

Medicine Hat Catholic Schools Parent Association Minutes
March 25, 2013

In Attendance: Candace Lambert, Corinne Hordos Goyer, Laureen Getz, Michele Plante, Lesley Heather, Lisa Faller-Torrie, Lisa Gendron, Carrie Lundquist, Celena Gerl, Laurie Pearse, Bernie Kinch, Stan Aberle, Peter Grad, Barb Dolter, Nancy Small, Penny Pahl, Melissa Scory, Ron Blackmer, Kenton Shilka, Raegan Leronowich, Tina Fernandez, Greg MacPherson, Lana Johnson, Wayne Schlosser, Teresa Stark,

1. Tour of St. Michael's School: led by Mr. Blackmer – great tour!!
2. Opening Prayer: led by Mr. Blackmer at 7:27
3. Introductions
4. Additions and Approval of Agenda: Approved by Michele Plante/seconded by Celena Gerl
5. Reading and Approval of Minutes from Jan 29, 2013: Approved by Laurie Pearse/seconded by Laureen Getz
6. Special Budget Report: Greg MacPherson
 - See attached
 - Erroneous student projections used – demographically will see approximate loss of 35 students but may be much higher. The Gov't budget is in and there is a significant loss of dollars to our Division. With the enrollment decline and base instruction funding model used by the Gov't., we have an off the top loss of 223,095. Forecasted decline of 1 FTE teacher, but actual loss approx. 380,000. Work experience drops from 187 a credit to 121 with a loss of 120000+. Alberta DLC has been adjusted from 156% a credit – 100 to Division and 56 to ADLC but drops to 44% to us or a loss of 188,000. There will be a meeting with ADLC in March to evaluate the situation. Class size initiative for grade 1-3 lost with approx. 45,000. About 3.5% revenue gone. ESL readjusted funding to 5 years from 7 so about 40,000 difference. Operations and Maintenance will see a loss with the new formula showing a 214000 or 9% impact. There is an increase to learning services of 53,000. Equity of opportunity has been realigned and there will be 145,000 loss in grant. The government recognized the significant impact on our small Division and offered 219,000 budget mitigation. Effective April 1st the fuel subsidy grant will no longer exist. Learning resource credit (textbooks) of 31,000 is gone. AISI took a big hit with approx. 184,000 eliminated on April 1st when the grant is eliminated. Budget impact is 1.3 mil when added to current budget. Grid creep (teacher's salaries per years worked) costs about 84,000 a year and with program requirements could push the deficit to 1.7 million. There is 180,000 in reserves which cannot be touched – the budget for next year will include approx. 200,000 to surplus to take long term approach to rebuilding what should be a 5 day emergency reserve (approx 650,000).

- Question was posed whether covering the cost for people paying for registrations online was justified in light of financial difficulties – the decision to accept online fees has not been finalized. Thank you to Greg for his time, knowledge, and patience. :)

Live With Laughter Leader Report: Lisa Gendron

- Live with laughter is an anti-bullying program seeking to bring kids together with interaction that promotes laughter. Lisa presented overview of program, conducted a short exercise in laughter, and requested that info be taken back to all schools. St. Michael's has piloted a laughter project with Lisa, and the cost is \$3 per child/\$30 a year per child.

7. Central Office Report: Wayne Schlosser

- School bullying AP – under the education act each school must develop policy for own school. AP 160 Safe & Caring Learning Environments is being refined by the Division and each school will be finalizing their drafts in April/May.
- Learning coaches hours will be cut as of April 1st as the AISI grant is being pulled by the Gov't. To save money next year, learning coaches and custodial hours will be cut. 2.6 FTE @ 110,000 a teacher has been cut. Chose to take learning coaches hours for this year after April 1st and utilize in teaching capacity as Division does not want to see jobs lost. The saving of the cut to the learning coaches hours translates to savings of 1 1st year teacher, cutting deficit down to 230,000 for this year (no money in hand, just on paper) and “could” mean one 1st year teacher salary next year. Mid – April this year should see wrap-up of transition.
- Second preschool has been added at St. Pats.
- 2013-14 Calendar has been approved and posted online. BI Calendar will be approved at the next board meeting.
- Great things are happening in the Division including Science Fair winners, Rotary Festival winners, and senior basketball taking silver.
- The ATA and Gov't released a proposed memorandum of agreement which was addressed by the Board of Trustees on March 20th with a board motion and approval at a special meeting. The motion was to endorse the agreement, although there are still concerns, including # of teaching hours, and # of committees. This may be the best to hope for financially as there will be a 2 year pay freeze. The deadline for acceptance is May 13, and ATA local has a right to vote separate from the provincial decision. 62 boards and locals must accept the memorandum to move ahead with it. Peter states that “the Devil is in the details” and Stan states that “he hopes the best for teachers and better for students”.

8. ATA Update: Bernie Kinch: ATA Locals have the opportunity to vote yea or nay – part of the difficulty was that locals were told to negotiate locally but then a provincial decision was announced. These are very difficult decisions to make and all must strive to be positive and maintain positive relations. The Teacher/Board Advisory Committee has been resurrected and teachers are looking for open communication

with Clyde Pudwell & Warren Stark (Board Rep). Stresses again hugely important need to stay positive.

Wayne Schlosser exits meeting at 8:45 p.m.

9. Board Trustee Report: Stan Aberle: Has dealt with budget since 1996 and we will get through. There is a good relationship between board & staff. Huge issue with loss of students – 70 students at \$6000 per equals a huge loss. Asks parents to “get out and sell our schools”. At the current rate of decline, with currently approx 190 students per grade but only 168 kindergarten students, our division could be below the 2000 student mark within a few years. Proud to announce the new 3 year contract for Clyde Pudwell as Superintendent. There has been a request for a 4x4 from a rural area to address busing concerns. Brad Van Middelkoop is the Division’s Edwin Parr Nominee. Calendar shows a start after Labor Day for 2013-14. 3 year Ed Plans being finalized. Policy 8 will see a committee formed to decide format for meetings of the committee of the whole and In-Camera. Please run as Trustee Celena Gerl attended the trustee to be info night and was disappointed that only 13 people were there, 3 from the Catholic Division. Ron Blackmer speaks to the rural busing issue, with 3 students lost to division at least if no busing provided. Stan invites comment at stan.aberle@mhcbe.ab.ca.

10. Committee Reports

A. Chair Report: Candace Lambert

- Received invite to Annual Charity Golf Tournament for Catholic Ed Foundation. Thank you to St. Michael’s for hosting this meeting.

B. Secretary/Treasurer:

- \$1268.54 in bank account.

C. Board Representative: Lauren Getz

- February 12 saw an HPV debate at the board meeting with Cathy Smith speaking eloquently against the vaccine and had the support of a delegate of 20 including a nun, CWL members, Legion of Mary, and some senior Catholics – there will be no HPV Vaccine offered in our Division schools. Presentation was made for Ambassador for Catholic Education to a young student, Mason Hintz from Bow Island, who has collected 120 lbs+ of pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House. He continues his charitable collecting. Also receiving Ambassador Awards were the two Edwin Parr nominees for the Division, Mr. Van Middelkoop and Mr. Lucas. Wayne Unreiner presented a brilliant PowerPoint highlighting the positives of Notre Dame. Clyde & the Board have decided to raise school fees for 2013-14. Boundaries were discussed. Church Service Projects were discussed. Sub for the Day was won by St. Mary’s, St. Louis, and McCoy. OHS Officer has been hired – cost unknown but shared with District 76.

- March 12 the Clyde Contract was approved for 3 year term. Donna Anderson from St. Pats was nominated for an award and presented with the Ambassador for Catholic Education honor. The two Edwin Parr nominees were presented. Trustees met with MLAs. Notre Dame is seeking a new principal. McCoy has chosen Mr. Bauche as principal & Mr. Burzminski as Vice. Calendar was approved.

11. School Reports

McCoy: Laureen Getz

Football Coaches attended the March 20 meeting to seek funding for player protective gear so gaming money will be used for helmets and pads. Mr. Bauche discussed impact of new budget. The remainder of gaming money will purchase a sign with roll-in letters to advertise events/activities at the school. Great News – 41 Japanese students have been attending McCoy – organizers of this cultural exchange were very impressed with the McCoy students. P/T Interviews were held and report cards will be out April 22. Grad will be held May 16&17. Lisa is retiring for one year – Farewell Lisa Faller-Torrie.

Mother Teresa: Lisa Faller-Torrie

Family Fun Night and Movie Night held. 10 cameras have been purchased for \$1700 with the last Spirit Grant monies. 500 lbs of food was raised with a prize donation from the Esplanade of 2 Scooby Doo tickets for the top food drive donor. A basket raffle is being held for Easter.

Notre Dame: Michele Plante

Report card and P/T interview time. Easter Mass was held. Partnered with Children's Wish Foundation and barbecue proceeds donated. Selling magazine subscriptions.

St. Thomas: Celena Gerl

Spelling Bee will be fundraiser. Pet Item Drive was held and truckloads of donations came in. Movie was a prize. Huge concern for school that one of the Grade 6 PATS is on a PD day next year.

St. Francis: Teresa Stark

New Snack Attack program which sees healthy snacks made and delivered by Saamis Immigration on two afternoons a month – St. Louis does also – partnership between schools, SAAMIS, City Council & Alberta Health Services.

St. Mary's: Laureen Getz

Shrove Tuesday luncheon went very well. Badminton busy and successful. Annie will be held on April 24 & 25 with tickets available for \$12 at Esplanade. Mr. Siedlicki is back in full force. Science Fair saw 16 students attend regionals. 2 of our male students have been invited to Nationals. 32 students took part in 30 hour famine. Report cards are out & P/T Interviews tomorrow. Gloom & Doom talks about money all around. The Edwin Parr nominee is our Mr. Brad VanMiddelkoop. Holy Thursday service at the school at 11 am.

St. Michael's BI: Penny Pahl

April 22 will see the Missoula Children's Theater bring Secret Garden to the school. Grade 7&8 Science Fair went well and 2 students went on to regionals in Medicine Hat. Meatless Fridays are being honored for lent. Fr. Monk did a Lenten service. Field trips are happening to Europe and Camp McCoy. Kindergarten will jump to 3 days from 2 after the Easter break. Badminton in full swing. There is an exercise program offered each Monday after school. Grade 11 fashion show fundraiser being held for Grad. Grade 3 & 4 are hosting a bridge night. The annual auction brought in well over \$25000 – woohooo!!!

St. Michael's MH: Barbie Dolter

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes were a success – note that gluten free takes a long time to cook!! Barbecued for many and had many volunteers. Rotary Music Festival had entries from junior/senior choir, one Gr. 1 Choral and Grade 5/6 Choral Speech, who were recommended to provincials. Explorer Idol was a presentation on historical explorers that was well done and well loved. St. Mike's PC purchasing wooden bingo cards that will be available to rent. Different classes are doing different fundraisers for their fieldtrips.

12. Old Business: ASCA Conference – contact Candace if you would like to attend.

Food Safety Course - \$167 online but being offered through schools for \$25 – April 10& 11 – cheques to be made out to Alberta Health Services with a receipt coming from Todd. Candace hoping for 14-15 – thank you to Candace for arranging this course.

13. New Business:

14. NEXT MEETING: April 29 @ St. Patrick's School.

Adjourn 9:37p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Corinne Hordos Goyer