

School Council Meeting

Sept.18/17

6:30pm – 8:00pm

In Attendance:

- Anie Wells (Principal)
- Karen Hetherington (Chair)
- Rafaela Marques (Vice Principal)
- Randilee Connolly (Special Events Chair)
- Melanie Holland (Parent)
- Nathan Davies (Parent)
- Cathy Peacocke, Trustee Liaison RDPSD
- Karin Hamon (Parent)
- Amber Remillard (Parent)
- Jem Mathieson (Parent)
- Alice Lang (Council Secretary)
- Mike & Anjulie Relkow (Parents)

1) Meeting called to order at 6:29 pm. Chaired by Karen Hetherington.

2) Welcome to Cathy Peacocke. She shared some insights:

- a. School fee reductions have been put in place. Busing costs have dropped, lunch fees removed
- b. Don Campbell school has now opened
- c. City wide meeting will be a meet & greet of candidates for School Board Trustees. Nomination day closed today. Candidates' information are posted on the City of Red Deer website
- d. Excited that we now have Mental Health workers in place at schools. They will work with the children specifically while the Community Liaisons work with the families. There are 6 Mental Health workers now and there can be another 6 added in later. They will be rotating around the schools.
- e. School move to Vista Grande is done – congrats and well done!

3) Agenda Approval: We will move Hot lunch back to follow Special Events in Reports section. We will move New Bus. – middle school programming under the Principal's Report.

=> Karen Hetherington made motion to accept with the above 2 amendments; 2nd by Randilee. All in favour. Motion carried.

4) Review of minutes from June meeting. Anie advised of 2 corrections to be made:

- *ISA spelling correction, pg 4*
- *Pg 6 Sprit Days will be typically once/month, not every Friday*

=> Motion made by Karen Hetherington to accept minutes with above corrections. 2nd by Randilee. All in favour. Motion carried.

5) Elections for Vice Chair & Treasurer.

- a. Vice Chair = fills in for Chairperson during their absence
 - Prepares agendas with Chair for meeting
 - Communicates with committee Chairs
 - Works with school
 - Promotes team work and assists where can
 - Be prepared to take over as Chair retires after their term
 - Attends City Wide meetings as representative and reports back
 - Is a 2 year term

- b. Treasurer = keep records of financial transactions
 - Ensures records are avail for parents/school board to review
 - Collecting paperwork for invoicing; reconciling accounts & paperwork
 - Once a year needs to do financial report/statement for prior year
 - Is a 2 year term

Anyone who is a parent/guardian of a child at this school can hold a position on the Parent Council.

a) Vice Chair Election

1st Call for nominations: Randilee nominates Karin H., who allows name to stand

2nd Call for nominations: Amber nominates Jem Mathieson, who allows name to stand

3rd Call for nominations: No others are put forth, nominations for the position of Vice Chair are closed. Vote done by secret ballot. Anyone who is a parent/guardian of a child attending school is eligible to vote. Ballots are counted and Karin H. has been elected with 6 votes vs Jem 4 votes.

b) Treasurer

1st Call for nominations: Amber nominates Nathan, who allows name to stand

2nd Call for nominations: Jem nominates Amber, who doesn't want name to stand

3rd Call for nominations: No others are put forth.

Nathan acclaimed as Treasurer

6) Reports:

- a. Executive Report (Karen Hetherington):
 - i. Annual Report. Had a successful fundraising year. Sale of the AdMazing coupon books raised \$4,500 roughly for school. The Mixing Spoon mixes raised just over \$700. Raised funds were used to sponsor field trips, purchase agendas. Special events: Penguino Popcorn (raised \$ used for Field Day events & treats); Family Movie Night in Jan & Cinco de Mayo dance. Hot lunch program was well received & the Healthy Hunger online ordering works great.

Question from Randilee: Did the school get the \$ from BP receipts?

Answer: No, we haven't seen the funds this year. Unsure what happened with the receipts.

This was a fundraiser we've done for last two years. 1st year generated about \$700. Randilee will look into doing it again this year. Karen Hetherington will check into last year's receipts.

- ii. Expense Reimbursement. During the summer, there was a tragic loss to staff member. Executive decision made to order sympathy flowers & fruit arrangements. Karen Hetherington asks if we would agree to reimbursement of these funds, \$160.12.

=> Motion made by Amber, 2nd by Randilee. All in favour.

b. Principal's Report (Anie W.):

- We have 194 students registered; 39 in kindergarten. Average class size is 19 students
- lots of new staff:
 - 3 visiting teachers from Spain
 - Rafaela Marques, Vice-Principal
 - Angela Bain (Gr1) from Edmonton Spanish bilingual school
 - Rose = caretaker
- great team work from everyone over the summer for the move and set up
- despite all the new staffing, lots of past programming will continue:
 - Character education. 1st virtue is cooperation.
 - digital citizenship. Tech lead at Central working on educating students about digital citizenship and dangers.
 - students and teachers reading together. Teachers ID students who would benefit by being paired up with adult. 3x/week for first 15 mins of silent reading the students see the paired staff to read together.
 - buddy reading program continues
 - student services putting out newsletters to parents to help parents support the work teachers are doing with our students
 - learning assistant team. Anie is the learning service rep, students who need reading help meet with her and Chelsea Ramsey. Teachers can access their services to help work with the child and other experts who may be needed to support the children to ensure their success at school. Could be with OT etc
 - Raz Kids reading program
 - Zones of Regulation. Helping children to recognize their emotions so can self regulate better and ID the emotions in others as well.
 - New focus on numeracy. Mathematical Mindsets book purchased to give teachers new ways to help students embrace math
 - IPP's & Behavior Support plans
- last year when we bought all the resources, we also bought math intervention kits
- have a LET room with resources they can use to help teach too

- We will have another school wide theme. Last year was FNMI. This year will be a zoo theme. Hopes for a whole school field trip to the Calgary Zoo. This theme also ties in well with being a UNESCO school as it will cover animals, their habitat, environment and sustainability.

- Rafaela Marques: Has put together a Crisis Intervention/Response Plan. It outlines the school's evacuation procedures; lockdown procedures; where to meet in the event a relocation is needed (St. Leonard's Church); plans for a missing child; attempted abduction etc. We have an Automated External Defibrillator on premises. This protocol is written for the teachers/staff and the district. Parents can look at it if requested. If practices are held, notices will be sent home to the parents.

- Rafaela and Vanessa getting more info on School Messenger via Power School. Moving all schools to this vs Remind. School district still working on this.

- The school is using FaceBook and Twitter for updates right now. Twitter follow "EVgrande". Escuela Vista Grande Facebook page is the one with the quetzal on it. Links can be found on the school's website. There is also a Parent's & Guardian's Facebook page managed by Parent Council.

- Class Dojo being used by some teachers to communicate with Parents

- new this year: elimination of school lunch fees. Staff are now supervising lunches. Grades 4 & 5 eat together. Teachers can only be assigned a limited amount of extra assignable times.

- Busing is a concern. For families who live outside of Red Deer, there is no busing option. Red Deer Catholic does bus out to Red Deer County and beyond. This has resulted in us losing a few families. Busing costs have dropped from \$750 to \$300. The school lost another child today as busing was taking too long at 1.5 hours.

- Cost to bus child to school of choice is about \$800. The school district is subsidizing this. There are roughly 40 students who take the bus. Our attendance boundaries are the City limits. We have 3 shuttles that pick up throughout the city and then meet at Gateway to then bus the kids to Vista Grande.

- One of the downsides to going to a school of choice is longer bus rides.

=> Feedback was given to Anie from parents on busing:

- lack of communication to parents on when children will be picked up or where

- Nathan: Kids this year are being dropped off without a parent there?

=> Anie will look into the above

- Another concern for parents: What are the plans for next year?? Options? We are a K-8 school. For Grade 6 next year we will have 18 kids if they all stay in the program. With these #'s, it would be difficult to offer a lot of choices for options. Anie will be meeting with Eastview to discuss having joint options classes together at Eastview. Eastview does have a bus. We may have access to it, but we would have to split costs of busing. In the first year we

may have limited options for the kids. Typically, a middle school student would have 2 options/semester. Anie is asking for patience so they can come up with some alternatives.

- student leadership & extra-curricular activities are another parent concern. More choices are coming. Gr4's will do am announcements and greet visitors. Gr5's will have Student Leadership and be office assistants. Student Leadership is optional; office assistance is not.

- budget. Staffing # is reduced this year, Rafaela and Anie are able to fill in the gaps

- we are a small school so limited data to assess. Gr 2, 3 4 & 5 testing coming for more data

- Accountability Pillar Gr 4 & 5 parent response needed

- Step Up Program. Allows access for food; clothing etc. for those students in need. Currently we are not supporting any families.

- We will have RCMP resource officers 2 / school.

- Important dates coming up:

- Sept 19 = Dawe Run & Terry Fox run (alt date is Sept 26)

- Sept 29 = Orange Shirt Date to support FNMI. 2 pm assembly

- Oct 5 = Parent Teacher Conference 9am-7pm. Informal discussions at set times. No report cards at this time

- Oct 6 = Staff learning day. No school

- Oct 9 = Thanksgiving

- Oct 10 = City wide council meeting @ Don Campbell @ 7pm

- Oct 17 = School pictures

c) Treasurer's report:

Balance at end of June \$11,910.65. Agendas to come out still. More info needed from Vanessa for start of school year financial transactions.

d) Fundraising committee:

o 226 AdMazing books sold so far

o Orders are being filled weekly as best as we can. Books will be sent home with our children. Campaign runs until Sept 30. We have a lot not sold right now. What isn't sold will be returned. This is our largest fundraiser, so big push for this.

o Sounds like kindergarten students didn't get the pamphlets to take home

o Jem offering assistance to help if needed

o In Oct meeting we will select what we want to raise \$ for. Some thoughts:

▪ School wide trip to Calgary Zoo. Anie to look into more info on this

▪ Classroom books

▪ \$ for teachers to have incentive program

▪ Agendas

▪ First Aid training for staff (currently only have 1 staff with First Aid training)

• Rafaela, Vanessa & 2 other teachers will be going to Fairview for group session @ \$45 each

▪ Grade field trips = \$600/grade set aside last year.

- Purchase subscription for Web resources in Spanish \$159/teacher/year.
Teachers tools.
- Before Oct meeting, exec will meet to discuss fundraising.

e) Special Events (Randilee C.).

- Popcorn sales will be continued. Randilee looking into this
- Movie night will be on Jan 18; School Dance on May 4 ; Year end Field day on June 20

New Business: Tentative future meeting dates are Oct. 23, Nov 20, Jan 22, Feb 26, April 23, May 28, and June 18 @ 6:30pm. Evening meetings confirmed to be the best time.

Motion made by Karen Hetherington to adjourn meeting at 8:05pm. 2nd by Randilee. All in favour.

Next meeting will be Oct. 23 @ 6:30pm.