

Aurora Academic Charter School Council Meeting

December 7, 2016

Members in Attendance: J. Rockwood, J. Harman, E. Fung, A. Goddard, S. Salih, I. Li, A. Huhn, J. O'Connor, P. Mayo, N. Gidda, M. Racine, Shyehana G.

Guests in Attendance: D. Bischoff

Board Member in Attendance: None

1.0 Call to Order: 6:07 p.m. by E. Fung

2.0 Additions/changes to the Agenda:

- Elementary Principal Report will go right after Student Council Report
- 13.3 – Board AGM

3.0 Approval of Minutes from: November 2, 2016

Motion: A. Goddard

Second: P. Mayo

Motion Carried/Motion Lost: All in favour

4.0 Student Council Report: M. Bhatt reported:

- Student Council encouraged Middle School to contribute to positive message board; 125 post-it notes posted between Nov 14-18 for National Bullying Awareness Week
- Mind Magic Middle School event: 130 students participated
- Upcoming events: Dec 22 is Mufti-Day (Red, White and Green) and Hot Lunch; Dec 23 is Field Trips for Middle School (uniforms must be worn)

5.0 Elementary Principal Report: J. Harman reported:

- Construction: both gyms are open and finished
- Indoor recesses due to cold weather: making sure all grades have use of the gyms at least once for recess per day or in the Learning Commons
- Proposal to the Board for gym furnishings; also proposal for AV equipment to the committee
- Lunch Supervision Update: children have 19 minutes to eat; teachers have been monitoring and children have enough time to eat; children are allowed to go outside after 15 minutes if they are finished; come January, will solicit for parents' and teachers' feedback to craft a plan for next school year
- PD days:
 - November – teachers who went to learn about First Metis and Inuit, brought resources back to share with the rest of the teachers to include in lessons right away; Elementary teachers collaborated on professional

- growth plans and set up learning groups; worked on anti-bullying projects and special event committees
- December – working on entrance exams/questionnaires for new parents for next year; also to put in the newsletter “what would you wish you would have known before joining Aurora”, “What advice would you give to a new parent before coming in” and to see if any parents would be interested in becoming mentors by email to new parents
 - Alberta Health Services: will be sending out an article in newsletter
 - Teachers are interested in taking in a session on Breaking the Cycle of Anxiety or help with Executive Functioning Skills. Perhaps hosting one at Aurora for parents after school
 - Major Events:
 - Remembrance Day Assembly – went really well, thanks to Mrs. Rockwood for lending out the gym; performances by Grade 1 classes and Grade 4 Choir and Grade 4MD
 - Bullying Awareness Week – organized by Mrs. Makepeace, all students did projects for the week, decorated the walls; Kindergarten students had a great presentation in class by Mrs. Makepeace, everyone else had an assembly, bullying wrist bands were given out.
 - Honor Roll Assembly – first assembly in new gym, 54 students out of 88 achieved Honor Roll Status (65%)
 - Winter Craft Night to be on December 15th from 6 pm to 8 pm
 - Snow Flake Sing-A-Long: last period on December 23rd to sing Christmas Carols together
 - Winter Fun Day on February 3rd, known as Winter Heritage Days with a First Nations and a French-Canadian theme
 - Grade 4 Choir is going well, good feedback
 - Fire Drill in November, went well; looking at changing exit route for one of the Grade 4 classes because there are a lot of students getting out the front
 - Action Research Project – will be working with Mrs. Rockwood with collaboration between schools and grades

6.0 Board Report: None

7.0 Guest Report: D. Bischoff – Accountability Pillar and Discussion of Aurora's 3 Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report (AERR)

- Board Committee Meetings:
 - Policy – Wednesday December 14 @ 3:30pm
 - Technology – Tuesday December 20 @ 4:30pm
 - Growth and Communication – hasn't called a meeting yet
- Next Board Meeting is Monday December 19 @ 6pm
- Report will be on the website
 - it's filed by the Superintendent on behalf of the Board every November
 - first part of report is an analysis, evaluation of results of surveys done by parents, teachers and students. In the spring, the government does the

surveys. Plus results from discussions by principals and Superintendent about strategies to address certain issues that the governments asks to be addressed

- Page 2: report has been accepted by the Board on November 21st, adopted and sent to the Government of Alberta
- Page 3: identifies the profile of the school, also some trends and issues (that has happened in the last several years, relating to enhancing technology, physical education, increased student enrollment, access to wireless technology, implement PowerSchool and the Action Research Teacher Committee charter school renewal). Another trend, added instructional space, modernizing Elementary wing and Middle School wing
- Page 4: Board is considering enhancing to an academic High School (small enrollment of about 100 students per grade)
- Page 6: some of the accomplishments that the Board has identified is the overhaul of the policy manual which is 80% completed; the Action Research, collective bargaining with teachers; and the separation of the Elementary and Middle School.
- School Division Report Card: Blue is good, Red is poor
- Page 7: Self identified measures – how many children are above grade age level in mathematics and English language arts which we score very strongly. CTBS (Canadian Test of Basic Skills) – in 2016, 85% of Aurora students are above grade age level in English; in Mathematics, it's at about 80%
- Page 8: Acceptable Standard on PAT – meaning, students pass; acceptable is 50%, unacceptable means a fail; our 2016 Acceptable level is 99.3%, up from last year; total test excellence, honor roll, 47.8% (up from last year)
- Page 9: Safe and Caring; Broad Program of Study, program has been broadened with options, has gone down, mostly from teacher dissatisfaction (not sure what that means, will need to ask teachers why)
- Page 22: looks at difference between teachers, parents and students, scores are down, teachers are in yellow (has gone down 10%); parents and students are pretty even
- Page 10: outcome 5 – schools and their jurisdiction, teachers, students and parents indicate that schools in their jurisdictions have improved or stayed the same, the teachers, students and parents state that it is declining
- Page 24: is the analysis of Page 10, students satisfaction is up, parents are down but teachers are way down (from 76 to 64) teachers are feeling that the school is declining
- Page 10: Satisfied with parental involvement is declined; Page 24, parental satisfaction by parental involvement is up but teacher satisfaction with parental involvement is down
- 4 pages of financial data
- Capital facilities and parental involvement: short statements
- Page 16: links

- Page 17: communication plan -
- Page 18: Course by course results; Grade 6 PAT and Grade 9 PAT; English/Language Arts and Mathematics 'Acceptable' is 100%, etc.; Bottom of page – Blue line is total test 'Acceptable (pass rate)' 99%, yellow line is 'Standard of Excellence' almost 50%; we are up across the board
- Page 19: By class – pretty much straight across the board, except for Social Studies in 2016. Teachers were challenged to work on getting the 'Excellence' up for grade 6 classes and therefore it is reflected on the graph that it went up. J. Rockwood reminded us that it's not just the Grade 6 teachers, but also Grade 3, 4 and 5, it's the program that helps prepare. Item analysis are done per question so that if the result is weak for a particular question, more emphasis is put on that area to increase the knowledge.
- Page 20: Grade 9 scores – Blue line, 'Acceptable', close to 95-100%; Yellow line, 'Excellence', social and science had been climbing for several years and then they slipped in 2016, English has been up and down, Mathematics dipped. All PAT scores have been down in 2016. Are we still getting good levels in 'Excellence'? Yes. Is there something we have to look at and talk about with staff and see what we can do about that? Yes.
- Page 21: Report Card of just the PAT scores – everything is Blue, except Mathematics 'Excellence' slipped a little bit, still double what the Provincial scores are.
- Then there are individual measures we have looked at: Parental Involvement, Program Studies, Education Quality (Page 23 is up even-though people feel that the school is declining)

8.0 Middle School Principal Report: J. Rockwood reported:

- PD Day – FNMI, mandate by Alberta Education to infuse more of that into teaching. Mr. Ceilin has formed a great partnership with Amiskwaciy Academy to join in their field trips and visit their sweat lodge
- Sarah Hoffman, MLA for Glenora, visited November 26 to see Grade 6's, went really well
- January 17 – Sarah Chan, Don Iveson's wife, visiting Leadership class (special thanks to P. Mayo for the recommendation); Poverty awareness with United Way
- Remembrance Day Assembly – 6 cadets, veteran's speech, Grade 5&6 presented their poems
- Report cards went out successfully this term, better than first term last year; marks are going up regularly on PowerSchool. In process of setting it up as a homework website
- Middle School male teachers took part in Movember to raise money; students who donated, their names were put in a draw to see who would massage their facial hair, they got to choose the design and the teacher would have to wear it for a day; great for team building
- Grade 6's have field trip to Telus World of Science this weekend

- 2 large scale field trips on December 23, Grade 5 & 6's going swimming, Grade 7-9 going to Telus World of Science
- Learning Commons has become a popular place for Middle School students – at recesses, can exchange books; lunch time, can spend their outside portion to work on homework, use technology, work in groups; approximately 100 students at a time
- S. Salih: motion to send home a letter to ask for parents to volunteer for supervision to give teachers a break (follow up with Mr. Gray)
- Extracurricular Activities – Science Club, Coloring Club, Intramurals
- New lockers will be put in during the next few weeks
- Action Research with Mrs. Harman with 4 other Middle School teachers
- Solar Panels – project with Science students to collect data
- Thanks to School Council with the help of sending out an email to request for volunteers for the Grade 9 field trip to the Law Courts (Grade 3 parent, T. Hoang volunteered)
- Uniforms – 4 options for hair accessories, would be the same sample colors being pass around and they are in stock all the time, \$14-\$16; scrunchie or elastic head band can be done in tartan which will be made by Top Marks, not the same company as the other hair accessories. \$4,000 donated to school from orders (went toward awards); move forward with adding the hair accessories onto the order form and go from there.
- J. O'Connor – on behalf of Grade 5 & 6 students, present Thank-You cards to School Council for the help in providing funds for field trip

9.0 Treasurer's Report: I. Li reported:

- \$5,816.05 in account

10.0 Fundraising Report: E. Fung reported:

- World's Finest Chocolates:
 - ~\$8,500 deposited from the first collection and count of monies that came in so far
 - ~150 Cases sold out of 300 Cases, repackaged 36 Cases to go back out
 - ordered another 138 Cases to go out on Friday
- Spell-a-thon:
 - still a go for during the Spring Break

11.0 Request for Funds from School Council:

- No new requests
- Still on hold are Summer Fun Day, Teacher Luncheon and Gymnastics
- Send out an email in beginning of January to have new requests come in for February

12.0 Board Committee Reports: No Report

- Looking for parent representatives to sit on each committee to be able to share information back with School Council

13.0 New Business:

13.1 Outside Decorations by Amanda Wiewel and Arlene Huhn

- Spray Paint will not work for in the cold weather
- Can decorate the tree with ornaments
- In the spring, Steven can yank them out

13.2 Board AGM – A. Huhn

- School Council organized the Movie Night for the kids and it worked out really well
- Motion to get a small gift for teachers (3 X \$50 gift card) who helped with Movie Night

Motion: A. Huhn

Second: A. Goddard

Motion Carried/Motion Lost: All in favour

- Motion to get movie tickets for Middle School students who helped (Nicholas Li, Declan, Astrid, Aliya and Jayhan)

Motion: S. Salih

Second: I. Li

Motion Carried/Motion Lost: All in favour

14.0 Announcements:

- Craft Night – asking parents to donate store bought, nut free snacks
 - School Council will help with setting up and taking down
 - Craft Committee is meeting one last time tomorrow after school to finalize details
- Plants contract with Muttart Conservatory is officially terminated at the end of the year
 - Options: a mom has offered her time to take on the project, including watering and figuring out what plants to get. Have families sponsor a plant
 - go to big nurseries to see if they can give us a deal as a school
- Community Liaison, Jolene Rich, to help with communication between community league and school

15.0 Topics Tabled for Next Meeting: None

16.0 Next Meeting: February 1, 2017 at 6 p.m. in the Learning Commons

17.0 Adjournment: E. Fung moves to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.