

Sturgeon Heights School Council Minutes AGM Monday September 27, 2010

1. Call to order at 7:05pm
2. Approval of Agenda: Christine Toner approved, Suzanne Radchenko 2nd .
3. Approval of May 10, 2010 minutes: Suzanne Radchenko approved the minutes and Christine Toner 2nd .
4. **Administration Report – Garnet Goertzen**
 - Have been working on strategies to mesh with the priorities and goals set out in the spring collaboration process. These will be brought to the October meeting.
 - Class sizes are good; enrollment is up a bit in ECS area and down some in Jr. High. Elementary and Jr. High class sizes meet guidelines set out by the Division. Class size in the primary grades is slightly higher than Division targets however money is being provided to support more teaching time at that level and will be filled with a reading intervention specialist who will work with students in small group settings.
 - This year SHS will pilot the concept of having Parent Teacher Interviews 3 weeks in advance of reports cards. Due to the new reporting system parents will be able to access up-to-date progress and grades in advance of the interviews. **Interviews are currently scheduled for November 8/9** and report cards will be sent home at the end of November.
 - The introduction of the SIGIS program has so far been very positive and a smooth transition that appears mutually beneficial.
 - In the continued effort to promote a safe and caring environment at SHS staff has formalized “cross grade’ activities. These are scheduled times when younger students work in various capacities with older students. Cross grade activities happen for 1 block in each 8 day rotation.
 - Disappointing turn out at the Technology Information Night on Sept, 23rd. Only 3 parents turned out. Continued efforts to share information regarding expectations around technology will be explored.
 - **Upcoming events:** Thursday, Sept. 30 will be the first fire drill; Monday, October 4th is a bus evacuation drill right upon arrival at the school; Thursday, October 7th the Thanksgiving Celebration will take place at 10am in the gymnasium.
5. **Administration Report – Wayne Rufiange**
 - Later this month a letter will be sent home to parents with instruction on how to log on to the new parent portal where they can find information regarding progress and marks of their child. Each family will have their own username and password. Teachers will be required to update Gradebook twice a month.

- New schedule includes a split lunch and new recess to accommodate greater access to the gymnasium and promote daily physical activity. Students now go outside before they eat lunch. Cindy Hamilton noted that students appear to be hungrier after playing outside and therefore eat a better lunch; however, concern was expressed regarding there not being enough time for the children to finish their lunch after coming in from the recess. Garnet acknowledged this issue and stated that they have discovered a way to add 5 minutes to lunch eating in an effort to alleviate this problem. This time apparently does not interfere with the required instructional time. Tracey Buryska asked about the disruption caused by having Jr. High students in the hall while the younger students are in class. Garnet informed council that while it has been somewhat disruptive they continue to work with the Jr. High students to remind and encourage them to move through the halls quietly and respectfully. This is an issue that will be monitored closely.
- Jr. High students will be continuing with the Goal Setting program that was implemented last year. Parent feedback is that they have a better opportunity to be involved in the setting of goals and now will be responsible to sign off on goals each month.
- As a response to parent concerns regarding student's capabilities in keyboarding, the Jr. High schedule now includes a 54 minutes block every 8 days devoted to using the "Custom Typing" program. This program is free to use and available online so students can access it from home. Thought is being given to extend this class to grades 5 & 6 by December.
- The new schedule is an 8-day rotation which basically ensures that the same classes are not being missed when Monday or Friday is a holiday or when sport teams travel every Thursday afternoon. Mandi Papadopoulos requested that the rotation be included in the monthly calendar that is sent home in the newsletter so parents can keep better track of their child's schedule.

6. Trustee Report – Wendy Miller

- Municipal elections are happening right now and there is only 1 trustee position being decided upon in Redwater, all others, including Wendy's representation of Sturgeon heights, have been determined. Council is very happy to have Wendy back as our trustee.
- Last spring the board approved a balanced budget which was made possible by the Minister of Education stepping up and providing school divisions with the required funds to support the teachers' salaries set out in the 5-year terms agreed upon 3 years ago.

7. Chairperson Report – Tracey Buryska

- Tracey shared her Chair Year End Report (see attachment) with council
- **Coffee with the Principal** will continue. There was some discussion of switching it from morning to afternoon but it was decided that they would try rotating the schedule to have 2 in the morning and 1 in the afternoon. First one is scheduled for **9am on Friday, October 15th** in the conference room. Everyone is welcome to attend this informal meeting to discuss timely issues that they have.

- Tracey telephoned about 20 families new to SHS to welcome them and invite them to the School Council Meetings.
- Alberta School Council Association is offering a video conference entitled “Effective School Councils” to which all are invited to attend. It will be held twice, once in the afternoon and again in the evening, on October 19th at the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium.
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8. Teacher Report – Cindy Hamilton

- Cindy reported that she is happy to be back after a year teaching in Scotland. She shared with council some information about her experience.

9. Parent Fundraising Association Report – Suzanne Radchenko

- New items in Snack Shop appear to be popular and younger kids seem to be bringing money to buy from snack shop.
- The **Nutrition Committee**, a committee that is open to anyone who is interested in determining food choices for snack shop, will be meeting on **Monday, December 6th at 7pm** to review and revise snack shop options and determine any changes to be instituted in January.
- The current point value from the Labels for Education program will be donated to the Positive Playground Program to purchase new equipment for the program. There is some talk of the Leadership class becoming involved in this project to continue to increase awareness of the donation of labels, encourage students to collect and donate, and be involved with the decisions on the items purchased through the program for Positive Playgrounds or other options. Their involvement will be discussed further at the next PFA meeting
- Jill Smith, Karri Thompson and Christine Toner agreed to take on the Entertainment Books fundraiser as last year we made \$2800.00 through this fundraiser. However, the books were sent back to the organizer as we had not determined soon enough that we’d continue participating. We may be able to get them back? There is a possibility for a Community Gift Pack fundraiser to replace Entertainment Books which will be explored this week.
- PFA will meet at 6:30 on the same night as School Council meets (third Monday of each month). SAC meets at 7:30pm. **Next PFA meeting will be October 18th at 6:30pm.** Items up for discussion include purchasing a retractable screen and projector for the gym, our application for a casino, future fundraisers and issues arising from the operation of snack shop. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

10. Old Business – Tracey Buryka

- Life Touch came to the school and took spring photos of the students. The school received \$1 for each child photographed and the school was given a cheque of approximately \$340.00. This money belongs to School Council and will be earmarked to support the High Flyer Program and/or Positive Playgrounds.

There was some discussion that parents felt the photographer put more effort into the spring photos than the usual fall school pictures. Garnet agreed to mention the disappointment shared with the recent school pictures with Lifetouch.

- Results from the questionnaire regarding the parent Expo that was held last spring were compiled and it appears that all who attended were very happy with the conference and the speakers. There is a great deal, from those polled, to hold a parent Expo again this year.

11. Elections

School Council

Chair: Tracey Buryska

Vice Chair: vacant

Secretary: Motion agreed upon to have this as a rotating position

Grade Reps: Jr. High – Jill Smith

Elementary – Lynn MacDonald

Primary – Mandi Papadopoulos

Parent Fundraising Association

Chair: Suzanne Radchenko

Vice Chair: vacant

Secretary: Lynn MacDonald

Treasurer: Christine Toner

Scheduler: Debra Rose

Hot Lunch Coordinator: Debra Rose & Kerri Thompson

Shoppers: Milk – Angela Baldwin

Supplies – Jill Smith & Kerri Thompson

Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm

Next meeting - Oct. 18, 2010 at 7:30 pm in School Library