

**CALGARY SCIENCE SCHOOL
MINUTES FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL
OCTOBER 4, 2006**

Present:

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Ron Sweet – Principal | April Toyota |
| Joel Perry – President | Laurie Hirsch |
| Natalie Powell – Teacher representative | Max Kaulback |
| Cheryl Lemieux – Treasurer | Kathleen Henning |
| Jeannine Arbour – Secretary | Wendy Baillie |
| Rebecca Bower – Secretary | Karen Miller |
| Leann Meronek | Carol Berlin-Miller |

Joel Perry called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm

1. Introductions

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was brought by Karen Miller and seconded by Leann Meronek

3. Approval of Minutes September 5, 2006

Laurie Hirsch noted that Margaret Mills name had been added to the last page of the September 5 minutes as a school directory volunteer. A motion to approve the amended minutes of September 5, 2006 was brought by Laurie Hirsch and seconded by Cheryl Lemieux.

4. Action Items

- a) Last year's President's report

Joel Perry summarized Jackie Benoit's report. Calgary Science School clothing, Snack Days and Pizza Nights were three items to consider continuing this year. Laurie Hirsch will contact Clare Herringer (last year's action person) re assisting with or heading up the school clothing. Ron Sweet will speak to Leslie Schmidt to see if she is still interested in running Snack Days and organize sending a notice home to determine interest and ask for volunteers. It was agreed that Pizza Nights for student led conferences were a success and that Ron would confirm with the Grade 9 leadership team that we would like to continue the tradition.

5. Reports

a) Chair Report

Joel Perry raised the question of whether parents are interested in exploring new/old ideas for school wide get-togethers. It was noted that we are different from most community based schools with children attending from all over the city. Leann Meronek and April Toyota volunteered to look at the results from last year's survey to see if that suggests a general interest.

b) Principal's Report

September 29th Count

On September 29th, we submitted our enrolment numbers to Alberta education. That day we had 602 students registered which means that once again this year, we are funded at the maximum level.

Staffing

Mrs. Linda Lamminen, our new Library Assistant, began her full-time position at the school on October 2nd. Mrs. Lamminen comes to us with several years of school library experience and training, and is a very welcome addition to our staff.

Outreach

On the 22nd of September, we held an Expert Connections Luncheon. Six experts from Shell Canada spent the lunch-hour with the Math/Science team strategizing ways they might share their expertise with teachers and students from the Calgary Science School.

On October 4th, representatives of the Kamloops/Thompson School Board, Ross Dickson and Cheryl Hearn, visited our school. The Kamloops/Thompson School Board has hired them to investigate the feasibility of starting a science-focused school in Kamloops. They were very impressed with our staff and the school as a whole.

AISI – Alberta Initiative for School Improvement

Our Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISi) cycle three project is aimed at helping our students engage in authentic, high-level intellectual work that will enable them to become better global citizens. The working definition of authentic intellectual work that we have been using is taken from the work of Newmann and associates. There are three components to the definition: (1) knowledge building through (2) disciplined inquiry to create (3) work that has value beyond school. Our previous AISi project focused on inquiry. We will now shift our focus to knowledge building and to develop tasks that have relevance beyond the school walls.

Our work on this cycle of AISI will involve connecting teachers with professionals in specific fields of expertise to help develop a better understanding of the types of problems, thought processes, and skills that are required in various contexts. Cycle three will also expand on the work that was begun last year with the grade six team connecting with a group of new Canadian immigrants, where our students learned first hand about someone from another place in the world, thereby allowing students to put in better perspective their own place in the global context. These are only two examples of the impact of the project on the operation of the school. The cycle three project will evolve as it progresses, but communication with parents about the project will be an on-going component.

Technology

We have been meeting with OSI over the past week and have fast-tracked their work on our network. We have been faced with many new challenges this fall including a laptop battery recall for all rolling labs, the failure of our wireless network, electrical problems, email difficulties and readying 100 laptops for the grade 6 personalized learning initiative. Happily we have been able to meet all these challenges.

On October 2nd we deployed 100 laptops to the four grade six classes with the evenings of October 2nd, 4th and 19th slated as parent and student information nights. Students are able to take their laptop home after their parents attend one of the evening meetings and complete the necessary paperwork.

Outdoor Education

When the grade eight students return from their Circle Tour on the 5th of October, all grades will have completed their fall outdoor education activities. To recap, our one hundred grade seven students attended Camp Goldeye near Nordegg in late August, nearly three hundred students attended the program at Camp Sweet over a four week period (where we had some half-days of marginal weather but where the majority of the time was spent in camping comfort) and the grade nines had a very successful trip to the Marine Biology Program at Bamfield (this being the first year utilizing air transportation). In May, our outdoor education programming will move into the second round with trips to Fort Steele, Southern Alberta, Camp Goldeye and Camp Sweet.

The trip to Bamfield was originally slated for May and its move to September came as a bit of a surprise to all of us. We appreciate the gracious way in which our parents accepted this unexpected early expense. We have plans in place to prevent such a surprise from happening again.

Transportation

I will not go into details about our bussing woes. Suffice it to say that every year we are faced with greater challenges as the city expands and its population increases. We have to serve a wider area than ever before with greater traffic congestion.

There is a rumor out there that we planned to distribute the new bus routes on the eve of September 29th to help preserve school numbers for the funding count. Nothing could be further from the truth. The release of bus routes was slated for September 26th by our committee, but got delayed as Southland had to drive all the routes before publishing changes.

c) Treasurer's Report

Cheryl noted that the balance remains the same as was reported in the last minutes in the year end statement with the exception of some bank service charges (\$2372.32) and that the signing authorities have been changed over.

d) Board Report

Ron reported on Jeff Parker's behalf that the board will be meeting on Tuesday October 17, 2006 at 5 pm. All are welcome to attend.

6. Committees

a) Playground Committee

The playground committee plans to hold its first meeting of the year after fall break. The CBE is insisting that all wooden play structures be removed by the summer of 2007. We may get a small extension until the end of our current charter.

b) Other Committees

Two parents are needed for the Emerging Technologies Committee. This committee will be involved with the Galileo Network at the University of Calgary to help design an assessment tool to examine the effect that computers are having on learning.

One parent is needed to help with the Admissions Committee.

Two more parents to help with the Transportation Committee preferably from the non-bussed families, would be greatly appreciated.

7. Discussion

a) Student Representation on Council

Joel Perry introduced the idea of having a grade 9 student representative on parent council as a component of the grade 9 leadership course.

A motion that we pilot a student representative position on parent council through the grade 9 leadership course was made by Leann Meronek and seconded by Carol Berlin-Miller.

b) School Evaluation by Alberta Education.

Ron Sweet spoke about the school evaluation that Alberta Education will be conducting from November 13-17, 2006. This will be a very in depth evaluation and empirical. Parents and teachers will be randomly surveyed, the school and classrooms will be inspected and a board meeting will be attended. The results of the evaluation should be ready to be presented at the January 2007 board meeting.

c) Other comments, questions, issues.

A question was asked about the status of the French program. The grade 5 students who piloted the Alberta Distance learning course last year are continuing on this year with a new course and the grade 4 students this year are in the program.

Website log-in is on its way. Passwords for parents and students will be generated soon.

The next School Council Meeting will be on Wednesday November 1st, 2006 in the library.

A motion to adjourn the School Council Meeting was brought by Leann Meronek and seconded by Cheryl Lemieux. Joel Perry adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.