

## **Medicine Hat Catholic Schools Parent Association Minutes October 28, 2013**

In Attendance: Kate Glass, Bonnie Stafford-Mayer, Nancy Small, Stephanie Richards, Robert Risling, Garry Andrews, Erika Bodnaruk, Laureen Getz, Candace Lambert, Michele Plante, Corinne Hordos-Goyer, Barb Dolter, Alicia Garrecht, Andy Dooling

1. Tour of Mother Teresa School: led by Principal Erika Bodnaruk.
2. Opening Prayer: led by Dr. Garry Andrews.
3. Introductions of all attendees.
4. Additions and approvals of agenda
  - Change to #5 (Approval of minutes from 2012 AGM- September 24, 2012 (s/b- minutes from meeting April 29, 2012).
  - Approved by Laureen, second by Corinne.
5. Approval of Minutes from meeting April 29, 2012
  - Some spelling mistakes
  - Election for trustees Oct. 21 not Oct. 14
  - Approved by Laureen, second by Nancy
6. Central Office Report (Dr. Garry Andrews)- each person received a handout
  - a) Enrollment numbers for the year are up by a total of 13 FTE students from the preliminary budget- these 13 FTE are dispersed throughout all schools.
  - b) Year-end financial statement is being prepared and will be presented to Board on November 26, 2013. Audit is currently underway. Prediction is there will be a surplus in funds for 2012-13. No exact number is currently available.
  - c) Decisions regarding the dispersal of those surplus funds will be made after consultation between the DLT, Sr. Admin and the Board. A lengthy list of requests has been received ranging from increasing custodial help/supplies to program enhancement. The DLT will be asked to help prioritize the list at their upcoming Nov. 5 meeting. No decisions will be made before Nov. 26 meeting. Decisions will start in Dec.
  - d) New Administrative Procedures are being developed. They include responses to:
    - Public Interest Disclosure Act requirements (Whistle blower): ensuring those in positions of authority do not get away with improper acts.
    - Immunization Procedures: HPV modeled after Red Deer Catholic
    - Expense Transparency and Reporting: ensure spending is all accounted for.
  - e) C2 meetings continue. A report will be drafted and sent to Alberta Education regarding our division's plan to support teacher efficacy and reduce workload over the next three years. This will help lessen things imposing on our teacher's time. Committee is very positive.
  - f) 3 Year Plan is currently being revised and will be presented to the Board on November 26, 2013 (Education Plan)
  - g) Bow Island plebiscite has passed. Investigation re: new school division to enter into an agreement with is proceeding. Deadline is April 30, 2014.
  - h) Regulation Review: 57 page document, but Dr. Andrews suggests scrolling through to what you want to read and comment on.
7. ATA Update
  - Bernie Kinch not in attendance, but had asked if cheque was received. It was and will be deposited as soon as signing authority is amended.
8. Trustee Board Report (Deacon Robert Risling)- handout
  - a) The Board passed the following motion at the October 8, 2013 Board meeting: "That the Board of Trustees for Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education reaffirms its position that the administration of some vaccines in Catholic Schools is incongruent with the educative mission of our Catholic Schools" and; "That th Board of Trustees for the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education disassociates itself from the elements of the Alberta Health Services distributes and collects consent forms directly from parents for vaccinations that are incongruent with the educative mission of our Catholic Schools" and; "That the Board of Trustees for the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education allows Alberta Health Services to administer all vaccinations that are part of their public health program, while not participating in the distribution or collection of parental consent forms for vaccinations that are incongruent with the educative mission of our Catholic Schools". (To clarify, MHCBE does not have any part in the distribution or collection of consent forms and will only be a venue for the vaccination to be administered. Alberta Health Services will oversee all administration of the vaccinations)

- b) October 21, 2013 there was a plebiscite regarding the Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 82 (Ward 2- Bow Island) withdrawing from the Medicine Hat Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 20 in order to join a different district or division. Preliminary results: Yes 56, No 4. This means that the Bow Island ward will begin negotiations with another Catholic School district to join them. Negotiations, including acceptance of the ward, programming, and fee transfers will need to be completed by April 30, 2014 with an effective date of transfer for the start of the 2014/15 school year. If negotiations are not completed by April 30, 2014 then the withdrawal process is canceled
- c) On Thursday Oct. 17, 2013 we had a contingency attend the Bishop's Dinner. Attendees included; Peter Grad and wife, Dr. Andrews, Jill Wilkinson, Hugh Lehr, Chuck Hellman and Dick Mastel. One table was purchased.
- d) AGM coming up in mid-November with 4 trustees planning to attend. This is important for trustees as it is great for networking and good for professional development. Catholic trustees meet Fri, Sat and Sun. Altogether Mon and Tues. This is a Provincial AGM.
- e) Next Board meeting we will be having a discussion regarding Policy 8 "Student Board Advisory" and may initiate the committee. It is a newly formed policy. The Advisory will consist of 10 students from different grades, 2 trustees and superintendent. Each will commit to a 2 year term. The goal of the advisory board is to give input on possible initiatives. They will NOT be the only voice for students.
- f) Encourage parents to fill out the 'Education Act Regulations Review' survey online. There is a link located on the district website. End October deadline.

#### 9. Committee Reports

- a) Chair Report: Candace Lambert
  - A few years apart the Parent Association almost fell apart. Since that time, we have rebuilt very well and are almost complete. The only thing that is missing is some ideas on what we can do to enhance the 3 Year Plan. Anybody on Parent Association who wants to discuss this further will either go to Nov 26 Board Meeting or meet for lunch after to discuss one item in 3 Year Plan that we want to help enhance.
  - Board's special meeting to discuss 3 Year Plan and Financial Statement is on Nov. 26 at 1:30pm. Anyone is welcome to attend.
  - At the next PA meeting, we will set a date for a lunch meeting to discuss this further.
  - Ideas will be presented at January PA meeting
- b) Secretary/Treasurer: Kate Glass
  - Current bank balance is \$1268.54 + ATA cheque (\$400.00)
  - Deacon Robert asked what funds are used for. Answer: Conference in Edmonton each year that some try to attend. This helps cover some of the costs.
  - Board pays our fees to Alberta School Council Association
- c) Board Representative: Laureen Getz
  - Board meeting was Oct. 8.
  - Presentations were made to Trustees leaving.
  - Service awards were also given.
  - Miss. Remeikas was recognized with an Ambassador award for her mural in the underpass on 1 Street.
  - Laureen Getz was awarded a parent ambassador award.
  - HPV Vote and passed. AHS to mail and collect permission forms. Schools will not be included in the administration of HPV vaccinations. Female students will get vaccinations in grades 5 & 9.
  - Vital Signs report was released and Board disagrees. A letter was sent to the editor of the MH News as the numbers were skewed. Stats Canada numbers were used, not Alberta Ed. Current high school dropout rate is 0.6. Rate for kids to finish high school in 3 years is high 80%. Rate to finish in 4 years is in the 90's. Wayne Schlosser will have input in this next year to ensure accuracy.
  - Next meeting: Nov. 12
  - Oct. 15: swearing in new trustees  
Board Chair: Peter Grad  
Co-chair: Dyck Mastel

#### 10. School Reports

- a) Monsignnor McCoy- Laureen Getz
  - No October Parent Council Meeting
  - Awards night for 2012/13 school year
  - Advanced Theatre has begun- staff from hometown acting theatre
  - Football booster had a successful steak night fundraiser

- Every Wednesday in October students were encouraged to wear pink to support breast cancer awareness.
- October 10, 2013: Thanksgiving Mass
- A few students attended WE DAY in Calgary
- b) Mother Teresa- Kate Glass
  - Hot lunch has been taken over and first one (pizza) was a success
  - Halloween Dance on October 25 was a success
  - Collected over \$7000 for Walk for Wishes
  - Breakfast program started October 1 and has been a huge hit with the kids. The teachers have indicated that it has helped.
  - Snack days are going strong
  - Having a big "Art Auction" in April- our big fundraiser for the year
- c) Notre Dame- Michele Plante
  - First Mass was in October
  - Volleyball tournament hosts
  - Trying a new fundraiser: In Good Taste. Will let us all know how it goes
  - Halloween dress up Thurs Oct. 31
  - Vice Principal has initiated a Math online program and would be more than willing to pass on info to anyone else interested.
- d) St. Thomas- Nancy Small
  - Halloween Dance: Oct. 25. Free for families to attend. A photo booth was set up for everyone to enjoy. Was a huge hit.
  - Food drive. Mini competition with St. Francis. Preliminary is that St. Francis won.
  - Fundraising has changed a lot as they have almost all new executives. Tried a cheque writing campaign- not completed yet.
  - Planning a Christmas supper at the church for the students and their families.
- e) St. Francis- Alicia Garrecht
  - Total cheque writing campaign- \$3970.00. Very good.
  - Have had 2 hot lunches so far.
- f) St. Louis- Andy Dooling
  - Meeting Oct. 3
  - It has been a very difficult time for St. Louis with the flood. They have lost a number of students due to relocation.
  - In the middle of a Little Caesar's Pizza Kit fundraiser. Seems very successful.
  - Trying to find somewhere to put a new playground. The funds are ready to go, just need to find a place to do it.
- g) St. Mary's- Laureen Getz
  - Cross country did very well in Zones. Quinn Halderson was the CHAMPION!
  - Pep rally on Friday Nov. 1
  - Thanksgiving Mass was October 10
  - Auditions for spring show are approaching
  - In assembly, Random Acts of Kindness cards were handed out and the students were encouraged to do RAK and hand out cards to be paid forward.
  - Scholastic book fair: Nov 26-29
  - Miss Remeikas and art students are currently working on painting murals on school walls
- h) St. Michael's Bow Island- No Rep present
  - No updates
- i) St. Michael's Medicine Hat- No rep present
  - No updates
- j) St. Pat's- Bonnie Stafford-Mayer
  - All new executives this year so they are just getting started. No updates at this time.

11. Old Business- none

12. New Business- pick a lunch date to discuss 3 year plan at next meeting

13. Next Meeting Location- McCoy. If you wish to see school, contact Candace prior to meeting and a tour will be given about half an hour prior to meeting start time. All meeting dates have been chosen for remainder of year. November 25 @ McCoy, January 27, March 31 and May 26.

14. Adjournment of meeting at 8:44pm

Respectfully Submitted, Kate Glass