

Aurora Academic Charter School Council Meeting

November 4, 2014

In Attendance: I. Gray, J. Rockwood, A. Powell, J. O'Connor, N. Gidda, M. Pon, S. Weiwel, S. Rana; D. Shannon, A. Huhn; Paula Mayo

Regrets: M. Deniaud; A. Hoffman

Parents in Attendance: Allison Scott

Board Member in Attendance: Dr. Shamir Mukhi - President

Call to Order at 6:05 pm by D. Shannon

1.0 Approval of Minutes from October 7, 2014

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

Seconded: M. Pon

Carried: All in Favour

2.0 Moving Forward – I. Gray provided an update regarding the ATA. I. Gray reported that the teachers did vote and the vote response was 88% in favour of having the ATA represent the teachers as their bargaining agent. Approximately 83% of teachers voted.

3.0 Principal's Report:

I. Gray reported that report cards are going smoothly and it appears that the report cards will work with the new website. I. Gray also noted that the Technology Committee is looking for ideas from parents as to what other things they would want on the "private" side of the website. An example of something that could be added would be attendance. I. Gray suggested if the council members have ideas they can either attend the meeting or provide ideas to the committee by letting him know.

J. Rockwood reported that the Top Marks who provides our uniforms sold a lot of the previously branded uniforms with the old logo. They still have some pieces available at a discounted price. J. Rockwood reported that Read In Week went very well and that the guests who came in were a big hit with the children.

J. Rockwood thanked the School Council for their financial support.

4.0 Update of Letter of Information to Parents – A. Huhn reported that because we had not officially decided what our council was going to do a letter was not developed. Discussion took place and it was decided that we would provide information at the AGM and then if possible, a letter home to parents, letting them know what the School Council does and what it does not.

Action: A. Huhn agreed to pull information from the newsletter and information that S. Weiwel provided at the meeting last month to make an informative flyer about School Council. The flyer will be circulated to the School Council members for feedback and approval before the AGM.

- 5.0 School Council Email – I. Gray asked if any member of School Council could be responsible for answering the School Council email. Discussion took place and it was decided that we would all rotate and take turns doing this as well as chairing the meeting that month. The following people agreed to these months:

December = S. Rana
January & February = M. Pon
March = D. Shannon
April = A. Huhn

- 6.0 Gift of Appreciation – D. Shannon reported that she has purchased an appropriate gift for M. Penney to thank her for her hard work and dedication. The value of the gift was \$150.00 as per last months vote. M. Pon agreed to present the gift to M. Penney.
- 7.0 Financial Report – D. Shannon reported that she did not have an updated financial statement for this month.
- 8.0 Fundraising - A. Huhn provided copies of the Catalogue Fundraiser report that she had sent via email. A. Huhn reported that the total amount of catalogue sales was approximately \$15,336.50. A. Huhn reported it is only an approximate amount as there were a few errors. A. Huhn presented what the individual classes raised and who would take part in the “pig race” for highest earning classes. (see attached report) Discussion took place as to why the higher grades do not raise as much money for the fundraisers. It was agreed we will need to look more closely at the type of fundraisers we do and perhaps try to engage the students more.

A. Scott, a parent who attended also provided her personal thoughts on the fundraiser and noted that the chocolate last year was old and not very good. A. Scott also reported that she does not find the products to be of good quality either. A. Scott reported she was willing to look at other fundraisers to present to the School Council. Discussion took place and A. Scott will seek out other fundraisers for us to consider.

Discussion took place regarding why we fundraise and how much we will need to do. Discussion took place regarding the idea of having a Request for Proposals document that teachers/students could use to apply for funding.

- 9.0 School Newsletter – I. Gray questioned who would like to write the article for the School Newsletters. Discussion took place and it was agreed that all School Council members could rotate doing this. A. Huhn agreed to do the article for December which would focus on the fundraiser.
- 10.0 Beautification Committee – Nothing to report for this meeting. M. Pon and A. Huhn will organize a meeting with the Beautification Committee to discuss the next project and will report back to the School Council at the next meeting.

- 11.0 School Pictures – I. Gray reported that it would be a good time of the year to discuss the school pictures in the case that we wanted to look at another provider. Discussion took place and it was decided that everyone felt the pictures were fine and we would continue with the same company.
- 12.0 Bag Lunches – J. Rockwood reported that often children forget or misplace their lunches. In the past the Student Council provided Bagged Lunches for students whom this happened to. The Student Council is no longer going to provide this service. I. Gray posed the question to the School Council as to whether this would be something the council would be interested in supporting. Discussion took place.

Motion: A. Huhn moves that School Council provide up to \$1000.00 for the Bag Lunch Program.

Seconded: D. Shannon

Carried: All in Favour

- 13.0 Dr. Shamir Mukhi reported that the dates for the Technology Committee Meeting is on December 1st at 3:30pm and he invited a representative from the School Council to attend. Dr. Mukhi reported that they are hoping to look at two different options for software that would provide the “private” part of the website for parents. That date is November 21st, from 10 – noon (Professional Development Day). J. Rockwood confirmed one company is booked to attend and she is hoping to book another. S. Rana will try to attend the meetings on behalf of the School Council.

Dr. Mukhi also suggested that if we could encourage the traffic plan to be followed on busy evenings at the school such as the AGM, etc. that would be great.

S. Rana moves to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Next Meeting is December 2, 2014 at 6pm

Announcements: Christmas Concert – December 18th at 6:30pm

Topics Tabled: Bylaw/Articles of Association regarding School Council