

Aurora Academic Charter School Council Meeting

June 2, 2015

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

Regrets: S. Rana; A. Hoffman;

Parents/Guests in Attendance: L. Demskie; V. Tran (teacher coordinating Student Council); Angelina (rep from Student Council); Brendon Hewitt (President – Sherbrooke Community League)

Board Member in Attendance: D.Bischoff

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

2.0 Addition/Changes: Add - 15.4 – Front Doors; 15.5 – Terry Fox Run; 15.6 – Healthy Start Lunch

3.0 Approval of Minutes from June 2, 2015

Motion: M. Pon moves to accept minutes as presented.

Seconded: S. Weiwel

Carried: All in Favour

4.0 Student Council Report:

Angelina report that the students really like the new mural and thanked School Council for the doing the mural. Angelina reported that the water fountains are almost done and thanked School Council for partnering with Student Council on this project. Angelina asked if we would like to put up plaques letting students know who made the fountains possible as Student Council is doing this as a legacy project. It was discussed and agreed that V. Tran would look into plaques for the fountains.

Angelina reported that the chocolate sales, which is the fundraiser for grades 7-9 has already started. It helps them run their activities throughout the year. Angelina asked if we had any ideas for mufti-day themes. Discussion took place and ideas such as crazy hair day; twin day and just fun things.

Angelina reported on the following:

- Middle School night is going to have hypnotist Wayne Lee.
- Hot lunches will be alternate months, with teachers doing the other months
- Dance in April
- Candy grams in February
- Legacy project of two more fountains in east building.

5.0 Board Report:

D. Bischoff gave an update on the following:

- The next Communication Meeting will discuss 20th Anniversary and he suggested that there will be events in the spring at the opening of the new school and throughout the year but invited all parents out to the meeting.
- Construction is ongoing & discussion of colors such as the floor, etc... will be made next week at the meeting. Construction is approximately two weeks behind but most of the “inside work” was done while school was out. Goal is to be finished construction by the end of the school year in 2016 with the building open and ready to go for the 2016- 2017 year.
- A lot of problems with one bus run. Board is looking at creating their own Bus Tracking device as one parent with an IT background feels it can be done. Board is looking to pilot it on three buses at no cost to parents but parents must register. If the pilot is successful, then expansion will be considered. If the decision is to go forward with this then parents will need to subscribe. A meeting in October for parents on these bus routes. Discussion took place.
- Next Board Meeting is September 21, 2015.

6.0 Guest Report – Brendon Hewitt (President of Sherbrooke Community League):

B. Hewitt thanked School Council and also reported that he is a parent with children in Aurora School. B. Hewitt mentioned that Sherbrooke Community League has the following concerns regarding in this community:

- Short cutting through the community is already a concern but with a lot of construction on 127 street to soon start they are worried about short cutters on 122 avenue. B. Hewitt reported the community league was having a traffic meeting on September 10th at 7pm and we were welcome to attend.
- Speeding is also a concern for the community. B. Hewitt reported that the community league has installed a solar powered traffic sign on 129 street.
- Development group is trying to get re-zoning to have an adult learning center for people with disabilities. Concern is not what they say is going to be there, but once re-zoning is approved, anything that falls into that re-zoning code can be built.

B. Hewitt wanted to let School Council know that there are quite a few parents involved at Sherbrooke Community League that have children at Aurora so they have a vested interest in the Aurora Academic Charter School. B. Hewitt reported that he will be visiting St. Pius School as well.

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

- Elementary School is looking at recreating the schools vision – where they want to go. I. Gray reported it is a work in progress as the teachers have looked at it and parents are also being asked for input.
- Professional development is focusing on assessment; math; literacy; safe & caring schools (Leader in Me); anaphylaxis course; vision for technology for where we want to go

- School is taking part in the Terry Fox run
- Power Schools program is being implemented this year for records, report cards, etc.
- Back Doors being used as main entrance is going ok, there has been a locking and unlocking problem but that is getting sorted out immediately, it has helped to keep the front office area more calm.
- Bus parking is a bit trickier with 1 more bus, they will be asking to move the sign to make sure there is room for all of the buses.
- Supervision at lunches is working well with doing a split where one half of the school takes lunch for the first portion of the break and then the second half takes it for the last portion of the break.
- Increased supervision this year
- Discipline this year will follow the Leader in Me program and have booklets for students to fill out.

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

- Professional Development will focus on assessment; need to meet with other teachers teaching the same subjects more often; reporting systems; grades; safe and caring schools
- Middle School is also looking at their vision and where they want to go
- Fire Drill today went well
- Extra supervision at recesses due to the construction and extra vehicles
- Meet the teacher is on the 17th
- Hosting a parent meeting regarding the use of the internet
- Bullying presentation by Concrete Theatre
- Students also taking part in the Terry Fox run

9.0 Treasurer's Report: D. Shannon reported that we have \$1,477.10 in our account and that all things that need to be paid have been taken out at this time.

10.0 Fundraising Report: Idea was presented that perhaps we look at selling used uniforms. Discussion took place. Discussion also took place regarding the plants from the Muttart Conservatory and the cost. D. Shannon stated she will ask Holly to take a look at the contract. M. Pon suggested we look into the Student Union Ticket Packs as a fundraiser.

11.0 Request for Funds from School Council:

M. Pon brought forward a request from G. Zabolotniuk requesting funds for Terry Fox run. Discussion took place.

Motion: M. Pon moves that we approve \$200 for the Terry Fox Run.

Second: A. Huhn

Carried: All in Favour

12.0 Beautification Report:

Motion: A. Huhn moves that we approve \$50 for spray paint for fall and winter to improve the planters in front of the school

Second: S. Weiwel

Carried: All in Favour

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 – Meeting is on September 9, 2015

14.3 Transportation Committee Report – No meeting scheduled at this time.

14.4 Policy Committee Report – Meeting is September 21, 2015.

14.5 Growth Committee Report – Meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2015.

15.0 New Business:

15.1 School Start – J. Rockwood reported that 146 kits were sold so approximately \$700 raised. J. Rockwood reported that there was an error in one of the lists and they fixed it and sent items for free.

15.2 Anti-bullying & Get Fit Presentations – I. Gray reported that these are just two examples of programs that often approach the school asking if they can come in and present to the students. Most of the programs are for free but I. Gray questioned School Council on whether we would like to be involved in deciding which programs presented to students, what involvement we would like to have? Discussion took place and generally decided that we would like to be informed but we do not see us having a decision on these types of programs unless for some reason the administration would like our input.

15.3 Casino - A. Huhn had sent casino survey results in advance. A. Huhn suggested that it would appear that the majority of parents who replied are quite happy with the decision to move forward with a Casino. A. Huhn reported that besides having to start a not-for-profit school association or society, there is also a wait list to get on the wait list for casinos. A. Huhn reported that she has spoken with a Casino Advisor for not-for-profits and he had stated one way to move up on the wait list is for us to be able to show that we have been a group that has had meetings over the last two years, etc... versus being a brand new not-for-profit. A. Huhn reported that the advisor also suggested that we have a very good plan on the use of the funds and that those uses are approved. A. Huhn stated that the advisor is willing to assist us. Discussion took place.

Motion: A. Huhn moves that we: 1. Start the procedures for incorporating as a not-for-profit organization 2. Send a letter to the parents thanking them for feedback and letting them know our short and long term plans. 3. Send a letter to the Board letting them know of our short and long term plans.

Second: S. Weiwel

Carried: All in Favour

Action: A. Huhn & M. Pon will look into the procedure to start the incorporation. A. Huhn will draft a letter for parents and for Board and will send to School Council for approval.

Discussion also took place as to whether we should move that we start proceeding with the Student Union Ticket Packs. Discussion took place.

Motion: M. Pon moves that we proceed with doing the Student Union Ticket Pack fundraiser immediately.

Second: D. Shannon

Carried: All in Favour

Action: M. Pon to arrange Student Union Ticket Pack fundraiser.

15.4 **Front Doors** – A. Huhn stated she was approached by a parent who asked that concerns were brought forth regarding the doors being locked. The parent is struggling with understanding as to why school doors would be locked at a time when parents would need to be in the school? I. Gray reported that the reasons for this move to locking the front doors was to help better coordinate supervision and to keep the student population safe. It is finding the balance of safety and security. Traffic concerns at the front of the school were going to be a bigger safety issue with the construction happening. J. Rockwood suggested that the parent can call and speak with either herself or I. Gray about their concerns.

15.5 **Terry Fox Run** – topic already covered under request for funds.

15.6 **Healthy Start Lunch** – P. Mayo reported that she is taking part in this program for her other child and that it seems to be working ok. You order the healthy lunch online.

16.0 **Announcements** – Nothing at this time

17.0 **Topics Tabled for next Meeting:** Articles of Association; Plants from Muttart

18.0 **Next Meeting** – October 6, 2015

19.0 **Adjournment** – S. Weiwel moves to adjourn the meeting at 7:38