

School Council Meeting

Feb. 26/18
6:30pm – 8:00pm

In Attendance:

- Anie Wells (Principal)
- Karen Hetherington (Chair)
- Rafaela Marques (Vice Principal)
- Randilee Connolly (Special Events Chair)
- Nathan Davies (Treasurer)
- Karin Hamon (Vice Chair)
- Amber Remillard (Parent)
- Alice Lang (Secretary)

1) Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm. Chaired by Karen Hetherington

2) Agenda Approval: Added on safety discussion re skating program.

=> Approved with the safety addition. Motion made by Amber R & 2nd by Karen Hetherington. All in favour. Motion carried.

3) Review & Approval of Minutes of Jan. 22/18: 5 corrections under Principal's Report needed.

=> Karen Hetherington made motion to accept with the corrections. 2nd by Amber R. All in favour. Motion carried.

4) Reports

a) Executive Reports:

- Melanie Holland advised she is currently unable to attend but is definitely interested in council and being a part of it. Keeping her in our thoughts and sending her our best wishes.

- Karin Hamon: City-Wide Meeting. Red Deer Public School Board going to be launching Valuing Mental Health. Starting in the elementary schools this year; adding in middle school the year after & high schools in the subsequent years. A program being put in place to help work with students re mental health. This includes bringing in additional Mental Health Therapists to the 6 they currently have. This announcement was very well received and welcomed by all in attendance.

- Next City-Wide Meeting is March 6 and workshops are being offered on School Council's Purpose & The Work of School Councils. RSVP's are needed.

- School Council Conference & AGM will be held on April 20 – 22 @ The Delta Hotel South in Edmonton

- Women's Fun Run will take place on May 12. It is meant to empower girls/women. The School with the most female runners registered will be awarded a SubWay party for the participants. There are different lengths of runs for different age groups including a

run for Mom & Son. Run will take place @ Lindsey Thurber & McKenzie Trails. 1, 3, 5 & 10 km runs & Mini Dashes too.

=> Do we want to put together school team? Some schools have a running club. Do we want to start a running club here? Anie will present to Ida, our Health Champion and see if interested in organizing/coordinating this. Karin Hamon volunteers to help with coordinating.

- GW Smith School going to have Social Media safety course for parents. They have opened this event up to the public and are hoping for large response and attendance. Expensive cost to bring in Joe Media, \$450 cost. The course is being offered free of charge. Date to be announced and further information to come.

b) Principal's Report:

- Family Skate was held after it was postponed for 3 weeks. Had a beautiful day. Tim Horton's donated three large canisters of hot chocolate. In the morning the school also went for a winter walk around the school.

=> Safety Concerns (Nathan): We have old expired helmets, some are falling apart & some are missing face masks. Helmets also aren't fitted to the students so inadequate protection. Also, there were students there with wrong kinds of helmets (i.e. Cycling; skiing etc.) which don't offer right kind of protection and no face masks to guard from skates. What responsibility falls with the school? Anie will look at School Board safety guidelines and go from there

- District Professional Development day focused on Mental Health. Each school has been given a kit with literature to provide support. Age appropriate books were in the kits given to the schools. There are Curriculum related resources for the teachers to use. They are trying to create awareness on mental health and be proactive in dealing with and supporting students/families.

- Angelica, Student Practicum started in 2R today.

- School Zoo trip is booked for June 14. All 191 students going. 22 passes being provided for chaperones (teachers & parents). Total cost of \$2,400.87 + busing. Thank you to Council for covering the cost for this trip. Currently, they are working on the busing. As it is an all-day event, they cannot use school busses as they cannot leave until after school morning drop off and need to be back in time for after school drop off. As such coach busses will be used instead. Each class has adopted an animal and learning will be centered around their animal. Interested parents are welcome to join at their own cost and with own transportation – note that students must ride the busses.

- next Parent/Teacher Conferences will be on March 22 and will be student led. The School appointment booking system will go live at noon on March 14 and close at 4pm on March 21. There are four appointments/time block allowed.

- registration still ongoing for K & Gr1 for upcoming school year. No #'s to report.

- The Welcome to Kindergarten orientation "Kindergarten Here We Come!" is on April 24 @ Parkland Mall from 1:00pm-7:30pm. Vista Grande School will have our own table! In answer to a question, Anie confirms our school is committed to K-8 here. All expectations are for the Spanish bilingual program to continue through to Gr 12 but in the high school years it would be a program within another school.

- School name sign has arrived. Waiting for weather to cooperate so can install it

- Lockers update: Facility Department has advised they will cover the costs for these

- The school has advertised for hiring for our open positions. Local interest is being received!

- Small school allocation is based on # of registrants & a formula. Hoping to still get funding from this or a portion of this

- Upcoming events:

- Tues Feb 27 = Pizza with Gr2R. Great big thanks to Pizza Paradise! Feb birthdays will also be celebrated this same day

- Wed Feb 28 = Anti-Bullying Day. Wear your pink shirt

- Mon Mar 12 = The Ned Show. Character Presentation for our students. No cost for school. Yo Yo's will be available for sale. Message will be to never give up; to encourage others & to do your best. Whole school will participate at the same time. Parents are welcome to attend. It will be at 9:30am.

- Fri Mar 16 = 2pm school assembly

- Mon Mar 19 = report cards go home

- Tues Mar 20 = Pizza for Gr1 McMurray/Sangama

- Wed Mar 21 = birthdays for the month of March

- Thurs Mar 22 = student-led Parent/Teacher Conferences

- Fri Mar 23 = The start of Spring Break which goes to April 2

- Tues April 3 = classes resume

- Mon April 16 = kick off for Jump Rope for Heart

- April 20 = Staff learning date

- April 23 = School Council meeting

- May 11 = assembly for Jump Rope for Heart

- Anie confirms she has reached out to Chandra LaMontagne re potential music program. Cost is \$26/class (1-hour lesson). But we need to supply musical instruments. \$500 was given to us today for musical instruments. School District also confirms they have some instruments available from past musical instrument drives. On March 19 Chandra will be coming to the school to see what we have and we can go from there.

- We have received \$213.77 from the BP receipts submitted from last year. We can submit twice a year. This fundraising brings in roughly \$700/year

- The school received \$81.95 from Cosmos' bottle recycling for bottles collected at the school. The School would welcome bottle donations for this cause.

- Anie has asked for Parent Council to designate the BP receipt fundraising \$ for School Activity funds. This fund would be at the control of the School to be used as they deem fit. It could be used for music class cost; instruments; skating helmets; birthdays of the month; new Xmas tree supplies, etc. The idea is that it gives them immediate flexibility and \$ and it would help to cover many small things to the student's benefits and not take away from the budget. Also, it would allow for specific use for certain groups vs the entire school.

- Discussion had:

- If the \$ is not all used up in a year, Anie confirms the \$ would stay designated as School Activity funds and will not be absorbed elsewhere in school budget

- Parent Council wants to keep accountable. Let us know what the \$ is used for so we can advise the parents

- why move it to the school books? As it may be needed right away; it may be for a certain grade vs entire school benefit.

=> Motion made by Karen Hetherington: From now on, we move the BP fundraising \$ to the School Activity Funds to be used at the school's discretion. All in favour is Karen Hetherington. All not in favour (RLC; Karin H; Amber R; Nathan D.) Motion is defeated.

c) Treasurers Report (Nathan):

- Ques as to if Jem will be back? Answer is unknown. Karen Hetherington will reach out to her and touch base

- He has not received a report from Vanessa. Status is same as last time. Cutie Pies fundraiser status is unknown. Not sure if Cutie Pies company has been paid?

- \$20,000 in account roughly. Expect to be at \$16,500 after Cutie Pies is taken care of

- Zoo trip will be roughly \$5,000 cost

- expect our funds to be at around \$4,000 for start of next year after field trips etc. have cleared

d) Fundraising Report (Jem absent):

- No report. TBD

e) Special Events Committee (Randilee):

- Dance lessons not yet firmed up

- Budget for dance discussed as no meeting in March. DJ cost expected to be about \$250; costumes; decorations. Theme will be luau.

=> Motion made by Karin Hamon for \$600 to be allotted for the dance. 2nd by Randilee. All in favour. Motion carried.

f) Hot Lunch (Tammy absent):

- All going well
- Next one is Taco Time this Wed

5) New Business:

- safety concerns were discussed under the Principal's report
- Karin Hamon) RCMP came to school to talk about bullying. Concern that we as parents didn't know about it and we received no information on it to have follow up chats with the students. Anie confirms it was our school resource officer Constable Garcia. It was difficult to coordinate schedules etc. Not expected to do another talk now.
- Karin Hamon) Did anyone talk to kids about the Florida school shootings? Anie/Rafaela confirmed these are not topics discussed at elementary school levels. They would talk about importance of lock downs vs the actual incident.
- Karin Hamon) Wondering about Sex Education. Anie confirmed that when it's coming, they will advise.
- Karin Hamon) Has brought a few informational pamphlets from Teachers Convention. Flying Bob, Bread Lady, speech pathologist and 2nd languages, teacher building blocks

8:07 pm meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be on April 23 @ 6:30pm.