

Sturgeon Heights School Council Minutes

Tuesday February 28, 2011 @ 7:30pm

1. **Call to order and introductions:** 7:32pm
2. **Additions to Agenda:** none
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Mandy Papadopoulos approved, Steven Paches^{2nd}.
4. **Approval of January 17, 2011 minutes:** Cindy approved, Karrie Thompson^{2nd}.
5. **Administrative Report – Garnet Goertzen**
 - Review planning stages for 2011-2012 year
 - K-6 recess before lunch-feedback, should it continue? Cindy Hamilton noted that primary has had some struggles but issues have been addressed. Five minutes was added to lunch time which helped.
 - Junior high lunch-considering overlapping lunch/recess with primary and having a split lunch.
 - Cross grade activities-feedback? April commented that the kids love it and get to know each other while having positive interactions.
 - Report cards-feedback regarding having interviews prior to the report cards.
 - Positive comments were made regarding this and most parents seem happy.
 - Negative comments were that there was not enough time in between.
 - Thoughts are to have interviews the first week of November and report cards the first week of December. Then have interviews the first week of February, followed by report cards the first week of March. This way it is more like having 4 reports.

After discussion, the above topics were approved in principle by the Parent Council.

 - Learning Garden – Information handout given to all meeting attendees.
 - the plan is to have a vegetable garden (20'x30') with 75 potato hills and the same for pumpkin plants. The perimeter will consist of raised flower beds.
 - Cross-grade team will manage portions as well as possibly SIGIS during the summer months.
 - There are seven goals and timelines pertaining to this project and volunteers will be needed. A work bee may be considered for tree clearing/wood chipping as well as rota tilling. The school would like to have parent support.
 - The Toyota Evergreen Fund will fund up to \$3500.00 per year.
 - Concerns are that it may be difficult to maintain during summer months; the fear of vandalism; and that there may be some additional costs for lumber, bedding plants, and topsoil. Possibly school funds to cover?
 - Tracey Buryska made a motion to accept the school's proposal for the current Learning Garden. All in favour none opposed.
- Topic of educating students regarding sexual discrimination.

-A presentation was given to grade nines by The Institution for Sexual Minority Studies and Services (ISMSS). Consent forms were sent home and only one student opted out of the presentation.

-Should there be info sessions also for grade sevens and eights in the future? Mandy suggested that it is part of being socially responsible.

-Tracey asked if it would be possible to offer a parent info session from ISMSS. Steven agreed that parents should be informed in order to properly engage in conversation with children at home.

-Garnet will look into having a parent info session possibly in late April.

- WITS program
 - Our grades 1-4 have been asked to be a part of a research study for this anti-bullying program which stands for Walk away, Ignore, Talk about it, Seek help.
 - We will be a control school and not benefit directly from this program, but continue to practice our normal anti-bullying routine.
 - Parents and participants will be surveyed once a year for the next three years. A consent form will be sent home for children to be surveyed.
 - The school gets paid \$1200.00 for supporting this program.
- Darren Herd Presentation
 - Youth addiction awareness presentation by Darren Herd is being offered to grades seven, eight, and nine.
 - Fee of \$500.00 of school funds matched by anonymous donations.
- Open House April 13, 2011
 - Community BBQ 5-6:30pm
 - School will buy burgers and hotdogs. People will eat in the gym.
 - Hope to have new projector installed (funded by PFA).
 - After 6:30 classrooms will be open for interaction.
 - School Council should have a committee to help with the barbecue. Have classrooms bring buns, condiments, etc. (via roster list).
 - Tracey and Suzanne looking to organize volunteers.
- Coffee with the Principal
 - Next date is set for March 15 from 2:15-3:10pm.
- Healthy School Environment Binder
 - This school nutrition handbook is available for viewing if anyone is interested.
- Shrove Tuesday March 8, 2011
 - Christine has a list of several volunteers to help.
 - There has been an anonymous parent donation of \$500.00 to offset costs, plus an additional \$2.00 fee per student.
 - Students will set up tables and parents will hand out food and juice. Set out food between 11:15-11:30.

6. Trustee Report – Wendy Miller

- The budget released in February by the Provincial government has hit all school divisions hard. The Board is currently in the process of determining how it will impact Sturgeon Division.

- In response to parents in Morinville, the Board has asked Administration to prepare a report indicating the various considerations and implications relative to the establishment of a secular alternative education in Morinville.
- Sturgeon School Division is participating in a provincially led program entitled "Tell Them From Me." In support of increasing student completion of high school rates, this program evaluates student's level of engagement in social, academic and intellectual areas. This anonymous survey gives students an opportunity to provide feedback to their teachers and school administration on how they feel their programs of study can be improved to better meet their individual needs.
- Transportation Committee investigating "fly bys". These are people who ignore the flashing lights on busses and do not stop.
 - Drivers are completing charts on when and where it happens.
 - Looking at providing an educational campaign to raise awareness.
- There is a new brochure from the Division.
- Sturgeon Heights is getting great exposure from local papers (i.e. St. Albert Gazette).

7. Chairperson Report – Tracey Buryska

- Shrove Tuesday
 - Thank you to Christine and the anonymous donor for making it possible.
- A.C.S.C. Report
 - Tracey and Karrie attended the Council of School Councils meeting at Camilla in February.
 - 7 schools in total were represented
 - Camilla school council brought in a guest speaker from the Council and was gracious hosts.
 - Some activities included discussion on why people volunteer for school council positions and why they choose to stay involved.
 - We have the general number of attendees at our council meetings compared to the other schools in the division and we are doing a great job.

8. Teacher Report – Cindy Hamilton

- Artists in Residence Program
 - Rooney and Punyi Mime Education Theatre
 - Grades 1-8 classes will have 5 one block sessions.
 - Students are having a lot of fun.
- Early Dismissal (Staff Meeting days)
 - Chaos at lunch time
 - Some students are not eating and telling teachers that they will eat at home.
 - Parents are picking students up at various times prior to the 12:20pm dismissal time, causing confusion for staff.
 - Students are scattered and this becomes a security issue if they are leaving the building, as well as excess traffic in the parking lot.
 - Should we consider changing dismissal time?
 - Possible suggestions to eliminate lunch and dismiss earlier.
 - Wendy will take this to the board after gathering more facts. We need to ensure that kids do not go home hungry.

9. Parent Fundraising Association Report – Suzanne Radchenko not present

- Christine Toner mentioned that Suzanne was prepared to go ahead with the projector at approx. \$14000.00 plus electrical and with the I.T. person that was recommended.

10. Grade Rep Reports

- Kinderstart
 - Cindy reported that the students are still on the theme of “Oceans” and are learning a lot.
 - Profiles Gallery came in and they experienced Vincent Van Gogh painting.
 - Parents seem happy and are all coming back next year.
- Primary
 - Mandy reported that everyone is happy.
 - Grade 3 went to the Museum while researching rocks and minerals.
- Elementary
 - Grade 4 projects on levers and pulleys.
 - Grade 6 fieldtrips to The Bennett Center and Aviation Museum went well.

11. Old Business

- Parking lot concerns
 - Safety concerns regarding increased traffic and limited parking.
 - Parents are worried that someone will get hurt or that there will be a collision between vehicles.
 - Tracey offered a solution of placing tags on windows indicating parking errors such as blocking the fire lane and handicapped stalls.
 - Snow pile is a huge issue and taking up space. It was scheduled to be removed, but the maintenance person is on leave. Wendy has offered to look into this further.
 - Kinderstart and St. Albert students have added to the volume. Considering changing start times for Kinderstart for next year to help resolve the issue.
 - Drop off lane was suggested as well as the removal of trees to the north of the parking lot. All options are being reviewed by the transportation department.

12. New Business

- Barbecue volunteers
 - Tracey to take care of organizing volunteers.
- Ideas for Open House Involvement:
 - Advertise volunteer requirements
 - Garnet suggested a power point presentation-advertise track meet, snack shop, learning garden, new initiatives etc.
 - Have a volunteer signup sheet and also encourage school council and PFA support.
 - Should a pamphlet be handed out again?
 - Suggestions were to have less information and be more direct.
- Dates of Interest
 - Learning our Way as Inspiring Albertans – March 17, 18, & 19.

- Literacy and Learning Day – April 9 at Grant McEwan
- Margaret Trudeau May 9
 - Garnet has a couple of extra tickets for her lecture on mental illness if anyone is interested. She is coming to five places in Alberta speaking to principals and guests.
- Parent Expo
 - Are we hosting another parent expo?
 - Suggestions were made to have less speakers.
 - Possibly combine it with the parent info session on sexual minority acceptance?

13. Date for next meeting – March 21, 2011

- There should be a PFA meeting scheduled for that night as well.

14. Adjournment – 9:29 pm