

Aurora Academic Charter School Council Meeting

October 6, 2015

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

Regrets: S. Rana; A. Hoffman; M. Pon; S. Weiwel;

Parents/Guests in Attendance: L. Demski; V. Tran (teacher coordinating Student Council); Sophia K.(Co-Vice President from Student Council); S. Salih; I. Li; Y. Gebrewold; L. Tse

Board Member in Attendance: No Board Members in Attendance

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

2.0 Addition/Changes: Add - 15.5 – Parent Facebook re: Vehicle Following Students; 15.6 Playground Times; 15.7 Large Step outside Elementary School; 15.8 20th Anniversary Committee; 15.9 French Program; 15.10 Banking Program

3.0 Approval of Minutes from September 8, 2015

Motion: P. Mayo moves to accept minutes as presented.

Seconded: D. Shannon

Carried: All in Favour

4.0 Student Council Report:

Sophia reported on the following:

- School Council has come up with the mufti-day themes for Middle School, was not sure if Elementary would have the exact same or if they would pick their own.
- Chocolate Sales went well
- Looking at new ideas for Halloween as they have done the haunted house, gym activities, etc... but hope to find something new.

5.0 Board Report: No Board report

6.0 Guest Report – No guest report

7.0 Elementary School Principal Report – I. Gray reported on the following:

- Elementary School is still seeking parental input on the school vision, an email was sent to parents and an update provided at Meet the Teacher evening.
- Elementary vision for technology is also being looked at
- Report Cards will look different but they comply with the Provincial Approach to Student Information (PATSI). Re-examining ways evaluation is done.
- Examining retention procedure as they have had parents originally agree with the teachers and then change their mind after decision was made.
- Examining honour roll process.

- Professional Development is focused on Leader in Me, writer in residence; technology & writing; French program (enhancing and standardization); PE has increased so gym space is decreased; goal setting.
- Elementary School had a fire drill and things went well.

8.0 Middle School Principal Report – J. Rockwood reported on the following:

- Report cards will look new (same as Elementary) because the schools are using Power Schools. Difference is that in the past you had to enter information in at once but now it will flow...eventually parents will be able to see it as the year is proceeding.
- Fully utilized for lap top labs
- Middle school is using the I-Pads for art.
- School events – meet the teacher drop in worked better than trying to schedule meetings. Thank you to S. Rana for speaking at Meet the Teacher Evening.
- Read in Week – grade 8's will read to Kindergarten.
- In-line skating for PE currently.
- Students will be doing their own voting for Election Day.
- Will be bringing in Concrete Theatre for four interactive plays
- Options are foods & cosmetics
- Cross Country is new to Athletics and competed in meet; also have soccer, volleyball junior & senior girls and junior boys.
- Terry Fox run was the first time they had such a big event with all grades, it went well.
- Three student teachers will be at the Middle School in October (some have been hired, for example E. De Gooyer.
- Construction is a bit behind but things still moving along.
- Hot lunch, looking into the Healthy Lunch option and will probably try the program at least once this year.

9.0 Treasurer's Report: D. Shannon reported that we have \$1,590.71 in our account and that all things that need to be paid have been taken out at this time. CP Bin deposit was \$150. D. Shannon reported that at the last meeting she was asked to find out the cost of the maintenance of the plants from the Muttart Conservatory. Cost is \$212.29/month. J. Rockwood reported that the \$700 (approximately) from School Start has not been received as of yet but should be end of October.

10.0 Fundraising Report: It was suggested that more enticing information was given when the paper went home to families, example was what type of coupons were in the pack.

A.Huhn reported that we had originally discussed sending out the Catalogue Fundraiser mid October and collecting on November 6th. A. Huhn reported that she was concerned the two fundraisers would overlap each other and we could have fundraiser fatigue.

Motion: A. Huhn moves that we send the Catalogue Fundraiser packages out on November 2nd with last day collecting being November 20th.

Second: P. Mayo

Carried: All in Favour

Action: A. Huhn will make labels to remind parents of Student Union Ticket Packs.

11.0 Request for Funds from School Council:

A.Huhn reported that the form we had decided on last year was sent out asking for them to be returned by today for funding for programs from October – end of January. A. Huhn reported we received four requests forms. Requests are as follows:

1.0 Request from Jannifer Song of \$1400 for Christmas Craft Night (\$800 sleigh ride; \$500 refreshments; \$100 entertainment)

2.0 Request from Amanda Joblinski & Linda Williams for Grade 5 & 6 students attending Edmonton City River Valley Programs for school outdoor winter activities (bannock making, kick sledding, snowshoeing, shelter building, etc.). Request amount of \$1141.00

3.0 Request from Amanda Joblinski, Peter Dang, Erika De Gooyer, Cody Nobles, Amanda Schultz for school wide Science Fair (grade 5 is optional, grades 6-9 mandatory). Request amount of \$1500.

4.0 Request from J. Rockwood for bagged lunches to have on hand to give to students who have forgotten their lunch. Request amount of \$500.00

Discussion took place as to what we can approve when we do not have the funds, but knowing that we do have two fundraisers that will be finished by December. I. Gray and J. Rockwood both agreed it would be appropriate for us to approve the requests as we have always made money from the fundraisers.

Motion: P. Mayo moves that we approve \$4541.00 for the above requests.

Second: A. Huhn

Carried: All in Favour

Action: S. Salih will pick up items for lunches and bring to school. J. Rockwood will arrange for lunches to be packed.

12.0 Beautification Report:

A.Huhn thanked A. Weiwel for making cedar trees look nice for the fall.

13.0 Communications Report:

13.1 School Council Email – nothing to report at this time.

13.2 Newsletter – nothing to report at this time.

14.0 Board Committee Reports:

14.1 Technology Committee Report – No meeting scheduled at this time.

14.2 Communication Committee Report – A. Huhn reported that at the meeting there were not many teachers and it was decided that the chair R. Devji would attend the Professional Development Day to try to seek input. Discussed 20th Anniversary and instead of using the Communications Committee to do this a

separate ad hoc committee was developed and will be discussed at 15.8 on Agenda.

- 14.3 Transportation Committee Report** – No meeting scheduled at this time.
- 14.4 Policy Committee Report** – Meeting was September 21, 2015.
- 14.5 Growth Committee Report** – Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8th, 2015. Looking at colors for new school. S. Weiwei is School Council representative but more members from School Council can attend if they are interested.

15.0 New Business:

- 15.1 School Fees & Lunch Supervisors (15.2)**– I. Gray reported that there are more supervisors outside this year for the safety of the children I. Gray felt it was necessary. With the extra lunch supervisors, we will be spending more than we have budgeted. I. Gray asked parents how we felt about an increase in the school fees to cover this in the future. Without having the exact numbers it could be approximately \$10 more. Discussion took place and all the parents in attendance felt this would be appropriate as some parents reported that they knew fees in other schools to be more than double of what Aurora's are.
- 15.2 Discussed above in 15.1**
- 15.3 Forgotten Lunches** – Discussed in Request for Funds in 11.
- 15.4 Alberta School Council Association** – A. Huhn reported that she had taken a webinar from Alberta School Council Association which explained what School Council's are supposed to do and what they do not do. A. Huhn reported they will come to School Council's and do this presentation. A. Huhn reported that they also do a different evening where they will help School Councils do their Bylaws (Articles of Association). A. Huhn questioned whether we would like them to present at Aurora School Council. Discussion took place and it was agreed this would be a good idea.

Action: A. Huhn to arrange for Alberta School Council to do two workshops, one on Understanding School Council and the second on By-laws.

- 15.5 Parent Facebook Page where students followed by a vehicle** – A.Huhn reported that one of the parents had posted on their Facebook page that a vehicle had followed her children in Dovercourt Community and in Sherbrooke Community. This parent had called the police and the police had checked into it. A. Huhn questioned when the school decided to inform parents of such happenings. Discussion took place and it was reported by both I. Gray and J. Rockwood reported schools release this type of information when there is a significant threat to the students.
- 15.6 Playground Times** – D. Shannon brought forward a concern by a parent that there seemed to be less playground time available for children. Discussion took place. I. Gray reported they are trying more of a shared time period, so there is actually a bit more time than in the past.
- 15.7 Large Step at Elementary School Back Door** – P. Mayo questioned whether something could be done with the large step at the back door of the Elementary School. Discussion took place on the step & the mud in that area. I. Gray & J. Rockwood reported that until the construction is finished and the school is officially turned over to Aurora, it would be hard to make changes at this time.

- 15.8 20th Anniversary** – A. Huhn reported that the 20th Anniversary Committee has been developed and we have decided that we will be trying to do something on the 20th of each Month to celebrate the anniversary. A. Huhn reported that we are still looking for interesting ideas. P. Mayo suggested a cook book. A. Huhn reported she would bring this idea to the group. The next meeting date is October 22nd at 3:45 pm.
- 15.9 French Program** – S. Salih reported that herself and some parents are not happy with the French Program how it is. Worried that the French Program is not as strong and for some of them French was a big reason they came to the school. Discussion took place and I. Gray reported the Elementary School is looking into how to strengthen the French Program.
- 15.10 Banking Program** – A guest parent reported they had heard of a program where a bank will come out to the school to work with children so they have a better understanding of banking, handling money, saving, etc... The parent questioned whether Aurora could do something like this. Discussion took place and others reported that ATB; BMO and Servus Credit Union do this.

16.0 Announcements – Nothing at this time

17.0 Topics Tabled for next Meeting:

18.0 Next Meeting – November 3, 2015

19.0 Adjournment – P. Mayo moves to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm