

**William Aberhart High School
Parent Council Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2014 at 7:00 pm**

Chair: Laurie Baines

Minutes: Shelley (mckenzie143@shaw.ca)

Attendees: Gena, Robin, Owen, Sheila, Elise, Gerty, Jennie, Maureen, Harmonie, Jodi, Shelley, Laurie,
Guest Constable Dore

- I. Welcome, call-to-order, sign-in: Laurie Baines
- II. Recorder volunteer to take minutes of meeting: Shelley
- III. Approval of November meeting minutes: Motioned: Gena, Seconded Sheila. PASSED
- IV. Guest: Constable James Dore: School Resource Officer, Community and Youth Services (contact: pol3680@calgarypolice.ca or Crimestoppers)
 - a. Been with CPS for 14 years
 - b. Every high school as an officer assigned; some part-time, some full-time; usually in school office 10-12 hours per week.
 - c. First priority is as counsellor, second is law-related, 3rd and final course is enforcement, including arrests
 - d. Each school decides on a lock-down drill schedule; usually there is at least one per year that is announced and maybe one per year unannounced.
 - e. Aberhart is a very safe school with a minimum of incidents. Typically there are two-three teens that take up the majority of Constable Dore's time
 - f. Great admin team at Aberhart that really wants to see the kids succeed
 - g. New bullying laws will be coming out soon, few details yet.
 - h. One example of the new law is graphic images that are forwarded without consent could result in a child pornography charge
 - i. More social media legislation too
 - j. Facebook issues are huge; there's a new unit at the CPS with four full-time officers working exclusively on social media.
 - k. Important to monitor your children while they are on social media; keep yourselves, as parents educated and up-to-date on current social media
 - l. Online bullying is a bigger issue today than physical bullying
 - m. Talked about some success stories along with some not-so-successful stories.
 - n. Encouraged parents and children to report all crimes through Crimestoppers to protect identity: noted that there is a reward paid through Crimestoppers.
 - o. Examples include, bullying, being asked if you want to buy drugs, witnessing a crime, hearing about a crime being planned. The more info that can be provided, the better.

- p. Question about drugs and the safety of marijuana: Constable Dore stated that NO drug is ever safe.
- q. Question about violent video games and their impact: felt it could make a bad case worse but not necessarily the root cause
- r. Question about communication to parents about criminal activity at the school: if the school feels it was a significant event, perhaps a take-down, parents will be informed. Very little drug trafficking or violence at Aberhart.

V. Update from Acting Principal Baldwin: absent

VI. Treasurers Report from Jennie

- a. See attached report
- b. Scholarship totals have been adjusted/clarified from November's minutes due to a student who asked for his scholarship to be deferred for one year. It was confirmed that if he doesn't go to post-secondary after that year, the money will be returned to the scholarship fund. Laurie made that clear last year to candidate and Aberhart.
- c. Discussion about the \$5.00 voluntary fee: considerably lower total contribution than previous years. Typically has been ~\$3000, this year we only collected ~\$1380.
 - i. CBE says the fee cannot be mandatory and we currently have no Society (WAMPA runs fundraising efforts and funnels money into school projects)
 - ii. Consider sending a letter from the Principal to parents talking about School Council in general and also the \$50.00 fee
 - iii. Discussed who "owns" the proceeds of the \$5.00 fee, council or the business office or school admin? School cannot solicit fees from parents, only collect fees.
- d. School (Parent) council is currently very informal, would be happy to have volunteers formalize the council and/or start a Society

VII. Other Business:

- a. Environmental Club presentation (Elise)
 - i. Requesting funds to contribute towards their solar panel project; no specific dollar amount requested
 - ii. Ecoteam's biggest project is the solar panels.
 - iii. Total cost is \$42,000 plus installation; CBE will pay half if they can raise \$21,000. Raised \$13,000 to date and are waiting for some other grants to come in
 - iv. Plan to purchase 40 solar panels for school roof which will save 10.5 tons of carbon emissions each year (or 10% of our energy). They come with a 25-year warranty and feed directly into the school's grid (no batteries). Biggest cost is the actual panels and also installation.
 - v. Project is all lined up and ready to go. CBE environmental coordinator and Aberhart project teacher on board. Bank account is opened for the fundraising.

- vi. Lord Beaverbrook currently has solar panels and three other high schools are working with the CBE to have panels installed this spring.
- vii. Currently applying for more grants; considering creating short videos to include with grant proposals
- viii. Other projects: teracycle bins used to recycle pens, mechanical pencils, whiteboard markers, etc. Also the grade 10 gym shirts were sourced from a company that makes 100% organic cotton and plants a tree for each shirt sold.
- ix. Please contact Elise at epullar@telus.net with further questions
- x. Council will review again in April 2014 to confirm funding shortfall.
- b. Key Communicators Report from Jodi
 - i. Provided brochure of ASCA offerings for workshops which may be more relevant for elementary schools
 - ii. Suggestions from meeting: have two teachers and two students at Parent Council meetings to provide feedback and insight. Provide digital cameras to students and ask them to present a short photo story to Parent Council.
 - iii. Parent communication: consider emails plus phone calls (discussion included that some parents might not want to receive even more emails)
 - iv. Would like to see more broad communication; feels it's heavy of sports and not on the arts.
 - v. Noted that Joy Bowen-Eyre, our Trustee, would be happy to attend an upcoming meeting to talk about her perspective on class sizes and other education issues. Parents agreed but would like to have the new principal come to a meeting first, hopefully February's meeting.
- c. Other
 - i. Grad: are parents involved? There is a grad committee and the Cinderella Project and it's under control so parent help isn't required at this time.
 - ii. Scholarships/Bursaries: school committee is set up. They came up with three nominees. Looking for one or more parents to take that on. Parents act as liaisons only so this is a very small commitment. Will follow up at February's meeting.
 - iii. If anything is to be added to February's agenda please email Laurie at laurie_baines@shaw.ca.
 - iv. Any changes/corrections to January's minutes please email Shelley at mckenzie143@shaw.ca.

VIII. Adjournment: 8:22 pm