

Aurora Academic Charter School Council Meeting

June 2, 2015

In Attendance: I. Gray; J. Rockwood; N. Gidda; A. Powell; S. Rana; A. Huhn; Paula Mayo; A. Hoffman; D. Shannon; M. Pon

Regrets:; S. Weiwel; E. De Gooyer

Parents/Guests in Attendance: L. Makepiece

Board Member in Attendance: Rehana Devji;

1.0 Call to Order - 6:09 pm by A. Huhn

2.0 Addition/Changes: Add - 13.1 – Casino; 13.2 – Road Signs; 13.3 – Cleaning; 13.4 Basketball Courts

3.0 Approval of Minutes from May 5, 2015

Motion: A. Hoffman moves to accept minutes as presented.

Seconded: M. Pon

Carried: All in Favour

4.0 Board Report:

R. Devji reported that the NDP government has officially restored the funding for new students which brings a great deal of relief in regards to the school budget. R. Devji stated that we do have the accumulated budget which would still need special permission from the Education Minister. R.Devji reported that at this time the school does not plan on using any of the accumulated budget in which we would need to seek special permission.

R. Devji reported that there is some thought on whether to pilot the GPS tracking for school buses and if we did it would probably be the Riverbend bus as this is the one that causes the most difficulties for the school. R. Devji stated it is pricey to use the GPS system.

R. Devji stated that the board was meeting on Saturday, June 6th to discuss the construction. R. Devji reported that they had eleven companies and that they had narrowed it down to six. R. Devji reported that everything is ready to go meaning the permits, etc... are all done, one company will be chosen and then hopefully construction will begin soon. R. Devji stated that the finish date would be December, 2016.

R. Devji reported that Shumka has asked for an extension and the board had not made a decision at this point.

5.0 Elementary Principal Report:

I. Gray presented a written report (see attached). I. Gray also provided a copy of the Elementary School floor plan. I. Gray reported that himself and L. Makepeace have developed this plan and have shared it with the teachers. I. Gray reported that this is not final but something he would like feedback on. Discussion took place regarding the plans.

6.0 Middle School Principal Report:

J. Rockwood reported on the following items:

- The fountains have been installed, with the elementary fountain working and the junior high fountain waiting for electrician to finish it.
- Denim day raised \$900
- Mural will be installed on June 19th
- School Supply list will be going out soon
- Road signs have been getting positive feedback from parents
- Programming for next year will be grades 6-9 French will be optional and the following year it may become optional for grade 5. This will allow for more options for junior high. There will be a dedicated health period
- Grad is June 6 and will be at the school which will allow for more families & staff to attend.
- Track & field team has 3 students in the city finals

J. Rockwood presented School Council with a plaque showing appreciation for the sports funding we have given.

7.0 Treasurer's Report – D. Shannon reported that the current balance is \$14,386.69. D. Shannon reported that outstanding invoices of \$7,000 for mural, \$3000 for water fountain, \$1500 for sports day, which will leave us with approximately \$2886.69.

8.0 Fundraising Report – Nothing to report.

9.0 Request for Funds from School Council:

9.1 J. Rockwood requested \$800 for books for the graduation class. School Council has funded these books for many years.

Motion: A. Hoffman moves we provide \$900 for the books

Second: M. Pon

Carried: A. Hoffman; M. Pon; P. Mayo; S. Rana; A. Huhn were in Favour

Abstained: D. Shannon

10.0 Beautification Report – Nothing to report at this time.

11.0 Communications Report:

- 11.1 School Council Emails – Nothing to report at this time.

- 11.2 School Newsletters – M. Pon questioned why a notice to parents had not been sent the past few months regarding newsletters. I. Gray reported that the Elementary Newsletter is ongoing not just monthly, however, he suggested an email reminder could be sent out. I. Gray will look into this and ensure reminders are sent.

12.0 Board Reports:

- 12.1 Technology Committee Report – No meeting recently.
- 12.2 Communication Committee – No Meeting recently.
- 12.3 Transportation Committee – No Meeting recently.
- 12.4 Policy Committee – No meeting recently
- 12.5 Growth Committee – No meeting recently

13.0 New Business:

- 13.1 Casino – M. Pon reported that we had discussed Casino's at our last meeting but she was hoping to follow up with more conversation. M. Pon proposed that we move forward with looking into a Casino. M. Pon reported she had not been able to chat with Dr. Bischoff and questioned why this was a step that we had to take. I. Gray reported that the School Council's primary role is not that of fundraising but that does not mean that the School Council could not look into having a casino. I. Gray suggested it would be best to ensure the Board of Directors was aware as it helps maintain positive relations. A. Hoffman stated that many of the students and their parents could belong to a faith in which gambling is offensive. A. Hoffman stated she would like to see the parents surveyed before we proceeded with applying for a casino. I. Gray suggested that the survey could be similar to the survey himself and J. Rockwood developed regarding programming issues. I. Gray stated it was basic and open and simply allowed people to put their opinion down. Discussion took place. A. Huhn stated that the motion she is putting forth is not whether we proceed with a casino license but simply to do further investigation into whether we should or not.

Motion: A. Huhn moves that we proceed with investigating the potential of applying for a casino which would include:

- a) M. Pon to meet with School Superintendent
- b) A. Huhn and M. Pon to develop survey (which school council will approve) and then to send the survey to parents

Second: D. Shannon

Carried: All in Favour

Action: M. Pon to meet with Dr. Bischoff & A. Huhn & M. Pon to develop survey, seek approval from council and send to parents.

- 13.2 Road Signs – M. Pon reported that she too has received really positive feedback on the road signs and questioned whether we need two more for the school. Discussion took place.

Motion: D. Shannon moves that we purchase 2 additional road signs.

Second: M. Pon

Carried: All in favour

- 13.3 Cleaning – M. Pon reported that people have complained that the bathrooms are not cleaned & well maintained well and she has noted that one washroom stall has not been repaired for over a year. I. Gray stated that if people have concerns they should inform the head office and it can be dealt with.

- 13.4 Basketball Courts – S. Rana asked if grade six would have access to the basketball courts. J. Rockwood reported that they are waiting for a key as the previous key was broken but confirmed that grade six and all other older grades will have access to the courts.

14 Announcements - Nothing to report at this time

15 Topics Tabled for next Meeting – Articles of Association

16 Next Meeting – September 8, 2015

17 Adjournment – A. Hoffman moves to adjourn meeting at 7:20