

**Minutes of CSS Parent Council
November 2, 2005**

Opening: The regular meeting of the Calgary Science School Parent Council was called to order at 19:06 hours in the school library by Jackie Benoit.

Present:

Debra Pylypiw (board rep)	Carol Berlin -Miller (co-secretary)
James Cameron (board rep)	Jackie Benoit (president)
Margaret Mills (vice-president)	Ann Ahern (member at large)
Karen Miller (member at large)	Laurie Hirsh (co-secretary)
Ron Sweet (principal)	Sherry Badior (treasurer)
April Toyota (member at large)	Denise Kitagawa
Ann Marie Fryer (member at large)	Cathy Kurio

Absent:

Latrice Lehman (board rep)	Dabe Robinson (board rep)
Jackie Stewart (board rep)	Karen Barlow (member at large)
Tammy Willerth (member at large)	Jim Kellner (member at large)

Approval of Agenda and October 5th minutes:

Debra Pylypiw moved to accept the agenda and minutes, Margaret Mills seconded the motion.

Action Items:

Last years President's report.

a) Handbook still needs editing then ready to print.

b) Debra Pylypiw discusses continued work on the school website.

i) should names be removed from the website and only have picture (parent's consent for pictures in place therefore should be okay). Hardcopies that go home with the students already have names.

ii) chatroom for parents was suggested.

c) Support development of a program to educate parents on the capabilities of the school website.

i) Margaret Mills asks why can't a parent have access to any classroom. This might initiate more use of the school website. It was suggested that the teachers also need support. James Kellner suggest that this could be an opportunity for a grade eight leadership project. Also possibly a parent volunteer position.

ii) James Kellner suggests letting grade 8's or 9's to help with leadership program.

d) Promoting Parent Council - should parent council have a social function for new parents.

Jackie Benoit notices a lot of energy. Suggestions of offering coffee on the first day of school, Cathy Kurio and Anne-Marie Fryer suggest they can help with this. Other volunteers were requested...no replies. Cathy Kurio suggests pizza or cold food also at student led conferences. Ron thinks this is a good idea. Debra Pylypiw suggests changing the name of parent council to a fun name. Ron again suggests selling pizzas in the gym.

- e) Year end survey - Ron thinks we need a better assessment.
- f) Development of Outdoor Education for Parent Volunteers
- g) discussion of continued active involvement in the Board Communications Comm. and in education planning process for the school.
- h) Consider the establishment of a Parent Volunteer Coordinator. Cathy Kurio was asked if teachers would be interested and she said she would survey them. It was agreed there was a greater need in elementary (ie field trips, etc.).
- i) Continued participation in second language for 2006 committee.
- j) Continue to support the evolution of the student assessment process.
- k) Continue to support new policy development as required.
- l) Continue support of hot lunch.
- m) Support special events at school as they emerge.
- n) Consider amending the structure of School Council to include one or more members of the Grade 9 leadership program. Participation in the decision making process e.g new playground.

Accomplishments 2004-2005

- a) Extended communications with parent community. Continued discussion on student led conferences. Margaret suggests more coverage on the conferences i.e. remarks in Spectrum , also in report card. Anne-Marie suggests a draw, for example for movie passes. April Toyota suggests invitation from the child. Debra P. suggests volunteers from upper grade parents for social aspects. Brief discussion on offering pizza and coffee.
- b) Hot lunches - going well, line-ups seem the only complaint. Mostly grade fours being slowed down. Kids need to be let out class promptly. Cathy will relay message to the teachers.

Reports

- a) Principals Report

Professional Development Activities - 13 of the teachers took an extensive Wilderness First Aid Course and became certified Remote Responders. Staff who were absent from the above received a full day of Basic First Aid training on Nov. first.

Technology - IT (Info. Technology) service providers changed. As of Nov. first OSI (Office Solutions Inc.) are the new providers. From the 22 to 25th Nov. Apple will be offering G5 training in our G5 lab. This brings in revenue to the school and two teachers are allowed to attend (cost free but would have been approx. \$5000).

Facility - new paint throughout parts of the school. Also, a new lockable medicine cabinet and mail slot cupboard were installed. Peepholes were added to each classroom door. Science lab storage is in final planning. There is talk about hiring a part-time science room coordinator.

Outdoor Education - the grade eight circle tour (Oct4-7th) was a resounding success.

Japanese Intern - we will be hosting an intern teacher from Jan. 14 to June 14th 2006 whose name is Mikako Nakamura.

Grade Four French Pilot Program - the general concensus is that the program is serving the students well. Laurie Hirsch wants the children who come from a French pass to be considered for a more individual level of training. Anne-Marie asks if other grades can utilize the program. Ron will look into that possibility. Discussion returned to the need for having one password for all grades. This could be another leadership program item for the grade eights. Margaret Mills is still concerned and thinks we should have a French speaking teacher.

Additional to Prin. Report

- book launch dated for Feb 2,3rd called Boys Smarts by Barry MacDonald (who also writes Girls Smarts). Feb. 2nd for parents and 3rd for teachers around Calgary.

- Bamfield trip will be in March.

b) Board Report - Board AGM and retreat will be on November 19th, at which time our newly elected parents will be presented and ratified as Board Members.

c) Teachers Report

Wilderness Training - well represented.

Battle of Bands - enjoyed and good way to kick off Halloween. The teachers won.

Report Cards - in progress.

Interesting Project - kids build a thermometer

Committees

a) Playground - little to report at this time. Mtg set for Nov. 23rd at 7:00 pm. Ron has a committee list. Financial discussion : done setting up non-profit status. A community family, the Jones, are interested in being a part of the process. Ron will email comm. list. Someone mentions that Alberta Job Core offers free labour. Also, there will be a notice in the Spectrum.

b) Transportation Comm. - fan out list discussed. Committed has met with other schools, similar problems, CSS system seems to be one of the best due to small size, walk limit and reasonable fees. Ron comments we have avoided going into debt.

c) Student Assessment - teachers want to go back to 4 point system without dropping inquiry (separate page of report card). April Toyota asked if in grade 9 there are percentiles used... answer is yes. Common bank is two part: where student is and where the student can improve.

d) Discussion - nothing additional

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.