

Medicine Hat Catholic Schools Parent Association Minutes November 25, 2013

In Attendance: Kate Glass, Barb Thompson, Christine Stupak, Michele Plante, Bernie Kinch, Hugh Lehr, Barb Dolter, Robert Risling, Regina Durst, Penny Pahl, Candace Lambert, Nancy Small, Andy Dooling, Laureen Getz, Corinne Hordos-Goyer, Natalie Van Tryp.

A tour of McCoy was done by Paul Bauche prior to the meeting commencing. The tour took place from 6:30-7:30pm.

1. Opening Prayer: led by Hugh Lehr
2. Introductions of all attendees
3. Additions and Approval of Agenda: Laureen approved, Corinne second
4. Approval of Minutes from October 28, 2013:
 - Minutes were printed prior to an amendment being made to point 8a. Correct minutes will be submitted.
 - Andy Dooling was in attendance and the parent rep for St. Louis school.
 - Approved by Laureen, Barb Dolter second.
5. Central Office Update- Hugh Lehr(2 handouts- Calendar options and SLA information)
 - Central Office had 3 options for 2014/2015 calendar. Bernie Kinch added 2 more options that he would like considered. One of the issues with Bernie's Option 4 is that the last day of school would be Friday June 26 and that is the day that Science 30 is written and would cause some time constraints for teachers. Our school calendar cannot exceed 200 school days. MHCBE normally hovers about 197/198 days. The Board makes the final decision on the calendar.
 - Student Learning Assessments. Handout that we received explains what these are and the timeline for implementing. The MHCBE has chosen to implement SLA's for grade 3's starting in September 2014 (rather than writing PAT's). For the 2013/2014 school year, PAT's nor SLA's will be completed for grade 3 students. Grades 6 & 9 PAT's will continue following the guideline shown in handout.
 - There has also been some discussion about "curriculum redesign". This will allow kids to write exams early or late depending on their skill level and level of learning. This is still in discussion stages.
 - Any questions regarding either of these topics can be emailed to Hugh Lehr.

Hugh Lehr departed meeting at 7:30pm

6. ATA Update- Bernie Kinch
 - Bernie talked about the fact that the ATA is currently under a framework agreement and negotiations are continuing. A settlement should be made by December 31.
 - Bernie has his hands in many baskets (President of Local, Co-chair of C2, Political engagement officer, etc,)
 - Discussed his calendar options again quickly

Bernie Kinch departed meeting at 7:42

7. Board Trustee Report- Deacon Robert Risling
 - Trustees Mrs. Regina Durst, Mr. Peter Grad, Mr. Dick Mastel and Rev. Mr. Robert Risling attended the fall General meetings of the ACSTA and ASBA in Edmonton from November 15-19, 2013. Dr. Garry Andrews was able to attend the ACSTA portion.
 - o Both the ACSTA and ASBA held elections for the positions of President and Vice President and their respective associations.
 - o Keynote speaker for ACSTA was Fr. Raymond Cary- Spoke of the Four Revelations of Jesus- Law will not save you, Personal Relationship with God (Transformative), Inclusivity and Love without limit, Mercy without measure. Also spoke of Five Values of Jesus- Enthusiasm for the coming of God's Kingdom, Conversion of the Heart as a way of life, Reverence for Persons (respect), Loving service both given and received and Prayer.
 - o Bishop Fredrick Henry pledged the support of the Alberta Bishops to Catholic Education.
 - o Breakfast with MLA's of the province- Medicine Hat public and Catholic sat with Drew Barnes and Blake Pederson. Spoke about the possible modernization of Monsignor McCoy.
 - o Minister of Education, Jeff Johnson addressed the trustees- 50+ modernization projects to be announced. Alberta is one of the top performing education systems in the world. Answered various questions posed from trustees in attendance.
 - o Keynote speaker for ASBA was George Couros "Leading Innovative Change". Utilize and adapt current media and technology in our schools in a meaningful way. Be creative in our use of technology (not to use an iPad as a textbook). Use media to engage our children and communities (video newsletter for schools).

- With the help of Mr. Jim Gibbons, Senior Education Advisor from ASBA, on November 25, 2013, Medicine Hat Catholic will formally begin the process of hiring a permanent Superintendent of Schools. (Dr. Garry Andrews has committed to staying with us until we have a Superintendent in place)
- On November 12, 2013 after some discussion during our in camera session to the recent cuts to Learning Services, it was decided that Learning Services will become a standing agenda item with the 'hopes' of incrementally restoring funding to that department over the course of the next four years.

8. Committee Reports

Chair Report- Candace Lambert

- Will call up to Edmonton to discuss what our plan should be in regards to the 3 year Plan discussion that we will be having
- Candace will attend special Board meeting on November 26.
- We will get together after sometime to discuss what we would like to work on as an association.

Secretary Report- Kate Glass

- Bank balance is \$1268.54 + \$400.00 chq from ATA
- Setting up appointment to change signing authority and address on bank account.

Board Representative- Laureen Getz

- Stop POP initiative currently going on at McCoy
- Healthy Initiative Team at St. Mary's
- Breakfast Program going well at Mother Teresa
- Dr. Garry Andrews is enjoying Medicine Hat
- Student Advisory Board Committee- hoping to start process in January
- A new immunization policy will be written because of the HPV vaccination. The new policy will broaden the policy for future immunizations, so it does not need to be constantly revised.
- Special Board meeting (Budget and 3 year plan) will be November 26, 2013 at 1:30 pm at Board office.
- Next regular Board meeting will be December 10, 2013 at 3pm.

9. School Reports

a) McCoy- Laureen Getz

- Mr. Bosch showed the accountability pillar and 3 year plan
- 3 calendar options were shown
- Fundscrip fundraiser- a percentage of every card sold goes to student (75%) and the remainder to the school. They are gift cards to local businesses.
- Bubble Campaign- donations to the Woman's shelter for Christmas. Kids are getting very involved.
- Varsity Girls volleyball are headed to provincials in Edmonton November 28-30.
- Lots of boys are participating in November
- Christmas Concert is December 11 at the Esplanade at 7pm.

b) Mother Teresa- Kate Glass

- First Movie night of the year was a huge success. Most families we have ever seen. Raised \$700.
- Have had 2 snack days and 2 hot lunches. Both going very well.
- President of Parent Council unexpectedly stepped down, so co-chair, Lisa Faller will step up to Chair.
- Christmas Packages (basket raffle, Christmas Concert info) will be going out very soon
- Christmas Concert is at Esplanade on December 18 at 7pm.
- Starting to prepare for our Spring Art Auction.

c) Notre Dame- Michele Plante

- Finished the In Good Taste Fundraiser- not sure of final results
- Parent/Teacher interviews and Book Fair were previous week.
- The school (not parent council) is trying to run a hot lunch every Friday
- Basketball tryouts are starting up
- Winter Carnival is coming up
- Taking donations to do a basket to assist community members.
- Next meeting is December 9

d) St. Thomas- Nancy Small

- The parents of St. Thomas put on a Christmas dinner for the staff and students on December 11 at Holy Family Parish.
- Christmas Concert is at the Dream Centre
- Switched their yearbook provider to Lifetouch out of Edmonton. (Lifetouch did their school pictures this year and did a fantastic job).
- Trying to have 2 hot lunches/month.
- Starting a "snack break" program

e) St. Francis- Christine Stupak and Barb Thompson

- Did a campaign to raise money for the Philippines. Kids names were entered into a draw and Quirina Thompson won a large stuffed moose.
 - December 6 they are having a Christmas dinner as well.
 - Christmas Concert is on December 17 at the Dream Centre
 - 50th Anniversary is December 3- Mr. Dumanowski has lots planned for this day.
 - Hot lunches continue to go well.
- f) St. Louis- Andy Dooling
- Little Caesar Pizza Kits Fundraiser went extremely well. There are only 78 kids in the school and they made a total of \$1700 for school.
 - Kids participate in a Get Fit program at the Downtown YMCA
 - Do a lot with Elm Street School such as a turkey dinner, caroling, etc.
 - Participate in Kid Fit/Everactive Kid
 - Ordering uniforms for all kids (shorts and shirts)
 - Had a movie night- didn't go as well as normal but will continue to try them
 - St. Louis students have started a Student Council and attended the Parent Council Meeting. They would like to start a school newspaper.
- g) St. Mary's- Laureen Getz
- Remembrance Day Assembly was November 7, 2013
 - Report Cards go out November 22, 2013
 - Christmas Concert is at Esplanade on December 10.
 - Community Coming Together- creating hampers for the community during Christmas (same as Notre Dame)
 - School Dance on December 19.
 - Discussed accountability Pillar and 3 year Plan at November meeting
 - Next meeting is December 17.
- h) St. Michael's (Bow Island)- Penny Pahl
- Students are involved in the design of the new school jackets coming soon
 - Missoula is coming this spring again (Alice in Wonderland)
 - School auction is coming up- great auction items and excellent supper
 - Cookbook is in the works
 - New trustee- glad to have Natalie Van Tryp
 - Plebiscite- voted in favour of looking at other school boards (including MHCBE)
 - Options week- Elementary and junior kids were off for a week, so seniors took a week of options (Woodworking, CPR and Cosmo) - kids loved it.
 - Free hot lunches monthly
 - Farm Safety program has been completed
 - Grade 9 Party Program
 - Grade 4-6 Bible celebration this week
 - Lifetouch photos were a huge success
 - Terry Fox run made \$7000- huge success
 - Basketball starts today
 - Parent Teacher interviews
 - Christmas Concert done by Glee Club is December 12
 - Mission Mexico
- i) St. Michael's (Medicine Hat)- No Parent rep attended
- j) ST. Patrick's- No parent rep attended
10. Old Business- Nothing
11. New Business
- Some questions were asked in regards to finding a new Superintendent. How do we find one? Why are we looking now? Answers: Apparently, this is the best time to start looking for the 2014/2015 year.
 - Dr. Garry Andrews will be in place until we find someone
12. Next Meeting Date
- Monday January 27, 2014 at St. Mary's School
 - Tour will be offered prior to meeting time at 7pm
13. Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm