

Calgary Science School Council

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2004

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Calgary Science School Parent Council was called to order at 7:02 p.m., November 3, 2004 in the school library by Sharon Osterling, president.

Present:

Louise Partridge (<i>Superintendent & Board Member</i>)	Mark Saar
Carol Horton	Latrice Lehman (<i>Past President</i>)
Phil Butterfield (<i>Counsellor</i>)	Margaret Mills (<i>Co-Secretary</i>)
Laura Silver	April Toyota (<i>Member @ Large</i>)
Karen Freeman (<i>Co-Secretary</i>)	Debra Pylypiw (<i>Board Rep.</i>)
Karen Miller (<i>Member @ Large</i>)	Katherine Ikeda-Cameron
Ron Sweet (<i>Principal</i>)	Jennifer Lee (<i>Member @ Large</i>)
Sandi Sykes (<i>Member @ Large</i>)	Cathy Kurio (<i>Teacher Rep.</i>)
Sherry Badior (<i>Treasurer</i>)	Sharon Osterling (<i>President</i>)

Absent CSS Council Members:

Jeff Parker (<i>Vice-President</i>)	Jacqueline Benoit (<i>Board Rep.</i>)
Rudy Gelderblom (<i>Board Rep.</i>)	Karen Barlow (<i>Member @ Large</i>)
Kathy Bauer (<i>Member @ Large</i>)	Anne Marie Fryer (<i>Member @ Large</i>)
Lynette Greig (<i>Member @ Large</i>)	Sherri Hauser (<i>Member @ Large</i>)
Linda Riopel (<i>Member @ Large</i>)	

*Apologies for any misspelled names

A. Approval of Agenda

The video on Effectiveness of School Councils was deferred. The amended Agenda was approved unanimously.

B. Committee Reports

(i) Hot Lunch Report by Laura Silver

The first hot lunch was delivered by The Lunch Bell today. It took 20 minutes to distribute the lunch to 130 students. In order to reduce this distribution time, it was suggested setting up two serving lines. Parent volunteers would be needed. A suggestion was made to ask Mr. Tickle if the leadership group would be interested in helping.

(ii) Crisis Committee Report by Ron Sweet

The crisis committee has had two meetings. They are editing, adapting and adopting a Critical Incidents Handbook and their Emergency Procedures manual from the Canadian Rockies Public Schools. The work should be complete by December, providing a copy for each classroom.

(iii) Transportation Committee Report by Debra Pylypiw

Notification of final route changes was sent home today, and will become effective Monday, Nov. 8. Parents are asked to advise the school if their child is not using the designated stop. The committee is looking into a fan-out communication system to be used in emergencies, but it remains the responsibility of parents to have a backup plan for their child.

(iv) Teacher Handbook Committee Report by Ron Sweet

A preliminary meeting has been held to outline what the committee hopes to include in the handbook. Another meeting will be held next week, and the committee hopes to complete their work by Dec. 1.

C. Principal's Report by Ron Sweet (See attachment)

(i) Professional Development

The Nov. 1 PD day was the second spent with the Galileo Educational Network. The work with this group is the continuing evolution of Quest, and the teachers continue to improve their understanding and use of Problem Based Learning. The next full day session with Galileo will be Dec. 10, but the teachers will be holding many individual and small group sessions with Galileo over the coming months.

(ii) Report Cards

Report Cards will come home Nov. 22, and student led conferences are being held Thursday, Nov., 25 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. and Friday, Nov., 26th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Parents are reminded to arrange a parent-teacher meeting if they wish, since these are not part of the student led conference.

(iii) CSS Website

The new website is up and running but new modules will be added over the next few months. Students and parents will receive their passwords as each classroom's webpage is finalized. The students are frequently accessing the new site.

(iv) Facility Update

Work is mostly completed on these improvement projects: Phys Ed. Office, Phys Ed. Storage area, and Counseling Office. Only a few small details remain.

(v) Outdoor education

All fall trips were completed in good weather except for a Grade 5 trip to Alford Lake. The weather for the Grade 9 trip to Bamfield was as good as can be expected for the West Coast.

(vi) Debate Tournament

The debate Tournament held Nov. 2 went well. There is an ongoing need for parent volunteers to judge debates and Science Fair. The council will look for a parent liaison to work with staff to organize volunteers. It was suggested that we look into using the website for recruiting volunteers.

D. Teacher's Report by Cathy Kurio

In preparation for an upcoming Board planning session, the teachers have been asked by the Board to list what was liked about teaching at CSS for Charter requirements. The results will be posted on the Library wall. The students will also be surveyed and a sample of responses from Mrs. Kurio's grade 6 class was outlined.

Some clubs that are currently meeting include Bionicle club, choir, and science fair. Lazer Band is starting Dec. 3. A question was asked about a student council, but the staff is considering how this would overlap with the Leadership Group. Peer support had many applicants from Grades 4-6, few from Grade 7 and none from Grades 8 and 9. The Remembrance Day Assembly will be held on Wed., Nov. 10th at 11:00 a.m.

E. Board Report by Debra Pylypiw

The AGM will be held Nov. 15 in the school Library at 7:00 p.m. The new Board will be presented and Sharon Friesen from the Galileo Educational Network will be the guest speaker. The board has decided on class sizes. For 2005/2006, Grades 4-6 will be 24, and the following year grades 4-6 will be 23.

F. New Business

(i) Achievement Test Results by Louise Partridge

The purpose of achievement tests is to help schools monitor progress and improve their instructional process to ensure effective delivery of the provincial curriculum. Tips for parents include treating these as any other test and avoid excessive rehearsals. The best way to improve results is to acquire strong reading skills. It is important to remember that no test assesses everything and Achievement test results are used in conjunction with other classroom assessment strategies.

Alberta Learning has shifted away from targets of 15% achieving excellent results on the tests, and 85% achieving an acceptable level. The emphasis now is on continuing improvement and at CSS that means increasing the percentage of students achieving excellent results. Schools are sent detailed results including question by question analysis and questions grouped as knowledge or skill type. CSS tends to do better at skill questions than knowledge type. An overview of the school's results relative to the provincial average and to previous years was presented. The school consistently outperformed the provincial average and has shown steady year-over-year improvement.

Also in preparation for the upcoming Board planning session, parents were asked to work in groups to give feedback on the questions: What does CSS do well? What do we do that is great? The resulting information will be sent back to the Board.

(ii) Student Guidance Report and Parent Educational Opportunities by Phil Butterfield

Phil asked for parent input into the formulation of both a Guidance and Counseling Policy and a Student Health Policy. Karen Miller volunteered and one other parent has spoken to Phil. They will be meeting Nov. 12th in the morning.

Phil is also proposing to begin holding information sessions for parents approximately once a month. The first will be on the topic of gifted underachievement/ perfectionism and motivation. The speaker will be Dr. Sal Mendaglio, Assistant Dean of Education, at the U of C. It will be held on December 8th. Topics for the New Year could include brain changes in adolescent boys and High School program options.

Barry McDonald will be speaking at the Celebrating Our Boys Conference, Jan. 28 at the Greenwood Inn. Interested parents can register with a teacher at the cost of \$120/teacher and \$40/parent.

(iii) Board Policy Statement on School Councils by Deb Pylypiw (see attachments).

Debra brought Policy No. 7.02 titled "School Council" to the parents for input. Sharon had reviewed the paper prior to the meeting and had brought suggested changes. Sharon and Debra will work on refining the wording to take to the Board Governance Committee on Nov.10. Louise Partridge advised the Council that there will be a new policy for charter schools requiring parent council involvement in achieving the goals of the school's education plan.

(iv) School Council Communications Plan Development by Sharon Osterling
Sharon noted that a communications plan will need to be developed for School Council over the upcoming months, and extended an open invitation to any parents who would like to participate in its development.

Adjournment:

Debra Pylypiw made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Karen Freeman. The meeting was adjourned shortly after 9:00 pm. The next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st of December, 2004.

Recording Secretary: Margaret Mills