

Medicine Hat Catholic Schools Parent Association Minutes

November 28, 2011

In Attendance: Candace Lambert, Corinne Hordos Goyer, Lauren Getz, Michele Plante, Lisa Zeidell, Jodi Churla, Ruby Clarke, Teresa Stark, Christine Stupak, Barb Thompson, David Leahy

1. Opening Prayer: led by Mr. Leahy
2. Introductions
3. Additions and Approval of Agenda : Approved by Michele Plante/seconded by Christine Stupak
4. Reading and Approval of Minutes from AGM – October 3rd, 2010: Approved by Lauren Getz/seconded by Teresa Stark

5. Board Trustee Report: Jodi Churla.

Welcomed Candace to position of chair and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Two Board meetings since last PA meeting – first had presentation from Mrs. Neuman on Mother Teresa School's new Peace Garden. Some trustees and Central Office staff attended Premier's dinner and met the new Education Minister, who they also met with in Medicine Hat. The Minister looks at McCoy's RAP program as an outstanding success. The secret of success for the RAP program ties closely with the Work Experience program, as students become motivated to use their skills. McCoy has a work experience credit program, and pays money to the students for credits earned after the first 30. McCoy also has 1.3 FTE dedicated to placement with the work experience program. The second board meeting dealt with the approval of the financial statements and revised budget. The approved revised budget shows a \$1,000,000 deficit for the 2011-2012 school year.

6. Guest Speaker: Jill Wilkinson, AISI Project 2012.

The Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AIS) Project utilizes funds targeted to the goals of improving student learning and enhancing engagement. Mrs. Wilkinson gave an informative presentation on the background and current successes of AIS. For the next three year cycle, Mrs. Wilkinson and Central Office are "engaging the community to help student learning", and seeking parent input on how AIS should look (i.e. what areas/projects would parents like to see the money spent on). To take part in this exciting opportunity, ask your School Council Chair for an information sheet on the participation process.

7. Central Office Report: David Leahy

- Why is there a deficit? Salary increases to support staff, unfunded by government, are a large contributing factor. Over the last 3 years, special education has received \$0 but division has maintained same level of support. K-3 class size initiatives are finally on target for district average. The Bow Island High School Program Review was presented at the November Board Meeting – the division has a tough decision ahead.
- Annual Education Results and Accountability Pillar Results have been approved – ask your principals to see their Three Year Plans.
- Detailed Presentation of School Budget should come to School Council Meetings. Have assertive and constructive conversations.

- Attended meeting in Edmonton with Laura Cameron from Capital Planning. McCoy is to have a Value Management Audit in New Year and there will be a survey coming soon to McCoy students and parents.
- Recommendation to board on St. Patrick's Boundaries at the Dec 13th Board Meeting. St. Francis boundaries still being reviewed.
- Centennial Book Launch Dec 19, 2011 at St. Mary's School.

8. ATA Update: Ray West Absent

A HUGE Thank you to the ATA for the donation of Parent Association Membership Fees for all 10 Catholic Schools in the District. ☺

9. Committee Reports

A. Chair Report: Candace Lambert

- Provided copies of Bylaws and Constitution and urged members to review both and bring forth any suggestions. Contacted government to get feedback on Council of Councils, shared our bylaws and constitution, and was told we are doing well.
- Alberta School Councils has new website: www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca Great information resource!
- Conference Call with Education Minister Nov. 29 at Board office at 7:30.

B. Secretary/Treasurer: Corinne HG

- \$968.54 in bank account. Cheque for \$200 to deposit (thanks again to ATA)

C. Board Representative: Laureen Getz

- Amanda Crawley presented new Roman missal prayers. Peace Garden at Mother Teresa School. Monica Braat presented on new LAP Integration. Financials presented at special board meeting. 50-75 parents at St. Patrick's meeting with Board and Central Office. Meeting the Education minister was informative and enjoyable. Please attend board meetings.

10. School Reports

McCoy: Laureen Getz

2012-13 Calendar was reviewed and concern expressed over Remembrance Day weekend. Tripartite talk's outcomes may alter calendar. Bubbles Campaign for Women's Shelter donations underway. David states that Bishop Henry would like us to put aside humble Catholic nature and publish Works of Charity. AP Workshop for Math and English upcoming – there will be a parent/student info night. Trip planning for Spain in spring of 2013 has begun. Addictions awareness evening poorly attended but very interesting. Addictions counsellor from AADAC visits school on regular basis.

Notre Dame: Michele Plante

Gr. 9s are done woodworking and on to welding. Certain students will go to College to meet with tech guys to make app for Blast. Food Lab planning is in second stage – board approved IMR Funds to \$250000 for project. School is looking to form relationship with Canadian Tire and offer bike repair/building course. Public K-9 school to be built next to ND – considering bus traps.

St. Thomas: Ruby Clarke

2nd Annual Christmas Dinner Dec 15th.

St. Francis: Teresa Stark

Turkey Supper Dec 9th. Shopping cart Food Bank challenge has begun. \$2500 raised through cash fundraiser.

Interim Conversation: David Leahy

Suggestion to look at Test Drive Fundraiser – successful for public school. Flag – raising ceremonies for centennial were held at each school.

St. Mary's: Laureen Getz

Alice in Wonderland rehearsals have begun for shows in April. Fine Arts Christmas Concert on Dec. 13th. Remembrance Day assembly was beautiful. French Immersion planning trip to Quebec in the spring. Every week for Monday 9 am assembly a different community member/group comes in to give presentations.

St. Patrick's: Lisa Zeidell

Food Drive for Food Bank and Angel Tree campaigns have begun. Reg's Meats fundraiser showed profit of \$3800 from \$19000 sales. Came in second for Majesta Outdoor Classroom Challenge and have applied to Hatsmart for grant to make outdoor classroom a reality.

11. Old Business: none

12. New Business: Candace Lambert

Would like to rotate meetings to schools to view different schools and attract more parents.

Laureen to check on meeting at McCoy for January.

13. NEXT MEETING JANUARY 23RD @ MCCOY HIGH SCHOOL

Adjourn 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Corinne Hordos Goyer