

Aurora Academic Charter School Council Meeting

April 14, 2015

In Attendance: I. Gray; J. Rockwood; N. Gidda; E. De Gooyer; A. Powell; A. Huhn; Paula Mayo; A. Hoffman; S. Rana; S. Weiwel; D. Shannon

Regrets: M. Pon;

Parents/Guests in Attendance: Angelina Omari (student council representative); Vanessa Tran (teacher with Student Council); Senait Salih

Board Member in Attendance: Rehana Devji

1.0 Call to Order - 6:02 pm by S. Weiwel

2.0 Addition/Changes: Move 13.1 & 13.2 to the beginning of agenda; add 13.3 Wifi concerns; 13.4 Teachers Day/Week

3.0 Approval of Minutes from March 3, 2015

Motion: S. Weiwel moves to accept minutes as presented.

Seconded: A. Hoffman

Carried: All in Favour

13.0 New Business

13.1 School Start Program – Colin from School Start explained their program, the following information was presented:

- Order form per grade
- Order is based on teachers needs with exact brands; product guaranteed
- Home Delivery via Purolator (with no signature required)
- Incentive to order in June
- Guarantee all products (broken, missing, incorrect)
- Can put black out dates on order form when NOT to deliver
- No P.O Boxes (if someone puts one, they send through the mail)
- Packed the same day order is received for late orders in late August/September
- \$5 late fee after August long weekend
- Option for parents to donate money which the school can use to order additional supplies
- Shipping charge and late fee charge is per order NOT per kit

Discussion took place regarding whether we would like to do this.

Motion: A. Hoffman

Second: S. Weiwel

Carried: All in Favour

13.2 Student Council Information – A. Omari (Co-President of Student Council) updated School Council on the dinner/dance evening for grades 5-9 on April 24th. The event will run from 4-6:30pm. Grade 5-6 \$2 charge per student and any students in Grade 7-9 who did not sell their chocolates from the fundraiser at the beginning of the year will also be charged \$2 per person.

A. Omari reported that Student Council wanted to purchase one new fountain/bottle filler each year. They are planning on purchasing one this year, however it is cheaper if you purchase two. A. Omari and V. Tran asked if School Council would like to work in partnership and purchase two new fountains. V. Tran is also hoping that if students see School Council working with the Student Council they may be more motivated to participate in fundraisers. Discussion took place.

Motion: A. Hoffman moves that we contribute up to \$3000.00 for a new water fountain.

Second: S. Weiwel

Carried: All in Favour

4.0 Board Report:

R. Devji reported that the Board has an update on the renovations. R. Devji explained that there is a delay in receiving the funds from Capital Management with Alberta Education. The upcoming election has stopped many funds from being released. R. Devji reported they have the tender packages ready but will not go to tender until they have the funds. R. Devji also reported that there are still a few things to be amended in the plans by the architect.

R. Devji reported that the school has purchased Power Schools as the software that the school will be using as the current system is no longer reported. There will be training for teachers and administrators.

R. Devji reported that the Board is also looking at busing routes as they have been asked to have them changed.

Discussion took place regarding above information and some questions regarding the Communication Committee. R. Devji is hoping for more teacher engagement and is hoping that having regular meetings will help. A. Powell expressed that the last meeting many teachers were out of the school at the Journal Games. V. Tran expressed that the meetings continue to be put on the same week. V. Tran suggested if the meetings could be set, for example, Communication Committee meeting is the first Wednesday of every month and the Policy Committee meeting is on the second Monday. Discussion also took place regarding having a yearly calendar (possibly housed in Google) that teachers could plan around and then the meetings could be moved if for example, the meeting date fell on the Journal Games again. R. Devji expressed these were all great ideas and would take them back to the Board.

5.0 Elementary Principal Report:

I. Gray reported the following:

- Kindergarten meeting went well. In the past everyone on the list was invited but this year it was only the families who have a child registered. This format worked much better.
- Charter School Conference is in Calgary next year on October 30, 2015. I. Gray sits on the conference committee. Aurora Academic Charter School will be presenting on a few different topics including some of the research being done at the school.
- Professional Development was on curriculum assessment and Grade 3 & 4 teachers will be developing their own final exams for language arts and math.
- SLA (Student Learning Assessment) was done this year and overall it did not go as smoothly for the government as they had hoped. Aurora teachers will still continue with the SLA for the next year.
- Currently our school does not Track or Code students with any issues other than English as a second language (ESL). The school is not going to track or code students but the teachers will gather evidence of students with mild or moderate issues as it is part of the government requirements.
- Programming plans have been worked on with J. Rockwood and D. Bischoff and decisions will need to be made soon. Preparations times are changing a bit, questions around whether French is kept as a mandatory program in K-4 is being considered and decisions regarding what all of these changes will look like scheduling will need to be made. Options considered are more physical education and Safe & Caring School would mean that French would be removed from the elementary school programming. Discussion took place with some parents wanting French to stay in programming, others wanting more physical education. Parent consultation will take place regarding this.

6.0 Middle School Principal Report:

J. Rockwood reported on the following items:

- As I. Gray mentioned above, programming decisions will need to be made soon such as having French as an option.
- Current options are drama; foods; sports performance; art; musical theatre; no sew fashion
- Professional Development included assessment and common final exams
- Recent event was the Regional Science Fair with Aurora students receiving awards and two students winning and going to the National Science Fair in New Brunswick. R. Devji reported she had attended and Aurora Alumni students approached current Aurora students and wanted to see their projects. It was great to see the Alumni doing that.
- Badminton and cricket are current activities taking place.

7.0 Treasurer's Report – D. Shannon reported the she did not have a balance to present at this meeting. Last amount was \$12,914.17.

8.0 Fundraising Report – A. Huhn reported that we will need people to count the money that comes in from the Spell-A-thon. Counting is to take place on Thursday, April 23 at 3:30 pm.

9.0 Request for Funds from School Council:

9.1 A. Powell reported that the letter presented this evening to the School Council is asking for funding for the Sports Day which is held on the last day of classes for the elementary school. A. Powell explained that usually they have a hot lunch to help fund this day, however, the hot lunch money has been going to fund the writer program for next year. A. Powell reported there will be an obstacle course, freezies, bubbles, face painting, water bottles, etc... A. Powell reported they committee is asking for \$1500 for the event. A. Powell also asked if School Council would be interested in doing the lunch on that day. Discussion took place.

Motion: A. Hoffman moves we provide \$1500 for the Summer Sports Day

Second: S. Rana

Carried: All in Favour

10.0 Beautification Report – A. Huhn reported that the Mural has been approved and it should be in the school in May.

11.0 Communications Report:

11.1 School Council Emails – Nothing to report at this time. Stephen will check School Council emails for this month.

11.2 Newsletter – Announce the amount made for the Spell-A-thon.

12.0 Board Reports:

12.1 Technology Committee Report – No meeting recently.

12.2 Communication Committee – A. Huhn sent out meeting minutes to School Council in advance. A. Huhn reported that the only thing she would add to the minutes are that there is still some “healing” that needs to be done between the teachers, board and school council. A. Huhn and R. Devji agreed that hopefully with time and regular meetings some of the issues will be addressed. A. Huhn reported that the next meeting is April 22, 2015.

12.3 Transportation Committee – Committee meeting coming up soon. M. Pon will attend as our representative.

12.4 Policy Committee – Committee meeting coming up soon. A. Hoffman reported she was not able to attend the last meeting but will try to attend the upcoming meeting on Monday, April 20th. Minutes were sent to everyone.

12.5 Growth Committee – S. Wiewel will attend as our representative.

13.0 New Business:

13.3 Concern of too much WIFI in schools being detrimental to students health. A. Huhn reported that everyone received the email and document from Marcey Kliparchuk – Alberta Safe Schools and Canadians for Safe Technology Volunteer. Discussion took place regarding the many issues. A. Hoffman expressed it was a concern for her. S. Wiewel suggested if the school is doing

renovations, cable could be added so that each room could have a router. A. Huhn reported she had looked on the World Health Organization website and could not find any documents or information where they state they believe there is a problem. School Council decided at this point there is nothing we will do regarding this issue.

13.4 A. Huhn reported that she has been speaking with parents on other School Councils and they celebrate Teacher Day and Teacher Week. Discussion took place regarding this topic and it was decided we would like to do something but we will discuss this among just the parents on the School Council via email.

13.5 S. Weiwei reported that he had looked into the School Council conference and provided information to everyone on topics, what happens on each day, etc... S. Weiwei is interested in attending and A. Huhn reported she may as well.

14 Announcements - Nothing to report at this time

15 Topics Tabled for next Meeting – Articles of Association will be discussed in May; School Council doing the lunch at Sports Day.

16 Next Meeting – May 5, 2015 6pm

17 Adjournment – A. Hoffman moves to adjourn meeting at 7:52pm