

Aurora Academic Charter School Council Meeting

February 1, 2017

Members in Attendance: J. Rockwood, J. Harman, E. Fung, A. Goddard, I. Li, L. Makepeace, J. O'Connor, P. Mayo, M. Racine, K. Kornik, K. Lacey, M. Pon

Guests in Attendance: None

Board Member in Attendance: None

1.0 Call to Order: 6:01 pm by E. Fung

2.0 Additions/changes to the Agenda:

- Parking lot – Growth Committee Report

3.0 Approval of Minutes from: December 7, 2016

Motion: A. Goddard

Second: I. Li

Motion Carried/Motion Lost: All in favour

4.0 Student Council Report: A. Reghulam (9L) reported:

- Water Fountain: between Rm 40 & 41, has been ordered from Edmonton Public School, no date for installation yet. It's a legacy gift from Student Council (~\$3,500)
- January 27: \$2 Hoodie Mufti Day; Middle School raised \$415, Elementary School raised \$545
- Special thanks to student and School Council for their contributions for the 4 year long legacy gift of replacing 7 fountains in Elementary School and Middle School hallways
- Grade 9 raised funds for their Farewell Concert
- Valentine Candy Grams: pre-order forms have been handed out and due today; students will write and organize orders this week; remaining Candy Grams will be sold on February 8 and all funds will go to paying for the water fountain
- March 1: Skate Trip, Gr. 7-9 will go in the afternoon, buses and rentals will be provided by Student Council. Location to be determined, most likely Hawrelak Park
- February 14: Mufti Day - Pink, Red or White
- March 1: Pink Shirt Day for anti-bullying

5.0 Board Report: None

6.0 Guest Report: K. Kornik – parent volunteer for selection of plants and organizing placement of plants as contract with Muttart Conservatory has been canceled:

- has a passion for plants
- Mom is a horticulturist by trade
- has 40+ plants in her own homework
- List of plants: Spider plant, English Ivy, Philodendron, Boston Fern, Myrtle, Aloe Vera, Money Tree, Peace Lily, Snake Plant, ZZ Plant, Ponytail Plant, Dracaena, Diffenbachia, Norfolk Pine, Fiddle Leaf Fig, Yucca and Umbrella Tree
- All air purifying (beneficial for new part of school to get rid of the chemicals like formaldehyde)
- Get student involvement by having plants in classroom
- Plants are easy to propagate
- Can go in hallways: Hallway by the new Elementary gyms have 2 small alcoves and 2 wider alcoves; can also put shelving higher up with plants that grow up
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- Shelving: she has a carpenter friend; Mrs. Harman and Mrs. Rockwood has a carpenter who's been part of the building group with the school. Will get more details Will take care of all maintenance of plants
- Summer project: collect rain water
- Has a large aquarium at home where she can bring 10 gallons of water twice a month which is a natural fertilizer
- Items needed: water cans, buckets, mister, cart, gloves, stool, various sized pots, various soils and mediums, bamboo sticks, cord, scissors, rain collector for water, fertilizer (artificial and natural), shelving, pads for under plants and access to school during holidays and summer break
- Phase 1: Start in front foyer, front offices and Elementary hallway (6 alcoves with 2 plants each)
- Middle School will most likely only have plants in classrooms
- Budget for Phase 1 is \$800:

Motion: I. Li

Second: M. Pon

Motion Carried/Motion Lost: All in favour

- Terra Cotta pots can be painted by parents and students as part of a community building event (tabled for next time)

7.0 Middle School Principal Report: J. Rockwood reported:

- Mr. Woodward has returned from his leave
- Maternity Leave: Mid-April Mrs. Tomko
- PD day on December 16: D. Bischoff went over the AERR; spent time with Mr. Gray to go over how best to use Learning Commons with Middle School (with students in the space, how to use the space and how to support it with the students)
- PD day on February 6: working jointly with Elementary on collaboration time for PD days (how to make the most of the time for teachers and get the most productiveness from the program)

- Learning Commons: 80 students at lunch hour with a line up of more; use it for meetings; teachers use it for meetings; different groups come in during the days as well (library and technology); study period for grades 5-9 with teacher supervision Please fill in all Accountability Pillar Surveys
- Panterra trip preparation: went to IMAX on Sunday for team building; going out for dinner; taking Spanish lessons; prestudy about the area; 16 students in total; 3 supervisors
- Solar panels have been installed outside of Ms. Tran's room; using them for Science and Math unit study (production of power and food lab is using some)
- School Events: Art Club, Science Club, Coloring Club, Weaving Club, Learner's Permit; Successful PAT night, last week, for Grade 9 students and parents (approximately 60 people); PAT information night for Grade 6's on March 9
- Skating Unit for Middle School started this week (all day, the community rink is full)
- Science Fair: February 24 and 25
- Skating Trip for Grade 5 & 6 on March 1
- Science Olympics is March 4
- Talent Show scheduled for before Spring Break
- Intramurals are still going strong; Running Room Games
- Lockers now accommodate binders; more lockers are being installed downstairs

8.0 Elementary Principal Report: J. Harman reported:

- Mrs. Makepeace has come back from a leave of absence; official thanks to Mrs. Healy for taking care of the administration and all the teachers pitched in
- Maternity Leave: Mrs. Gidda – Mid March
- Construction: all equipment has been moved in and stored; received a one time fund for benches, velcro strip installed for mats, nets and combined with phys. ed. orders gave for great discounts
- Mme. Marko-Kwasny's room has been renovated over the break, which is now the French resource room; allows the students to be able to sit in a circle which the AIM program was meant to be done (students now leave their classrooms for Gym, French and Learning Commons); white board will be installed and doubled as a screen for a projector; one more carpet to come for students to sit down on
- School Improvement: Multicultural welcome sign (Mrs. Van Den Beuken's idea and was made during time at December's PD day) with 18 languages represented
- Currently soliciting for Lunch ideas with the Board, parents bringing up ideas and will cover more details during this meeting tonight, to get the feedback and collaboration in order to find the best answer
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- PD Day: December – part was spent on entrance procedures and assessments; have used the new procedures on 12, need to do a total of 80; kept it shorter

and more pleasant; starting with coloring; assessments are to make sure the children are ready for Kindergarten and the teachers have seen them too; based on CTBS standards; rest of the assessments for the other grades should be done by the next PD Day; teachers will help with scoring for Grade 4s which will be brought in in groups of 8 to see group dynamic and teachers will be involved with that; also learned about DPA's (Daily Physical Activities) February PD Day: besides what Mrs. Rockwood mentioned, will have time for professional learning groups (Positive Mental Health); will strategically plan the Teachers Convention sessions so that all interested sessions will have coverage and the information can then be shared amongst the group at a later date; Mrs. Powell will be reporting on how to help children who have gone through trauma and anxiety and how encourage students with self-regulation; Mrs. Gidda and Mrs. Lacey will be reporting on Math strategies

- Teachers Convention in March
- School Events:
 - Snowflake Sing-A-Long was a success (will most likely do it again next year)
 - January 25 – had a 'Let's talk about mental health' Day for teachers; Mrs. Powell and other teachers organized a Potluck Lunch and Mrs. Harman sent out resources on Mental Health and Illness (meanings, now to recognize and how to encourage positive self talk in students and shared the benefit plan teachers have
 - Kindergarten assessments going on through February: started with priority list, siblings first and then as time registered; have only 35 spots for non-siblings
 - Winter Heritage Day/Winter Fun Day: All FMNI and French-Canadian
 - February and March: Digital Citizenship Lessons (internet safety)
 - Jump Rope For Heart: February 13-15
 - Gymnastics in March: one week long program; have had some difficulties getting the commitment from the company as they can't find a second instructor for 2 afternoons; Alternative would be to do Zumba
 - Summer Fun Day is on the last day of school on June 29: Track and Field themed
- Clubs:
 - Choir
 - Grade 4 hockey intramurals (organized by all Grade 4 teachers)
- Healthy Hunger: pilot went very well and booked for the rest of the year to match with mufti days; there is a one time fee to order – pay a fee for each order or pay one fee to order all at once
- Nutrition: some parents are promoting healthier snacks, so for birthdays, one alternative used was goodie bags; Canada Food Guide has been provided with the newsletter; more information to come from the Dieticians of Canada in the March newsletter

9.0 Treasurer's Report: I. Li reported:

- Revenue: \$41,175.95
- Expense: \$23,772.06
- \$17,403.89 in account

10.0 Fundraising Report: A. Goddard reported:

- Update on Chocolate Fundraiser
 - Sold 343 cases with 21 cases outstanding
 - Good system from company: order, sell them, return the ones not sold, then final invoice is given out
 - Repacking cases to send back, must be the way it came (30 variety boxes) and must pay \$1 to return
 - \$1.30 is our cost, we make \$1.70 for each \$3 box sold; prizes were provided by the company where we used for giving out to winners: person who sold the most in each grade and everyone else had ballots (1 ballot for every 10 boxes sold)
 - Pros: successful; worth it; students are competitive (prizes a must); do the variety case for \$3/box vs. chocolate covered almonds only \$2/box
 - Recommendations: prepare in the fall and start earlier so can finish before the Christmas break (shorten the time period between start and finish – figure out a way to get chocolates out all at the same time or only have Grade K – 6 participate); need a better system to communicate with families; get a coin sorter or borrow one;
- Motion to sell remaining chocolates at \$1.50/box at all special events and in staffrooms (Science Fair, Parent/Teacher Interviews)
 - Motion:** I. Li
 - Second:** M. Pon
 - Motion Carried/Motion Lost:** All in favour
- Motion to purchase a movie pass, for a student that was missed during the prize giveaway, like what the other winners received
 - Motion:** A. Goddard
 - Second:** I. Li
 - Motion Carried/Motion Lost:** All in favour
- Next Fundraiser – Spell-A-Thon in the spring
 - Grades K – 6: English; Grades 7 – 9: French
 - March 13-17 – teachers to hand out forms and spelling lists
 - April 7 – Test
 - April 13 – return monies collected
 - April 18 – count monies (confirm with I. Li and A. Goddard)
 - April 19 – count monies – if second day needed (confirm with M. Pon)

11.0 Request for Funds from School Council: E. Fung reported the following requests:

- N. Gidda/V. Dias – Elementary Gymnastics \$1400 minus Hotlunch
Motion: M. Pon
Second: I. Li
Motion Carried/Motion Lost: All in favour
- M. Healy – Elementary Summer Fun Day \$1200
Motion: M. Pon
Second: I. Li
Motion Carried/Motion Lost: All in favour
- J. Rockwood – Middle School Grade 9 Grad book \$800
Motion: M. Pon
Second: I. Li
Motion Carried/Motion Lost: All in favour
- J. Harman – Elementary Die Cutting Machine \$679.13
Motion: A. Goddard
Second: M. Pon
Motion Carried/Motion Lost: All in favour

12.0 Board Committee Reports:

- P. Mayo reported on the Technology Committee
 - Working with Mr. Gray on technology
 - Organizing a Technology Day for next year
 - March 1 – next meeting
 - Please pass ideas on to P. Mayo or Mr. Gray
 - Audio and visual for both gyms; Discovery E subscription; digital camera to take pictures; Chromebooks for Grade 4 classes (\$6,000/cart with 25 Chromebooks per cart); Middle School (iPad Air – 5 for the Wellness Centre); document camera with Photoshop; PowerSchool; 3D printer; Desktop Computers
- J. Rockwood reported on the Growth Committee – Parking Lot
 - This takes priority before we can move on to Phase 2 to work on renovating the Elementary side; need more parking
 - Current entrance to staff parking will be asphalt
 - New entrance will be further south with extra parking stalls
 - Area from current staff parking entrance to new entrance will be fenced, Grade 3&4s must cross new entrance then go into field; Grade K – 2s will go straight into field
 - There will be community league access through parking lot from South-East corner only; not for students
 - 2 raised curbs (speed bumps from old staff parking to new parking lot and from new parking lot to main road)
 - Part going around the school from Elementary to Middle School will be asphalt to allow a fire truck through there
 - There will be about 10 stalls in new parking lot to accommodate parents who come to the school to volunteer; it isn't meant for drop offs

- May have Grade 4s be crossing guards at raised speed bumps for extra safety
- Any questions or concerns can be emailed to D. Bischoff, dbischoff@auroraschool.ca
- Policy Committee
 - February 28 – Next meeting
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Update policies

13.0 New Business:

13.1 Date change for next meeting from Wednesday March 1 to Wednesday March 8: E. Fung reported:

- Workshop with ASCA (Alberta School Councils' Association): Rhonda
- To encourage family involvement
- Have a sign-up sheet
- A parent shared concern of not getting enough interest
 - movie night to provide child care
 - have parents bring fundraising ideas
 - sign-up, space limited

13.2 Parent Engagement Meetings: Stakeholders and Planning Project

- There is no need for School Council to have one as the Stakeholder and Planning Project committee is having parent consultation and feedback sessions

13.3 School Calendar: Mrs. Rockwood and Mrs. Harman share draft for school year 2017/2018:

- Similar to 2016/2017
 - 3 week break at Christmas; 2 week break at Spring Break
 - August 25 - 1st day of school
 - June 27 – last day of school
 - October – 2 days for PD Day to host the Charter School Conference of all chartered schools in Alberta; expecting about 400 teachers
 - March – 2 days for Teachers Convention
 - PATs are not scheduled; can only be administered during a window
 - Bring to the Board on behalf of School Council – change December PD Day to December 22
 - There are two months where the PD Day is attached to a long weekend to give it a 4 day weekend (February and May)
 - The holidays are matched up with Public and Catholic schools; only some PD Days match
 - Easter does fall inside Spring Break

13.4 Science Fair and Chocolates:

- Still looking for judges; need a science background; APEGA member
- Friday February 24: public viewing 5 – 5:30 p.m.

- Saturday February 25: public viewing 4 – 4:30 p.m. Sell chocolates: help from half hour before to half hour afternoon
→ I. Li and A. Goddard can help

13.5 Parking:

- Flyers were done up and the older students handed them out to the condos with our parking plan information on it; Parking directions on one side and younger students drew pictures on the other side; Had older students hand those out to the parents as they were coming in to drop off their children, thanking them for following traffic rules
- A parent suggested we have the safety rules of driving printed on the flyer; not the traffic plan
- Bylaw officers have been by and they were the one suggesting we have the students hand out flyers. The parents seem to take it more seriously when a student hands out the flyers than the administration
- M. Pon has volunteered to write up the flyer by using the previous template from Mrs. Rockwood. Once the flyer has been written up, give to Mrs. Harman and she will pass it on to the elementary students to do the drawings on the back, then pick up and M. Pon can hand out next Wednesday morning

13.6 Lunch Feedback:

- 4 issues:
 - Elementary students need more supervision to avoid discipline and safety issues
 - Students need sufficient time to eat
 - Teachers need sufficient time to eat and prepare for next class
 - How to balance to make it work for everyone
- Solution 1
 - Add more time to eat: end the school day later by 4-5 minutes and to use the minutes for a longer lunch; no changes to instructional time; bus schedule would not have to change (by the time Middle School gets to their lockers and out to the buses, the Elementary students, with the help of their teachers, will be on the buses at the same time); would affect parents picking up their children
 - Time Table: +1 minute to eat for a total of 20 minutes and 30 minutes for recess
- Solution 2
 - Increase Elementary school fees from \$150 to \$180 to hire more lunch supervisors; right now, \$50 out of the \$150 pays for lunch supervision
 - Funding for lunch supervision comes from the school fees, doesn't come from grant from the government
 - Most schools charge \$150 - \$180 alone for lunch supervision

→ Cut back on supplies (Art, Phys. Ed., Music, Science, Library): will allow for 8 supervisors instead of 4; some teachers will still be supervising
During play time, still have 4 supervisors outside; have the other 4 inside for students who need more time to eat

→ Still a good idea to keep Multi-Kid discount

- Solution 3

→ Use 1 supervisor for 2 classes in the higher grades

- Solution 4

→ Alternate lunch and study supervision; if a teacher supervised lunch, they don't supervise study and vice versa

- Alternative to Solution 2

→ Post date cheque for \$30 (\$180 - \$150); volunteer for two days and that covers the \$30

- Parents on School Council has shared their feedback; Mrs. Harman will make the final decision after getting some more feedback

13.7 Naming Competition for 2 Elementary Gyms

- Still on, please email suggestions

13.8 Screenagers

- P. Mayo reported:

→ Film, documentary, of how to use technology and be aware of using it properly and smartly

→ Waiting to hear back from Chair of Calgary's School Council as they had a screening

- J. O'Connor: Fantasyland Hotel – Growing up Digital \$10 March 1

14.0 Q & A/Update: A. Goddard reported:

- Coffee in the foyer every Friday til 9:15am
- Have School Council meeting dates on website, working on it
- Working on having the events calendar set up
- Bring ideas for fundraising before the end of the year so it's not so rushed
- Future plans to work on til the end of the year
- Find out what we can fund til the end of the year

15.0 Topics Tabled for Next Meeting: ASCA Purpose of School Council Workshop; School Council Convention April 28-29 in Edmonton; more information regarding Screenagers

16.0 Next Meeting: March 8 at 6 p.m. in the Learning Commons

17.0 Adjournment: E. Fung moves to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m.