels.

Excellence in Teaching nominations are being accepted until February 7. Nomination forms are on Alberta Education website.

Nominations are being accepted for the Great Kids Award. This is put on by Alberta Human services for recognition of a child who has done something outstanding in the school, community or the home. Visit www.greatkids.ab.ca.

There is a Christmas Card Contest available to student in grades K through 9. The winner of the contest will have their Christmas card design used for Rocky View School Division Christmas card.

Principal's Report

Chael was away sick. The Principal's Report was delivered by Peggy Graham. This report is attached to the Minutes.

An architect will be looking at the school for sight lines, etc for a re-orientation. We have issues with the electrical, however but no one wants to go inside the walls. Therefore we will have to find appropriate ways to utilize what we have. The windows hopefully will be done this summer.

Excerpts from the School Annual Results Report are included at the end of the November newsletter. Please take the time to read through it. The newsletter can be found on the Indus school website.

Fundraising Report

Epicure brought in \$110 and 3 baskets. Janet Antonishyn (Epicure representative) was going to donate the baskets for our Christmas Raffle. She has also donated \$80 to Indus School. We will keep the Epicure baskets and possibly look at using them for a fundraiser in the new year.

There is a general feeling from parents that we are having too many raffles/fundraisers. We also need to keep in mind other things at the school such as field trips, and costs coming up for parents that are happening at the same time. We do not want to bombard them. Therefore, we will not be having a raffle at the Christmas concert this year.

Ten Thousand Villages will be taking place on December 12. Further information will be coming home shortly. Julie Meier has organized this.

Coco Brooks Pizzas – Jeff Kearns will run this fundraiser sometime in February or March of 2013.

WestJet Gift of Flight – Andrea Desjardins will run this fundraiser. We will look at doing this again in April.

Char Gosling is looking for 2-4 volunteers to take over fundraising and special events. Char would continue to handle merchandise orders. Sherry Crowe-Swords has volunteered for fundraising. Kathryn Winkler and Sherry Bishop have volunteered for special events.

Student Council Report

Peggy Graham has worked with the grade 6 and grade 9 classes who have democracy as part of their social studies curriculum. One way to have a voice is by having a student council. Grades 5 through 9 held nominations and elected a Student Council:

Grade 5 – Justin Wenstrom and Arianna Kasha
Grade 6 – Ethan Hiebert and Emma Tanner
Grade 7 – Marcus Gutfriend and Miranda Ruckaber
Grade 8 – Gordon Shrake and Shaylee Dressel
Grade 9 – Bhan Bol

These students will be matched up with Kindergarten through Grade 4 students to bring the voice of all students to the Council so activities undertaken by the students fit all ages. All the representatives were eager to take on Executive Roles, so names were drawn and the Executive is: President – Ethan Hiebert; Vice President – Justin Wenstrom and Secretary – Emma Tanner.

This is a work in progress as to how the school would like their student council to function. Student Council will eventually bring forward an opportunity to hear from parents, community and alumni of the school and, from that, develop a Charter from there. They have had a few meetings but are just starting out.

Gordon Shrake and Emma Tanner attended the Parent Council meeting. Gordon advised that he would like to do a Heritage Day. He wants to see how people celebrate, what cultural items they have, how they dress, what they eat, etc. Another idea of his is Hobby Day where students would come and tell everyone what their hobbies are, what they would like to do in the future, etc. He also feels it is important to bring awareness to bullying.

Emma Tanner is the secretary for Student Council. She advised that for November Student Council will be selling fake moustaches – hairy ones and sparkly ones for 75 cents or 2/\$1. Half of the money raised is going to the Movember men's cancer fund and the other half will go to Student Council.

Peggy advised that we want to have peer helpers outside at recess and lunch. They will not be policing, but will be looking for people who need a group or someone to play with. This is to circumvent any bullying issues. The students are also interested in having a winter dance for the older students. They would also like to speak to Mr. Wyper about more choices for the older students for going outside, even on colder days. Another interest is in vending machines. They are full of lots of ideas. There will be a focus through Student Council on wearing blue and dressing in school colors to raise school spirit.

A parent asked if Parent Council would be willing to donate an Epicure basket to Student Council for them to raise money to start off their student council. Executive agreed.

Hot Lunch

Jugo Juice is November 26
Pizza day is December 10

We are averaging approximately 112-122 meals per hot lunch. Jodi Gingras did have someone raise a concern about the Subway lunch, that many of their cookies contain nuts so this is not a nut free facility. Jodi has checked vendors and feels that sourcing hot lunch vendors that are nut free is an impossible task. Is this a requirement for hot lunch?

A parent raised the argument that many schools are "Nut Aware" not "Nut Free". However, Indus School purports to be Nut Free. Is this simply a matter of changing verbiage? From a liability perspective, can Indus School even claim to Nut Free?

Andrea Desjardins made a motion that Parent Council is requesting Indus School to investigate the liability of claiming to be Nut Free and to advise council on their policy. Christine Nunn seconded the motion. All in favour. Carried. As of December 11, 2013, the Hot Lunch program is hereby suspended pending the outcome of the School investigation.

Community Liaison

No news from the community. Hermann will advise seniors of upcoming Christmas concert.

Additional Items

A piano is being donated to the school for the music room. Terry Megaffin's daughter is donating this. The logistics of moving the piano are being worked out at the moment. A parent raised a question as to whether we have a piano tuner? It is about \$150. Tammy Troute-Wood knows a good piano tuner if one is needed.

Thank Yous

Thank you to Emma Gingras and Koby Gosling who babysat this evening.

Meeting Dates

Remaining meeting dates for the 2014:

January 13
March 24
May 12

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on January 13, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

Chairperson

Secretary