

# Aurora Academic Charter School Council Meeting

May 5, 2015

**In Attendance:** I. Gray; J. Rockwood; N. Gidda; E. De Gooyer; A. Powell; A. Huhn; Paula Mayo; A. Hoffman; D. Shannon; M. Pon

**Regrets:** S. Rana; S. Weiwel;

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

**Board Member in Attendance:** Rehana Devji; S Mukhi

**1.0 Call to Order** - 6:00 pm by A. Huhn

**2.0 Addition/Changes:** Move 13.1 to the beginning of agenda; add 13.3 Traffic; 13.4 Fundraising Opportunity; 13.5 Sports Day (last day of school)

**3.0 Approval of Minutes from April 14, 2015**

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

Seconded: D. Shannon

Carried: All in Favour

**13.0 New Business**

**13.1** Student Council report from Jasleen Bajwa:

- Water Fountains have been delivered and J. Bajwa thanked School Council for assisting with funding.
- Grad class is going to do a \$2 denim day for Mufti-Day on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Grad class will use the \$2 for their graduation
- Grad is “Red Carpet” and graduation is being hosted at the school in the gymnasium

**4.0 Board Report:**

R. Devji reported that the turn out for the program meeting was excellent as approximately 50-55 parents attended. No decision has been made at this point.

R. Devji reported that the next Board Meeting is on May 19<sup>th</sup> and anyone is welcome to attend. R. Devji reported at times they do go “in camera” so there could be some portions of the meeting that people in attendance would not be able to listen to. R. Devji reported that the school can use some of their surplus to assist with costs that are not funded but no decisions have been made as of yet but will be discussed on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Discussion took place regarding funding and the possibility of having a new Education Minister who may change current plan.

S. Mukhi reported that he wanted to ensure that parents do not need to worry about the budget. S. Mukhi reported that it will be a tough year but feels confident that there will be no split classes or larger classes this year. Discussion took place regarding whether these things could happen in the following years.

## **5.0 Elementary Principal Report:**

I. Gray reported the following:

- The program meeting was very good and that there are lots of parents who liked both programs that were primarily discussed.
- Felt the meeting was very positive gathering and that parents are passionate about our school.
- There were some interesting ideas that did come up, some that had never been considered.
- Teachers have been surveyed as well and that in making a decision all aspects will be considered.
- Professional Development days have been spent curriculum development; charter evaluation and the budget will play a factor.
- In the process of asking teachers what they want to teach as this is the time to move to a different grade and/or what they would like to teach.
- School is looking at reserves and what can be done with them.

A question was asked about school fees and if they could be increased. I. Gray reported that all school fees need to be justified. Discussion took place regarding the school fees.

I. Gray also reported that teachers have discussed homework as well.

## **6.0 Middle School Principal Report:**

J. Rockwood reported on the following items:

- Appreciates support at the program meeting as many council members attended.
- Homework is a standing item for Middle School.
- Mural should be up by May 22-24
- Professional Development is working on common final exams
- Next PD day is May 29<sup>th</sup>...discussion took place as the last PD day was not announced nor was it in the Agenda.
- Thanked School Council for the lunch at the PD day, it helped set a mood.
- School Start is in motion
- School dance went really well, approximately 120 students attended.

**7.0 Treasurer's Report** – D. Shannon reported that the current balance is \$14,831.56, which includes the spell-a-thon \$5700. D. Shannon reported that outstanding invoices of \$7,000 for mural, \$3000 for water fountain, \$1500 for sports day and costs of PD day have yet to come out of balance.

**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. Huhn asked that we consider spending up to \$125 for new plants to go into the two larger planters at the front entrance.

**Motion:** A. Hoffman moves we provide \$125 for the planters

**Second:** M. Pon

**Carried:** All in Favour

**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.

**12.0 Board Reports:**

12.1 Technology Committee Report – No meeting recently.

12.2 Communication Committee – A. Huhn reported she attended the Communication Meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Most of the discussion was around the budget concerns. A. Huhn will send minutes out to all School Council when she receives them.

12.3 Transportation Committee – I. Gray reported that the meeting that was recently held had 15 parents in attendance. Items discussed included have a GPS tracking system, that transportation should be cost recovery, and the Windamere route. The GPS tracking had mixed feelings and it would have to be cost recovery at approximately \$10/month.

12.4 Policy Committee – No meeting recently

12.5 Growth Committee – No meeting recently

**13.0 New Business:**

13.2 Lunch Supervision – I. Gray reported this has been discussed at staff meetings as well. I. Gray reported that it is difficult to fill the needed spots and that the junior high students help but they cannot do it all. I. Gray wanted parent feedback on what we would think about flipping lunch times. I. Gray reported this had been discussed in the last couple of years with the School Council. I. Gray reported that by flipping lunch times, meaning half of the classes go outside first and then come in and eat for the second half of the break and vice versa for the other half of the classes. This would give teachers their entire lunch break. Discussion took place regarding this, safety and first aid training and lunch fees.

13.3 M. Pon reported that she feels that traffic around the school is not going 30 km and many are traveling much too fast for a school zone. M. Pon reported that in her neighbourhood and she knows in other areas, they have “traffic decoys” which help to slow the traffic down. The decoys are a plastic person holding a flag to remind people children are around. M. Pon reported that she has looked into the cost and they are approximately \$80 each. Discussion took place.

Motion: M. Pon moves that we purchase 2 of these decoys for the school.  
Second: D. Shannon  
Carried: All in favour

- 13.4 Fundraising Opportunity – M. Pon has spoken with parents from other School Councils and some of them work a casino to raise funds for their school. M. Pon reported that the amount of money raised by casinos is approximately five times what we raise in a year. M. Pon questioned whether our school council would consider this. Discussion took place.

Action: M. Pon to discuss this idea with Dr. Bischoff

Action: We could consider surveying parents to see if there is interest.

- 13.5 Sports Day – A. Huhn reported that at a previous meeting we had agreed to discuss whether School Council would do the lunch/BBQ at the sports day. A. Powell reported that we did not need to consider this as the grade 3 teachers will do a hot lunch day....unless we were really set on doing it. All agreed we were ok not doing it.

14 Announcements - Nothing to report at this time

15 Topics Tabled for next Meeting – Articles of Association;

16 Next Meeting – June 2, 2015 6pm

17 Adjournment – A. Hoffman moves to adjourn meeting at 7:30pm