

PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY MAY 26, 2014 @ BOARD OFFICE

ATTENDEES: Candace Lambert, Laureen Getz, Kate Glass, Dr. Garry Andrews, Deacon Robert Risling, Laurie Pearse, Bernie Kinch, Teresa Stark and Michele Plante.

Meeting start 7:11pm

1. **Opening prayer-** Dr. Garry Andrews

2. **Introduction** of parents

3. **Additions and Approvals of Agenda-** Laurie Pearse approved, Laureen Getz second.

4. **Approval of Minutes** from January 27, 2014- there are some corrections that need to be made. Kate will ensure they are made to go on the website.

5. **Central Office Report-** Dr. Garry Andrews

- drew down the reserve significantly
- hoping that there is an increase in enrolment
- net loss with Bow Island leaving
- Wayne Schlosser is retiring (end of July)
- Successor is Joe Collistro
- McCoy architect has been named- not sure who it is at this time.
- McCoy was set to be done by 2016- not looking good for that time frame.
- Architect will bring along a COST CONSULTANT to assist with costs associated with the modernization
- Fundraising will still need to be done to assist with some costs that are not covered by grant (Chapels)
- Both McCoy and St. Michael's grad were done very well
- Task Force for Teaching Excellence- can read entire report online

6. **ATA Report** - Bernie Kinch

- Publicly thank school board, central office for the collaboration on the school calendar
- Very refreshing that Dr. Andrews has so much respect and works so well with the ATA

7. **Board Trustee Report** - Deacon Robert Risling

- AB School Board association is having a spring general meeting- Re-imagining board governance. Peter and Dick will be attending
- French Immersion program- DELPH exams (French efficiency programs)- 17 students from grades 8 & 9- All students passed
- Mr. Hellman will be working to help the division with Inspiring Education within the division. Thank you to Garry for giving up some of his time so that Chuck could help with this.
- Province will be studying 1400 teachers- a yearlong survey to see what an average teachers workload really is.
- Edwin Parr nominee- Alysha Kopec- did not win but had an excellent presentation
- Michelle Miller was our semi-finalist in the Excellence in Teaching award- Congratulations.
- Teacher Board Advisory- all issues have-been resolved and things are good.
- C2- A committee to address all non-monetary items that affect the classroom-
- Board has had a couple of lunch meetings with MLA's- establishing relationships- very happy with results.
- Last October- safety issue concern (school zones)- had a meeting with SD76 but there

is still work that needs to be done in that regard.

8. Committee Reports

a) Chair Report- Candace Lambert- Alberta School Councils Conference Summary

- Sold out for the first time ever
- Excellent conference
- Candace and Laureen did notes on the breakout sessions that they attended.
- Candace attended The Student Voice in the Future of Education, School Council Contributions to Student Success and Dialogue on Conflict Resolution
- Laureen attended Curriculum Redesign, Inspiring Education, Student Learning Assessments and Teens and Depression.

****Notes for each breakout session attached****

b) Secretary/Treasury- Kate Glass

- Balance in bank account is \$1468. - the two cheques that need to be written to Candace (goodies for 3 Year Plan workshop and hotel rooms for ASCA conference)

c) Board Representative- Laureen Getz

MEETING APRIL 8

- Ambassador for Catholic Education given to Alysha Kopec for her Edwin Parr nomination
- Ron Blackmer and Monica Braat gave a presentation on St. Michael's Intervention Block Pilot Program: A program designed to help all kids learn at different levels with support of extra help in the classroom. Time tables are changed so that kids that need extra help are split into small groups with the teacher. A support person helps the rest of the class with enrichment projects. The higher grades are involved in special projects.
- A letter has been sent to the Education Minister requesting enough funding to have a larger gym at McCoy. No response received yet.
- School art is being displayed at the Esplanade April 26- June 7
- There will be a special board meeting May 20 @ 1:00pm to discuss budget
- Next Meeting May 13

MEETING MAY 13

- Ambassador for Catholic Education, Michelle Miller received her letter of congratulations from Jeff Johson and a government certificate for Excellence in Teaching semi-finalist.
- McCoy students Angela Hao and Brandon Nielson were Leaders of Tomorrow- they received Ambassadors of Educations award from the Board.
- World Catholic Education Day is May 29
- Inspiring Education: Chuck Hellman has a leadership role in curriculum support for 2014/15. He will be splitting his time. 8FTE as Principal of St. Mary's and 2 FTE as Division Principal at Board office.
- National Newspaper award for Back to School Publication. MHCBE and The News also received an award.
- Provincial skills competition: McCoy had 3 gold winners that will go to Edmonton to compete.
- Bussing contract voted to go to Southland Transport starting September 2014- June 2019. This will save \$67,000 in the 1st year.
- Ministerial Order is being written for Bow Island. Staff were offered positions with Holy Spirit. Those with a continuous contract will remain with MHCBE (except 1).
- Chuck Hellman gave a presentation on Inspiring Education: Numeracy and Literacy will be in all courses. 3 E's: Engaged Thinker, Ethical Citizen and Entrepreneurial Spirit.

MEETING MAY 20- BUDGET

- Projecting a deficit of \$330,688 to be covered by reserve funds.
- Peter Grad supported this budget and said that they decided 3 years ago to use reserves to cover when government doesn't supply enough money to meet costs.

- Revenues are down from the government.

9. School Reports

a) Monsignor McCoy

- Report cards went out
- Easter Mass was held
- Modernization architect hired
- A fundraising meeting was held and Sandfly Marketing was hired to help obtain extra funds needed to complete the project. A video was created
- June 10- Athletic awards at the College
- June 13- An outdoor dance near the teepee is planned weather permitting.
- Diploma Finals coming up

b) Mother Teresa

- Art Auction was a HUGE success- raised \$5000- was a lot of work but to see the school community come together as it did was amazing- will not be an annual event but definitely

will do again- Mrs. Bodnaruk did a fantastic job auctioneering.

- Spellathon went well
- Parent council is working on Testimonials as we are losing most executives next year.
- Trying a Maverick's tickets fundraiser- can buy tickets for \$10 (same as they sell for), that can be used for any regular season home game. School gets 50% of ticket sales.
- Last meeting will be Tues June 3

c) Notre Dame

- Some kids will attend City Track
- Grade 8 Survivor Camp will be at Rattlesnake
- Gearing up for year end exams
- Best fundraiser was World's Finest Chocolate Covered Almonds- close to \$10,000
- Registration is up 20-25 kids
- Dance May 15

d) St. Thomas Aquinas

- Working on Trip of the month for 2014/15
- No representative

e) St. Francis Xavier

- Spell-a-thon was held
- Babysitting course was this past weekend
- Home Alone course next weekend

f) St. Louis

- No representative

g) St. Mary's

- The Little Mermaid was a HUGE SUCCESS!!! Great work by everyone involved
- Holy Thursday assembly
- Fine Arts Art Gala- very good- made just over \$5000
- Mental Health Walk- challenge between the Med Hat schools
- Hike for Life was May 10- pouring rain
- Track and Field Cities- May 29

h) St. Michael's (Bow Island)

- No Representative

i) St. Michael's (Medicine Hat)

- Drive a Ford- 125 Drivers- record set for Medicine Hat
- School dance
- Teacher Appreciation coming up
- Walk for Wishes- raised enough to grant Paxton his wish
- Track and Field coming up

- AGM on June 11
- Home Alone Course coming up
- j) St. Patrick's - no rep

10. Old Business

- a) 3 Year Planning Workshop
 - Handout from Candace
 - Wants some help over the summer to come up with a brochure for COSC (Community of School Councils)
 - Dr. Andrews will share the ideas that PA has come up with for 3 Year Plan

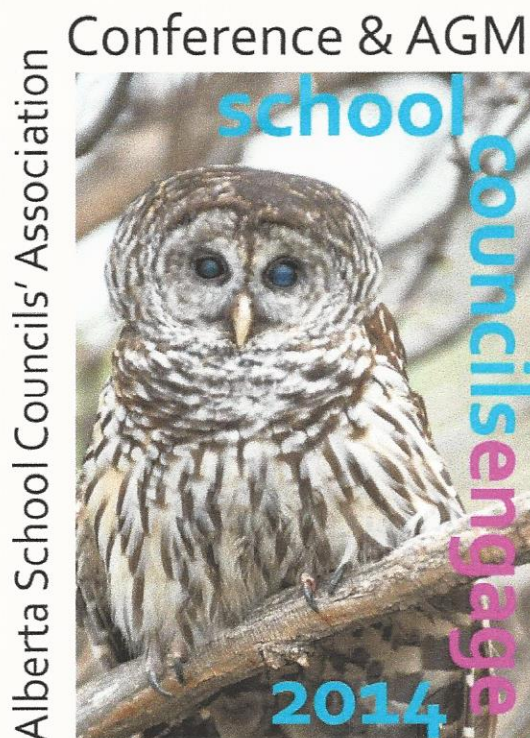
11. New Business

- Candace would like someone to step up to Chair of PA for next year
- Kate will not be here next year to be Secretary/Treasurer

12. Next Meeting Date

- Monday September 29 @ Board Office

13. Adjournment @ 9:34



April 25-27 Delta Edmonton South

The 3 day event has **expanded** to an earlier start on the Friday schedule in 2014.

The registration desk will open at 2:00 pm on Friday April 25th.

Friday afternoon **pre-sessions** will be offered at 2:30 to 4:00 pm.

Also added on the Friday schedule is the **Resource Gallery** opening at 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm (as well as Saturday's schedule). Larger in 2014, there will be over 30 exhibits offering products, services and resources relevant to public education.

A new **"Winner's Circle"** feature for delegates will be introduced - a variety of prize giveaways available with chances of winning increasing by visiting exhibits.

And, back by popular demand, is Wayne Lee to perform his spectacular after dinner show at the Saturday evening banquet.

Pre-Sessions Friday April 25

- Grant Writing Workshop
- Seeking Sponsorships for Schools

Global Citizenship and Student Success
Considering the future of education and the "3 E's"
Engaged thinker. Ethical citizen. Entrepreneurial spirit.

Breakout Session Topics* Preview

Saturday April 26

Inspiring Education and 3E's for Student Success

Global Digital Citizenship: Engage!

Student Learning Assessments in Alberta

Moving Forward with High School Redesign

K-12 Curriculum Changes

Online Education and Personalized Learning

The Student Voice in the Future of Education

Everything GOOGLE – Tools for School

Dialogue on Conflict Resolution

Creating Vibrant & Engaged School Communities

Productive Meetings

School Council and Alberta's Reporting Measures

Fundraising Associations and School Council

Building Caring and Inclusive School Communities

Dual Credit in Action

Out From the Shadows: Addictions and Mental Illness in the Classroom

Internet Safety and Smartphone Education

Healthy School Communities

Bullying Prevention

Planning for Post Secondary

Suicide Awareness: Facts & Fallacies

Create a Mentoring Program in Your Community

School Council Contributions to Student Success

** Please note topics may be subject to change*

CAREERS: The Next Generation

This presentation was about the **RAP** (Registered Apprenticeship Program) organization - mission, vision, purpose and partnerships, as a valued resource for parents supporting their children in career goals. The session included information about the RAP program as well as upcoming trends in the workforce. Future jobs, what will be in demand? What education will be required?

This program is a win/win for both the student and the employers. The students learn a trade and complete grade 12 while the employers “grow their own” employees. ie - Kal-tire.

- ★ The RAP students usually find placement.
- ★ The program also helps the kids determine the areas they may want to specialize in.
- ★ There are 50 different trades the kids can chose from including many with AHS.
- ★ There is also the **Aboriginal Youth Initiative** or job shadowing.
- ★ There are more females than ever using the RAP program. (AHS)

Sixteen yrs old is the perfect age to consider the RAP program because “they think they know what they like but they definitely know what they don’t like, which is just as important.”

The Student Voice in the Future of Education

This is a 2008 initiative called “**Speak Out**” highlighting student engagement. It gives the student a voice as a critical partner in the education system’s journey towards achieving the vision and goals articulated in *Inspiring Education* and student learning outcomes.

There is an Advisory council:

- Age 14 to 19. Ask for applicants. 25 students are chosen to give their opinions about education.
- excellent growth in leadership

Website - <http://www.speakout.alberta.ca/>

- there are forums to see what kids have said. (great energy)
- good website but will be redesigned.

There is an Annual conference (230 kids from around Alberta with 90 chaperones). Kids discuss :

- Future programming, initiatives, innovations and curriculum redesign along with excellent keynote speakers.

School Council Contributions to Student Success

There is now evidence to support that school councils are evolving and moving forward as inspired partners making significant contributions to student success in Alberta.

A research report was commissioned by ASCA as follow-up to the survey on school council effectiveness in Alberta done in 2008.

The findings and recommendations generated provide a framework to inform school council efforts to support Inspiring Education's vision for students. The analysis shows many school councils are better positioned than ever to support school and school system efforts to foster student success in these transformative times. Councils are clearly focused on improving student outcomes.

Proof of **Evolution** of school councils - one Principal surveyed said, "We don't move forward unless we have council support."

Dialogue on Conflict Resolution

5 Reasons Conversations turn into Confrontations

- 1) History
- 2) Emotion
- 3) Communication style - Male/female communicate differently and so do different generations.
- 4) Unresolved Issues (unfinished business brought up as innuendo)
- 5) Blame - simply ask questions

Right hand to Right hand. - to head off conflict simply remove your hand.

“Feeding worry is like feeding a hungry dog. It will eat and come back.”

Define the problem in **1 word**.

Ask lots of questions -- **5 W's and How** will get you more than one word answers.

Conflict solution used to be a win, win. Now we say it's “**mostly o.k., mostly o.k.**” (Can we all live with this and then commit to it!)

Practice in front of a mirror, with a sharpie marker and piece of white paper. If you write things in pen, you won't remember them.

Tip for meetings - if there are talkers at a meeting ask them to use a sticky pad and write down their question or thought.

Print out your Council Courtesies (not rules) on cards and set them out at the meeting.

Best thing I learned:

When you've said something by mistake, rather than playing it over and over in your mind the next day, just say “I misspoke, that didn't land well.”

ASCA Conference Sessions

Curriculum Redesign: With Inspiring Education comes the redesigning of Alberta's curriculum. The new curriculum will focus on the student's development of ten competencies outlined in the Ministerial Order on Student Learning. There will be a way to include literacy and numeracy in all courses. There will also be more flexibility in students learning at their own pace. The curriculum is being written by educators and education partners in the province. Once written other educators will be able to review it and give feedback to Alberta Education before the final drafts are published. The PAT's will be replaced with Student Learning Assessments beginning this fall for grade 3 students. They are hoping to have the pilot online diploma exams ready for April 2015 and SLA's for grades 3, 6 and 9 fully in place by Sept. 2016. The presenters from Alberta Education said these are guidelines and it could take until 2020 to have all the new work in place. For more information go to education.alberta.ca/curriculumredesign.

Inspiring Education: Based on the theme what will the student of 2030 look like in terms of their readiness for future success. The Three E's were explained: Engaged Thinker, a fast thinker, who learns to adapt and knows where to get answers to the work they are doing. Ethical Citizen, leaders of tomorrow, one who cares for themselves and their environment, learn to do the right thing because it is the right thing to do. Entrepreneurial Spirit, hard worker with innovation, risk taking, finds opportunity, able to make it work when solving problems or doing school work. In the future there will be less focus on the school system and content and more focus on the student learning competencies and finding success at their own pace. The Education Minister says staff needs to be prepared and the parents voice is important to drive this. He would like parents to request more PD resources and more Learning Assistants for the classrooms. Asked how this would be paid for, the speakers said the funding has not been worked out yet.

Student Learning Assessments: The group said that they are field testing the new questions that will be used this fall. They are getting good reviews. The new SLA's are given on the computer and there is no time limit for those that need a little longer to complete the work. They also will be able to be taken over 10 days instead of all in one day. They showed us a sample of how the questions are written and presented. At the grade 3 level the test introduced a dog with pictures and gave information to process. The questions were all related to the dog and the info given. With literacy and numeracy the questions were easy to read and each question had four options to choose. The questions could be read to the student by the computer and also they could change the font size and the screen color. The student could receive partial marks for questions with more than one answer. The audio in the questions were read by students and you can scroll back through the questions to check your work. When you hit finish at the end, the computer will tell you which questions were not answered and you can go back

and answer them. This assessment will be done at the start of the school year so the teacher can see where the students are at and will be able to adjust their teaching plan for the year.

Teens and Depression: A very informed speaker. She talked a lot about the signs of depression and the ways to help a teen with depression. She showed pictures of a healthy brain scan and the difference of a brain with depression. Most doctors won't diagnose depression this way so it is often not diagnosed properly especially in children. Some of the characteristics are physical complaints, no friends, refusal to participate, no short term memory, can't plan or organize and hypersensitive. She also outlined some treatments used. Medication is common, talk therapy, behavior therapy, group or family therapy. Also common is meditation, journaling, dance or art work. It takes different things to calm different students. She spends time in schools helping teachers with classroom strategies and working with the students.

Information from all sessions and the ASCA conference are on the website as well as access to all handouts.

The Board of Trustees approved the 2014-2015 Budget at a Special Board Meeting held yesterday, Tuesday, May 20, 2014. The budget has a deficit of approximately \$330,000 that will be met by using our accumulated reserve.

While this is a deficit budget, we are very pleased we were able to sustain our programming and improve services in certain areas. We appreciate the input and feedback from DLT during budget discussions as well as their ideas for considering where to go in the future. Our reserves have been expended and we will need to assess how to proceed into the future. The Board, in their strategic plan, has discussed advocacy for excellent education funding as well as a commitment to ensure the public is aware of the great things we do as a division and schools. Ideally these activities together will result in increased revenues. The Board will also review those cost savings ideas developed by DLT and implement those they feel will best serve our community.

One major change within Medicine Hat Catholic in 2014-15 is with the withdrawal of St. Michael's School in Bow Island. The effects of this change are fully accounted for in the budget. Continuous certificated staff who wished to remain with Medicine Hat Catholic were offered positions. We do wish St. Michael's School community well as they move to Holy Spirit Catholic Regional Division.

Some of the highlights of this budget include:

1. Increased investment of \$70,000 on technology infrastructure to ensure our staff and students can access digital resources and information;
2. Slight increases on facilitator time and development of a Division Principal with responsibility for Inspiring Education;
3. The requirements of the ATA collective agreement have been included into the budget;
4. The loss of the Budget Mitigation funding of \$218,000 and not having the fuel subsidy grant for school buses places pressure on not being able to balance the budget.
5. Board and System Administration spending is down \$47,000 or about 3%. We will continue to look for appropriate saving in this area. We continue to spend below our administration limit.
6. The \$67,000 savings on moving to Southland Transportation for school bussing have been included.
7. Plant Operations and Maintenance has reduced expenditure by \$114,152. The return of the 2.0 FTE custodial time remains and the current custodial levels in the city schools will remain for 2014-15.

Details of the budget can be viewed on our division website at

http://www.mhcbe.ab.ca/Documents.php?df_id=1071. Senior Administration is grateful for your assistance with the budget with the least impact to student learning.

Dr. Garry Andrews

Superintendent of Schools