

William Aberhart School Council Meeting Minutes
Monday February 23 2015

1. Meeting called to order 19.04hrs
2. Larry Adorjan volunteered to take minutes.
3. Unable to approve November Council Minutes as they were not available, however they are uploaded on the website.
4. Approved January Council minutes. Motioned by Susan Bennett and seconded by Susan Godfrey.
5. Principal Update: Tamie Annis-Johnson

“Tell Them From Me” about **Bullying and School Safety:**

Secondary (2014-2015) 902 students from grades 10 – 12 completed the survey.

- Results of the student survey about bullying showed a much higher amount than parents in attendance expected. 22.1% of students reported being a victim of bullying, this is in line with the National Average of 22%
- Top 3 bullying locations were: hallways, outside school property, and lunch room
- After school and during breaks were the times when most bullying occurred.

“Tell Them From Me” about **Student Engagement:** Secondary (2014-2015) 902 students from Grades 10 – 12 completed the survey.

- Student engagement is “ a want to learn, work with others, and functioning in a social institution”
- Social Engagement by William Aberhart students was above average for “Positive Friendships” but below average for participation in sports and clubs.
- Institutional Engagement was above average for attendance, positive behaviour, and study habits.
- Intellectual Engagement was above average for interest and motivation, effort, and appropriately challenged.
- Based on student feedback two washrooms have been changed to “gender neutral” washrooms. There are both female and male icons on the sign
- The School Board voted unanimously for reduction of final exam marks from 50% weighting to 30%, this has now gone to Alberta School Board Association for their vote and decision.
- Aberhart is a very academic school with up to 90% of students achieving Honor Roll

- Tamie has asked parents to look at the data posted on the school website <http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b829/aberhart/index.htm> and to reflect on three questions noted below, to be discussed at next meeting:
 - Is the data surprising to parents?
 - Given engagement is high despite bullying does this raise other questions?
 - As parents do you feel that there are other steps the school should be taking?

6. **Student Advisory Council:** report by Sophia Shah

- Twitter account is up and running and used to share information through @WilliamAberhart. Two students are running this account.
- SA Council has developed a charter, and have main objectives. The council meets Tuesdays at noon.
- They have a meeting planned with Greg Parker, Director of CBE.
- Window markers in cafeteria window as a venue for students to write concerns and for information and announcements. The Student Council will monitor for inappropriate remarks
- Youth Central April 27 – 30; hobbies, games, bulletin boards.
- Some small washrooms have been changed over to gender neutral washrooms with both male and female icons on the sign.
- Student Council proposed two options for naming of the School Council Award: Lotus Scholarship or the Aber(Heart) Scholarship. Susan Bennett motioned a vote be taken on the name seconded by Greg Spence.
Vote was taken and AberHeart was chosen where normally “Heart” would use a heart shaped icon.

7. **School Society formation:** Volunteers are Susan Bennett and Gerty. Sheila introduced Sandy Bohun as representative of the Friends of Orange Society. School Council is enthusiastic about the potential of assuming the Friends of Orange Society to benefit the school through fund raising and its own casino. Currently WAMPA run a casino to raise money primarily for the music program and share proceeds to support other areas of the school as well. Susan B is going to find out whether two separate casinos can be run by two different groups in one school.
- Review and potential amendment of School Council By Laws is considered the priority.

8. **Treasurer Update:** Jennie Kwan

- **six** I pads (\$2000 from School Council funds) were bought for ALP student project, the school paid the additional \$247 to allow for six I pads.
- Solar panel contribution of \$1000 is complete. Solar panel project going ahead, congratulations to the Eco Group for pulling this off. Money raised by the students is to be matched by CBE. A huge achievement. Well done!
- Post secondary Financial Award (AberHeart award from William Aberhart School Council will fund a scholarship worth up to \$500 to a deserving student. We did not vote on \$500, this was assumed and will be voted on accordingly at the March Meeting.

9. Other Business

- **School fee and Council donation**, were discussed where the Council donation remains a voluntary donation, currently set at \$5.00 and if over \$25 would qualify for a tax receipt.
- **Meeting dates.** T Annis-Johnson requested a change in date for March 30th meeting to March 16th due to a conflict with this year's school trip to France. Sheila will follow up with Trina Hurdman, School Trustee, as she had planned to attend the March 30th meeting. Sheila will update the Council through the school website as well as through the e mail list she has from previous meetings.

10. Adjournment at 20.36 hrs

Minutes respectfully submitted by Larry Adorjan