

Valhalla Community School
Parent Council
Minutes: February 06, 2012

Attendees:

Barb Vig, Amie Nemezc, Lidna MacKay, Roxy Vig, Steve Mumert, Anna Odd, Brenda-Lee Kjemhus, Pat Moutray

Called to Order: 7:00 pm

Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes adopted as read, no errors or omissions. Motion: Amie Nemezc, 2nd: Roxy Vig

Old Business

- Bullying at Bus Stop: has not been an issue lately and there has always been a parent present at the bus stop. Older kids are starting to step in when they see a problem.
- Discipline issues in school: have dealt with a couple kids and the school is cracking down on poor behaviour.
 - Will start with intramural activities for Jr high once a week to keep them busy and will increase activities as basket ball finishes up
 - Reward system: starting student of the month and still doing random acts of kindness (will phase out).
 - Parent Council still to provide money for gifts/gifts for student of the month. To be discussed and decided upon my Parent council.

Reports

Chair Report (Barb Lind)

Nothing to report

Treasurer's Report (Linda McKay)

- Current bank account balance is \$3606.02.
- Ski Hill funds have been dispersed to the Ski Hill bank account (Spring Lake Parent Group)
- \$1000 from Encana to be dispersed to Steve so he can purchase TV or Monitor for Viking Center hallway
- Expenses:
 - \$55.98 + 2.09 to Linda for hot lunch
 - \$458.01 to Playfair for clothing
 - \$218.40 from last year's expenses
 - \$10.89 to ProLab for overdue account

Secretary's Report (Amie Nemezc)

Nothing to report

Principal's Report (Steve Mumert)

- Items that had been brought to the board:
 - Swimming lessons: they are getting expensive and swimming fees in Grande Prairie are not finalized until the end of lessons. Costs up to \$55 per child and we are falling about 30% short of breakeven. Need input on value and what parents are willing to pay (perhaps survey parents). Also needing more parent volunteers – especially men for swimming lessons. Discussed with Parent Council the merit of having lessons in Beaverlodge once the pool is finished. Considered sending letter to Town of Beaverlodge to inform them of the need for lessons during the school year in hopes to encourage the availability of lessons.
 - Discussion on school fees. Should families pay for all kids attending (3+). Ideal would be to have very little school fees.
 - Discussion on Laptops and IT concerns: Students have to share laptops and they are receiving lots of wear and tear (if nobody is responsible for the ownership of it they don't respect it enough). Steve would like to see one laptop for all students grade 5 and up. Steve has looked into what other schools are doing and some schools are increasing fees to include a lease for the laptop (or iPad) and after 3 years the equipment belongs to the student. Not sure this is a viable option for our school. Would like to see each student grade 5 and up with an assigned laptop that the student would solely be responsible for.
 - Headsets for students not durable enough. More headsets are needing to be purchased. Would like to see enough for each child in school. If families wanted they could arrange to purchase a headset for their child/children. Will need to purchase more anyhow for the school.
 - Reminder of Minister's teleconference for Wed. Night.
 - Board has approved change to guidelines for winter clothing policy on busses. As posted in the last newsletters.

Board Report (Brenda-Lee Kjemhus)

- Enjoyed grades 7,8,9 at last foundation meeting

New Business

Hot Lunch Program:

- Hot lunch is not being used enough to make it worthwhile.
- Kitchen received its certification
- Anna is doing food safe training (we need to have one staff member trained)
- Anna will check to see if the kitchen certification will allow us to do student instruction in the kitchen.
- Kitchen certification does not cover use by community for community related functions.
- Kitchen needs pots and pans and a few other cooking related items. Asking for donations. The items do not have to be brand new.

Bus Drop Off Time:

- Had a discussion in relation to what factors in to bus drop off times. Parent concern about children being dropped off much earlier than usual some days. Factors and possible solutions were discussed.

School Council Fees:

- School Council Fees need to be paid. Form is available online.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:16pm (Roxy Vig)

Next Meeting: March 5, 2012 at 6:30 pm