

School Council Meeting

Jan. 22/18

6:32pm – 8:00pm

In Attendance:

- Anie Wells (Principal)
- Karen Hetherington (Chair)
- Rafaela Marques (Vice Principal)
- Randilee Connolly (Special Events Chair)
- Nathan Davies (Treasurer)
- Karin Hamon (Vice Chair)
- Amber Remillard (Parent)
- Alice Lang (Secretary)

1) Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm. Chaired by Karen Hetherington

2) Agenda Approval: Approved with the addition of Bus payment system and lunch time dance program under new business.

=> *Karin Hamon made motion to accept with additions; 2nd by Karen Hetherington. All in favour. Motion carried.*

3) Review & Approval of Minutes of Nov/17: A correction under the Principal's Report. It should read: "on cold days, children take turns alternating (by floors) between activities in the gym or lunch for recesses"

=> *Motion made by Karin Hamon to accept minutes with above correction. 2nd by Nathan. All in favour. Motion carried.*

4) Reports

a) Executive Reports:

- City Wide: Next meeting is on Jan 23 @ 7pm @ Eastview.

- the March 6 meeting will be @ Central Middle School. AB School Council Association is inviting us to go as they will be hosting 2 sessions that evening to discuss School Councils purpose & the work of School Council. We do need to RSVP by Feb 26. See Karen Hetherington for more details & to RSVP. Generally, the City Wide meetings run from 7-8:30pm – likely the workshops will follow the meeting.

- Karin Hamon will be attending tomorrow night's meeting

- Resolutions have been put forward to the AB School Council Association (ASCA) to bring forth at their Convention in April in Edm. These will be put to the AB Minister of Education to pursue. Resolutions have been sent out for us to review and are attached. The ASCA is asking us to review and submit comments if we have any. Comments are due by Feb. 28 and if you have any comments/feedback, please pass them on to Karen Hetherington who will ensure they get back to the ASCA.

b) Principal's Report:

- Thank you for a fantastic movie night! There was great attendance (200?!) and lots of fun and popcorn!!
- We will have 4 student teachers joining us for their Practicums: EA Epiphany (Gr 3F); EA Maria M. (Gr 3G); Social Worker Practicum Christy F.; Student Teacher Practicum for Gr 2. They will be for various dates and schedules.
- Recent Professional Development Day was spent prepping for Gr 6 provincial achievement tests. Looking at how the staff can help the kids prepare. A session also done for K-G2 about proper printing techniques and letter formation.
- Preparing for middle School: Currently in midst of looking at staffing for next year. Meeting with HR Dept tomorrow am to plan. Wants to build consistency and have staff retention vs having to rely on short term visiting teachers. Example might be having the same Spanish teachers for all the Gr 2's and a different English teacher for all of them.
 - They had distributed to the Grade 5 students an Options survey to see where their interests lay. They were asked to choose the top 4 options that interested them (starting in Grade 6 they would have 2 options/semester). The first year of options the Gr 6 students will all have the same options given the limited # students.
 - Choices of Options presented to the students were: yoga; cinematography; folk dancing; foods; recreational physical education; technology; sewing; French; drama; German; arts & crafts; scrapbooking
 - top 4 choices were: cinematography; foods; sewing; drama
 - the 2nd year, we would be blending Gr 6 & 7 together and so there will be more choices. If an Option is wanted and not available in Gr 6, it may become available in Gr 7
 - the school will take the votes into consideration in the planning
 - Anie & Rafaela confirmed that Science will be a core subject (dissection will be in it!)
 - this is the start and options may vary from year to year
- the school will be hiring a Gr 4 teacher & a Grade 6 teacher for next year
- Alice provided info on the pilot music program being done by the Catholic School Board at the Red Deer Catholic elementary schools. For the pilot, they have brought in independent music consultants to teach music to Gr 5 students 1/week. They will cover 4 different kinds of instruments to give them a better exposure to a variety of instruments. Hoping this will garner more interest in the music program and to help retain students in music classes. The classes are inexpensive at roughly \$30/class, however there is the cost of the instruments to consider as well a teacher will need to be present during the classes. Anie will look into this to see if it's something that will work for Vista Grande as the parents would like to have a music option here. Alice will pass along contact info to Anie to facilitate this.
- Accountability Survey – this is how the schools are rated. Hoping for a high rate of response to ensure we have accurate #'s and results. This will be sent to Gr 4 & 5 students and their parents. Paper copy will be sent home. All responses are analyzed per students; parents; &

teachers. If parents don't know an answer, they should answer "don't know". Next year we will have PAT results.

- Welcome to Kindergarten Program. Red Deer Public will continue with this although the Catholic School Board has decided to not partake this year. Public Board is asking for \$100 from each school to put together grab bags.

=> *motion made by Anie W for school council to contribute \$100 towards the Welcome to K Program to prepare the bags for the kids; Karen Hetherington 2nd. All in favour; motion carried.*

- Currently we have 30 students registered for Kindergarten

- Skating program (Sra. Marquez): Schedule has been set up for teachers to sign up. How long the skating program runs will depend on student & teacher interest. School has skates/helmets for students to use. The first week of the skating program no skating was done given the weather. Last week was great skating. Family skate has been set for Jan. 31 @ 2pm. Sra. Fernandez is our health champion and will be looking after hot choc for this event. The school has keys to the skate shack so this can be opened for the event.

- lunch hour activity: chess club being held Tuesdays at lunch. Kids eat lunch in Anie's class room and then can play right away. Wednesday & Thursday is intramural floor hockey. Mix groups Gr 1 – 5. There are refs and coaches & shoot outs.

- upcoming events:

- Jan. 24 Hot lunch
- Jan. 30 = Pizza lunch with Gr 5L
- Jan. 31 = 10:30 am school assembly & Family skate @ 2pm
- Feb 9 = No school. District wide learning date
- Feb. 19 - 21 Family Day & winter break.
- Feb. 22 & 23 Teacher Conferences

c) Treasurers Report (Nathan):

- We came in under budget on movie night & candy canes for Christmas concert
- We have roughly \$20k in account but Cutie Pies hasn't been paid yet. After they are, there should be about \$16,500
- No payment went through for Cutie Pies? 817 pies sold. Nathan will follow up with Jem
- Steeped Tea. \$250 donation hasn't come through? Nathan to follow up with Jem
- AdMazing books have been paid for

d) Fundraising Report (Jem absent):

- No events until Spring. Nothing to report at this time.

e) Special Events Committee (Randilee):

- Candy Canes were on hand after Xmas concert for all who wanted one
- Some families questioned why we didn't have the usual food / drinks social gathering after the Xmas concert
- Movie night was good. Huge thank you to Servus Credit Union Taylor Branch for the popcorn machine. They also donated the popcorn for the event. Karen has already given them a thank you card. Discussion had that maybe we send them a school picture and thank you card at end of year as we may seek the use of the machine again for another function
- Dance Event will be on May 4, Karin Hamon working on some different themes/ideas:
 - o Luau
 - Karin H. wants to teach Polynesian dance from Spanish speaking countries to students so they can perform at this dance. 2 dance groups (1 for boys & 1 for girls) will be needed as she will be focusing on 2 different countries. Looking for interested students from Grades 3, 4 & 5. There will be simple costumes – for the girls: triangle tiara with feather; feather boas & white skirt; boys: black shirts, shorts, face painted. Practices will be once a week. Mon & Fri is open given the lunch time activities currently going on. Need a teacher to supervise. Would need some \$ to put together the costumes.
 - Looking at bringing in Food trucks again, they were extremely popular. Trying to keep them to same theme as dance though it may not be necessary.
 - o Star Wars theme (May the 4th Be with You?)

f) Hot Lunch (Tammy absent):

- All going well
- Next one is Press'd this Wed

5) New Business:

- Bus Payment feedback: When paying online you must pay for the entire year at time of registration. This can be financially tough to do especially for families busing multiple students. Hoping they can put in some more flexibility. Anie confirmed she will look into this and it shouldn't be an issue to change.
- Alice question re the lockers issue. Anie confirmed the school hallways are not wide enough to allow lockers on both sides. What this means then is that we need to have half height lockers to ensure we have enough of them. Looked at sourcing the ones from the Pines but it would mean we would have to replace the flooring after they are taken out of the Pines so this is not economical to do. Query why would School Board make our school a K-8 program when knowing on one hand that lockers are a requirement and that we have none here, and yet not provide funding for it? No answer was available for this. However, Anie and Rafaela did advise they are getting conflicting information from the Facilities Dept (dept responsible for lockers) and possible now they may be covered? Anie to check into it more.

- Randilee: Re the school sign out front - can we change the sign out front to have more up to date information? Sra Marquez confirmed that she looks after the sign and it is difficult to do as it takes quite a bit of time to change and messages are limited by the letters we have.

- It was suggested that parents may be interested in helping with this to facilitate more up to date messages; as well we may need to consider ordering more letters.

- On a similar note, question asked when the school name and slogans would be changed over to Vista Grande and the Quetzal? Anie confirmed request has been sent into the Facilities Dept and we are waiting on painters. Name signs have been ordered.

- Amber: How much notice do teachers on maternity leave need to give re intent to return? There is no official policy. Anie is already working on this.

7:59 pm adjourned.

Next meeting will be on Feb. 26 @ 6:30pm.