

## Wm. Aberhart School Council Meeting Minutes.

Sept. 30, 2013.

Called to Order 7.01pm by Laurie Baines, 28 attendees.

Welcome to Gord Baldwin filling in for Mr. Ferguson on sick leave.

There are several open positions of which many were filled during this meeting.

Chair: Laurie offered the position to anyone who is interested and kindly offered to remain in position. Thank you Laurie.

Canadian Parents for French (CPF): Derek Demiere

Treasurer: Jenny Kwan has very kindly offered to continue with this role [mjineab@telus.net](mailto:mjineab@telus.net)

Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (CAPSC): Brittany Martin [bhmartin@calgary.ca](mailto:bhmartin@calgary.ca)

CBE Key Communicator Jodi Nickel [jodi.nickel@gmail.com](mailto:jodi.nickel@gmail.com)

WAMPA : Owen Stephenson [ostephenson@telus.net](mailto:ostephenson@telus.net)

Thank you to all the volunteers without whom none of this would be possible.

Visitor this evening, Peri-Lynne Blair, Community Outreach, Calgary Varsity Constituency representing MLA Donna Kennedy-Glans

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Peri-Lynne is looking for interested parents to be part of the review process for new Education Act input. There will be a forum for Parent Councils on November 7<sup>th</sup> and interested parties are invited to attend. Two representatives from Ministry of Education will be present. Topics will include: how education will be delivered, class size, inclusion, program planning and delivery, implications to funding.

October 24<sup>th</sup> are Parent Teacher Meetings. No appointments required. Watch website for further details. Phone reminder will be sent.

### Council Funds Past Purchases and Present Ideas

Last year Parent Council bought 3 I pads, and two mannequins for Sports Med.

Year to date the account is sitting at approximately \$8875 not including this year's fees.

One recommendation was to make a start on rejuvenation/upgrading of the outdoor courtyard area on the top floor. The meeting participants did a mini field trip to the courtyard area to get a better sense of what was needed. Deanne Hoffart suggested her architect father may be interested, and he is. Gord to reach out to Deanne ([dhoffart@shaw.ca](mailto:dhoffart@shaw.ca)) to get her Father's contact information and try to get things moving before winter sets in.

Thoughts to get the project moving included: setting up a sub group under Deanne's father's leadership, getting the children involved to make a start on cleaning up some of the ground, sanding some of the existing furniture, work bees, Parent Council to purchase some stain for picnic tables.

Patricia Stephenson suggested using up to \$2000 for sanding and stain supplies. Vote taken all in favour. Approved.

Other thoughts include: pricing for some new all in one table and chair sets (46" round \$1150, 6' bench \$754, garbage cans \$450 + \$150 for lid and liner), memorial bench for students who have passed on, sponsor a bench opportunities, reaching out the Royal Bank as they have been known to support local groups (we bank with them too). Will discuss more at next Council meeting.

### Principal's Report from Gord Baldwin

Jacques Ferguson is expected to return to partial duties as of October 20<sup>th</sup>. Gord came to Aberhart High School from Winston Churchill School where he was Assistant Principal and his son attends Western Canada High School. Gord talked a bit about the recent funding cuts and that High Schools took the brunt of the cuts (approx 11%).

The school day is broken in to 85 minute blocks or periods, and 2 semesters. Currently the teachers are taking on 6-8 blocks and have unanimously decided to continue with the extra work load despite the cutbacks as they are committed to the students' success. They are expected to give approximately 125 hours per year on top of that to sports, art etc. Gord is still working on finding someone to coach the girls basketball team.

Children need minimum of 100 credits in order to graduate, most students at Aberhart are leaving with 125.

Upgrading of the Learning Commons area is ongoing. A committee comprised of both students and teachers are working on improving the Learning Commons area. This will include a new lab with 40 computers. The librarian position was eliminated with a Library Assistant running it now.

"Count day" was September 30<sup>th</sup> for funding by student numbers. Aberhart is now at 1526 students. Gr. 10 Math class has 43 students, other classes run at approximately 39 – 42 students. Due to the decreased number of teachers and limited flexibility the schedule has been locked so students unable to change classes.

Nichole Peter, one of the Guidance Counselors meets with children interested in scholarships. She is putting an information session together for scholarships. Further announcements will go out to Grad 12 students.

For any parents or students who came to the orientation session Gord would be very interested in any feedback about what went well or could be improved. Gord can be reached at [gabaldwin@cbe.ca](mailto:gabaldwin@cbe.ca)

Other Business

There was some more discussion around the October Trustees meeting as well as fundraising opportunities. This was tabled to next meeting as time was short.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Tomlinson.