

Wm Aberhart School Council Meeting Minutes
Monday January 26th 2015

1. Meeting called to order 19.02hrs
2. Susan Bennett volunteered to take minutes. Thank you!
3. Unable to approve November Council Minutes as there were some corrections to be made based on feedback/clarification by Ms. Annis-Johnson. Sheila Tomlinson will correct and submit to Ms. Grant for posting.
4. Principal Update: Tamie Annis-Johnson
 - Wm. Aberhart School results will be posted tomorrow January 27th. Email will be sent out to parents directing them to the website to review.
 - These results focus on academic achievement but we've tried to capture other strengths of students including school performances, travels, athletics, specialty clubs. School was #1 in the country for blood donations.
 - Abe held the first ever North American School Ted Talk May 9th, 2014
 - <http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b829/aberhart/main/news/upcoming/tedx-abe.html>
 - Mr. Baldwin's position will not be filled until the end of the year in order to pay off 2013-14 deficit; Principal A-J will attend to students P-Z and Facilities; the other Assistant principals will cover the rest of his portfolio
 - School looking at strategies to increase parents' involvement in school related discussions.
 - Pillar surveys done in Grades 4, 7 and 10. Tamie will give parents a heads up for next survey (April). Some discussion ensued on parent dissatisfaction, in particular, more consistent use of D2L and assistance with parent log in for Home Logic. This will be brought up to teachers at Pro D. day on Jan. 30.
 - New Minister of Education. Minister has to approve the proposed change of Final exam 50% weighting to 30% weighting.
 - School is focusing on creating flexible learning environments. For example, if a student demonstrates that he or she understands most learning outcomes but

struggles with one unit or does well all year but fails a final exam, how can we ensure that student is given other opportunities to demonstrate their understanding and be reassessed? ? If students do not do well on an assessment is there a way to allow them to do it again in 3 weeks?

- Discussion on how assessment may change to be in sync with new assessment criteria coming from K-9.
- Students were provided partial Exam exemption on the ELA diploma exam because of the computer issue. Only 32 students took this opportunity. Students were provided counseling on options, including writing again in April. Majority of students did not seem to be concerned.
- School is experiencing challenges in collection of fees for Physical Education and Sports Performance classes. They were \$7k short for first semester and 20k short for second semester. Mr. Peterson says they need more money prior to teachers convention or there will be negative consequences for the programs – i.e. won't be able to take students on as many off campus experiences.
- \$5.00 donation to school for School Council. Tamie recommended that Council do a letter explaining how the funds have been spent in the past. There was also input from the group that if the donation is over \$25.00 it qualifies for a tax receipt. Current need for school is for another computer lab with 42 computers. Tamie felt that they could probably furnish the room from CBE surplus warehouse but \$50,000 is required to complete the lab set up. Area director has earmarked \$25,000 in matching funds for lab.
- Discussion on role of School Council as an advisory body for School success. Role of Fundraising Association would be to raise funds. Some parents voiced concern over WAMPA's perceived monopoly on casino funds and contribution to school. Ms. A-J pointed out that if the school had to financially support the music program, it would be very challenging. From that perspective, WAMPA's fundraising is much appreciated.

5. Student Advisory Council : Kylah W-Z

- Students held a survey in November and found that students not aware of names of some teachers and Administrative staff – they are exploring ways to get this information out to the students
 - Exploring use of social media eg Facebook to share information
 - Have set up a “concerns” box and an anonymous e mail that students can raise concerns
 - School technician working on an app
 - students have provided feedback on the flexible assessment proposal. They want things to change and feel the current set up (of 50% for provincial diploma exam) is too stressful. They feel current classes are too long to have direct instruction for 88 minutes; interested in how flexible learning could allow students to progress at their own pace. They want to increase the time that teachers are available to coach/support eg 8am start vs 8.30 to all more students access tutorials. Ms. Tammie AJ added that every department is look into a flex-time initiative. A tutorial schedule should be set for each teacher currently. Ms. AJ will review at Pro. D.day.
 - Student Advisory Council will get back to School Council with suggestions for a name for the Council award
 - Ms Tamie AJ introduced that they are planning to introduce a math bridging course for Grade 10 students – Math 10-3 which will allow transition to Math 10-C. This is an example of a flex initiative being piloted by the Math Dept. next year.
6. School Society: Volunteers are Susan and Gerty. Sheila to introduce Susan to Sandy in Friends of Orange. Karen Drummond in Communications at CBE may also be a source of information kdrummond@cbe.ab.ca. Council is enthusiastic about the potential of changing the focus of Friends of Orange to benefit the school through fundraising and its own casino.
- Review and potential amendment of School Council By Laws is considered a priority.
7. Treasurer Update: Jennie Kwan
- Balance at of Jan. 19 is \$9463.02. Outstanding payable is \$2000.00 for I pads.
 - Volleyball travel of \$500 has been paid.

- Solar panel contribution of \$1000 is complete.
 - Ms. Annis Johnson's wish list includes:
computer lab - \$50,000. \$12,000 for furniture however there is a potential to get surplus furniture. They are considering a classroom in the basement for the new computer lab
 - Jennie K. brought up the idea of the cheque writing campaign.
 - Post secondary Financial Award was raised by Sheila T.
 - Moved by Sheila T. that William Aberhart School Council provide an adversity award worth up to \$500 to a deserving student. Stay with \$500 proposed by Michelle Dupont, seconded by Michelle McAdam.
 - Tamie AJ said Council award needs name, suggested Fighting Heart Award. The Student Council will brainstorm at their next meeting for an appropriate name and present at the next meeting.
8. Susan Bennett volunteered to attend the meeting of High School Chairs and Vice Chairs hosted by CAPSC at Queen Elizabeth School on Tuesday, Jan. 27th. Sheila Tomlinson will attend Council of School Councils meeting Thursday Jan 29th. Updates will be given at next Parent Council meeting.
9. Future Council Meeting Topics
- Continue with Society discussion and formation
10. Other updates –
- Parents asked about the delayed communication on the Study seminar offered before final/diploma exams. Tamie did say the students were told about it in class but no one attended.
11. Adjournment 20.40hrs