

**School Council Minutes from
Aurora Academic Charter School
December 1st, 2015**

Members in Attendance: I. Gray; J. Rockwood; E. De Gooyer; N. Gidda; T. Choudhry; S. Weiwel; L. Demskie; I. Li; C. Thew; E. Fung; S. Tesfaye; Y. Gebrewold; A. Scott; S.Devji; A. Huhn

Guests in Attendance: D. Bischoff; V. Tran; S. Devji (student council rep.); Franca Munn;

Board Member in Attendance: R. Devji

1.0 Call to order: 6:05pm by A. Huhn

2.0 Addition/Changes to Agenda: No changes

3.0 Approval of Minutes: From November 3, 2015

Motion: L. Demskie

Seconded: S. Weiwel

Carried: All in favour

4.0 Student Council Report:

S. Devji reported on the following:

- Middle School took part in an Anti-Bullying event 102 Positive Message – Post It
- 106 students attended hypnotist Wayne Lee on November 27, 2015
- BP Healthy Lunch 79 took part, usually 100-110.
- Dec. 17th Mufti Day will be Red, White & Green

5.0 Board Report:

D. Bischoff reported on the Alberta Education Results Report (AERR). D. Bischoff explained what the report is and provided information on the report to parents.
Report is available on school website.

Parents were provided the opportunity to ask questions and seek further explanation. Discussion took place.

6.0 Guest Report:

F. Munn provided information on the Junior ATB program they have for schools. The following information was provided:

- younger children bank, while older children run the branch by being tellers, greeters, be on the Board, etc...
- the bank is open over lunch
- schools receive \$1000 for taking part
- all materials are brought into the school from ATB
- grades 4,5 and 6 are the “staff”, all other students deposit
- goal of the program is to help teach children to save \$
- no fees until age 18 and account is joint with parents
- every 2nd week bank is open
- need 1 teacher to volunteer; staff from ATB will always be in attendance
- all decisions go through the principal
- parents would have to come to school or Skyview (127 st. & 137 Ave) to open account

Motion: Y. Gisenwold moves to proceed with start up of Junior ATB at Aurora

Seconded: Tahir Choudhry

Carried: All in favour

Action: E. De Gooyer and J. Rockwood will gather more information on the process of setting up Junior ATB.

7.0 Elementary School Report:

I.Gray reported on the following:

- Power School was used for report cards, went fairly well
- Anti-bullying event held
- Professional Development for teachers focus will be literacy, with a Writer in Residence
- French program is impacted
- Leader in Me program is going well
- Lunch supervision – working well by splitting classes (some have lunch, some have recess and then switch). Using more supervisors than previous years due to construction and number of children.
- Examining the Kindergarten program to decide if half days will still be offered or if move to full day kindergarten.
- New Education Act has not been passed as of yet.
- Working on Discipline Policy
- Working on Safe & Caring School program

8.0 Middle School Report:

J. Rockwood reported on the following:

- Safe & Caring School Program – had presentation on Anti-bullying
- Hypnotist Wayne Lee for Middle School event
- Homework Survey – 66% returned – most areas are within guidelines
- In-line skating program for school with each class getting approximately 2 periods in the week
- Power School used for report cards – things went well
- Middle school will be hiring for Mrs. Williams absence (math teacher)

9.0 Treasurers Report: No report available

10.0 Fundraising Report:

A.Huhn reported that the Catalogue Fundraiser raised approximately \$7000 this year. Significantly lower than previous years. A few different reasons this could happen, economy in Alberta is down significantly; we moved the date back to deliver in December versus November; we did back to back fundraisers with no break, etc..

Discussion took place and a couple of new ideas of fundraisers were presented. Ideas included Dinner with Ministers – charge a nominal fee to attend dinner with one or more Ministers and considering private special events.

Decision: No decisions made.

Action: To send request to teachers for remainder of school year in January to give School Council a better idea of what the need for funds will be for the remainder of the year.

11.0 Request for Funds from School Council:

N. Gidda provided request form to School Council. Request is seeking \$1000.00 to bring in “Kids Can Move” which is a company which provides activities for gymnastics. Total cost is \$2600. Discussion took place with suggestion that we look into getting this type of program for done by a volunteer organization.

Motion: S. Weiwel moves that we approve the \$1000 for Kids Can Move if volunteer Organization can not be found.

Seconded: A. Stuart

Carried: All in favour

14.0 Board Reports – Nothing to report at this time

15.0 New Business:

15.1 Uniforms – J. Rockwood asked about the possibility of having hoodies but for physical education only, not as part of the regular uniform. Discussion took place regarding other options for boys. Suggestion was made for gray pants as the blue ones faded. One parent knows of a school using gray pants and they are having problems with them fading as well as not being as strong of material and ripping.

Decision – General consensus that we have a small uniform meeting with some members to consider other options.

15.2 Syrian Refugee Crisis – The suggestion to having a donation request was brought up at the last meeting but there was no decision as we did not have a charity whom we would donate to. Discussion took place.

Motion: C. Thew moves that we seek donations for Syrian Refugee Crisis and donate to the Edmonton Mennonite Centre.

Seconded: T. Choudhry

Carried: All in favour

15.3 Alberta School Council Association – A. Huhn reported we will be working with ASCA to develop Operating Procedures and will bring them back to School Council for approval

15.4 Traffic Concerns – S. Weiwel reported that his wife had a “fender bender” at the school. S. Weiwel reported this got him thinking about traffic concerns at the school. S. Weiwel had a short presentation on statistics he found and the small things that can be done to make a difference. Discussion took place regarding communication in newsletters, how to enforce suggestions, what had been done in the past, etc..

Decision – General consensus that a committee be developed to look at some possible ideas to address the traffic concerns. S. Weiwel has agreed to take the lead. T. Choudhry & S. Tesfaye have agreed to sit on the committee.

16.0 Meeting Adjourned: 8:55pm by E. Fung