

Cooper's Crossing School Council - Executive Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2017

1. Meeting Opening

1.1 The following persons were present: James S, Amanda P, Mohammad B, Christina B, Keely B, Todd H, and Tina R.

1.2 The following members were absent: Kristine S, Melanie S, and Laura P.

2. New Business (Matters for Decision)

2.1 Bank account with ATB - James has been in touch with ATB regarding setting up a bank account for school council. ATB requires name of account, contacts and authorized signers. The group determined 3 signers are appropriate, will bring forth the names of Keely, James and Christina to be signers to the larger group and pass a motion.

2.2 Operating Procedures Meeting - The meeting will take place the following week with ASCA (James will confirm date and time) - James and Amanda will be in attendance as well as parent representative, Karin. The goal of the meeting is to collaborate and create our operating procedures with the smaller group and bring the information back to the larger group for voting at our next meeting. Our role in creating these operating procedures as a school council is to be community minded, collaborative and remember our role as consultant.

2.3 Fundraising Update - The goal is to promote and support the last few fundraisers to help push us to our goal of \$125,000. After the March deadline, fundraising will continue to account for hidden costs (park benches, garbage cans, etc). After fundraising for the playground is complete, it is the goal of school council to support fundraising in two key areas, the Library and Technology. These two areas are ongoing goals for the school and as we grow and expand, fundraising for supplies in these areas are key. School Council will also support fundraising efforts for future field trips such as skating or swimming. The goal is to also merge school council and the Friends of Cooper's Crossing School to support each other and work together in regards to fundraising. Representatives from both groups can meet prior to the fundraising meeting taking place on Thursday, February 2nd, at 7:00PM.

2.4 Yearbook Update - Mohammed brought forth the idea of choosing a custom cover the yearbook which would cost \$3 more for each book. The difference in money can go towards the playground. Our goal as school council is to actively sell and promote the yearbook. Lifetouch supports this campaign by providing the school with reminders, posters, and stickers to go home in agendas. Starting

in mid February, we can promote early purchase of yearbooks, with May 1st being the final deadline to purchase. The group discussed using a survey to choose the cover photo, giving parents three options to choose from. Todd will create a survey and send to parents, he will also include a place for parents to add comments about the yearbook and a place to volunteer on the committee if they would like.

3. **Upcoming Matters to Discuss**

A school council representative will meet with the representatives of the Friends Society to discuss how best the two groups can work together to support fundraising for the playground. The meeting will take place on Thursday, February 2nd at 7:00PM.

Next meeting on Monday, March 6th at 6:30PM. Regular meeting at 7:00PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:00PM

Minutes submitted by: Christina Boschman

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The following persons were present - Todd H (Principal), Tammy D (Assistant Principal) Keely B., Christina B., Amanda P., James S., Tina R., Mohammed B., Mrs.I Laguerre (Teacher Rep), Sylvia E (Trustee), Karin E. (Parent).

1. Welcome and Opening Cultural Building Activity - Mr. Todd H.

Small group discussion led by Todd - we were asked in groups to discuss what schools do to make learning real, visible and for everyone. The groups shared their responses - to make learning real, the children can make connections to home, through field trips, and help them recognize their world in comparison to the larger world (using google earth). The group that discussed making learning visible emphasized the importance of displaying children's work on bulletin boards, making videos, building and drawing results. Recording children reading will also allow them to see their progress. Making learning for everyone discussed how schools are inclusive, making sure different learning styles are acknowledged. A key point was knowing the students and their culture and interests which in turn gives teachers access points to make learning meaningful.

2. Voting for Alberta Treasury Branch as our Financial Institution - James S.

Motion to select Alberta Treasury Branch as our financial institution made by James S, seconded by Keely B. All were in favour, none opposed.

3. Voting for Signatories - James S.

Motion to select Keely B (Chair) James S (Treasurer) and Christina B (Vice Chair) as signatories, made by James S, seconded by Tina R. All were in favour, none opposed.

4. Voting for Number of Signers to conduct a transaction - James S.

Motion to select the minimum numbers of signers (2) to conduct a transaction made by James S, seconded by Amanda P. All were in favour, none opposed.

5. Voting for the use of cheques - Keely B.

Motion to use money in the form of cheques made by Keely B, seconded by Tina R. All were in favour, none opposed.

6. Principal's Report - Mr. Todd H.

School Survey results were extremely positive with 81 parents and 31 children taking part in the survey. The major area for concern was parking for parents to pick up and drop off students. Looking for volunteers to help at crosswalks before and after school to ensure children get across safely. One suggestion was a "walking bus stop" which would involve a parent meeting children at a designated spot, and walking them safely across the intersection.

Love and Logic Parenting Sessions are a great success with 28 parents attending. The sessions are designed to help guide parents while they gain strategies in regards to parenting styles and ideas to work effectively with our children. Sessions will continue, students also involved in Love and Logic sessions within the school setting.

7. Trustee's Report - Mrs. Sylvia E.

Ward Boundaries - The trustees meet this coming Thursday to debate and decide on the new ward boundaries. The feedback from the survey showed concerns about representation by population and rural representation. There is a large discrepancy with trustees for rural and urban areas (4 rural trustees and 3 urban) and therefore rural trustees are making decisions for urban areas. Outcome of meeting to be discussed at the next school council meeting.

Municipal Government Act - The goal is recognizing that public education has input which gives us the grounds for our schools. The lack of parking in and around schools continues to be an issue, showing the footprint of the school is not adequate enough to accommodate parking.

Audited financial statement shows 1200 new students in the district which would call for an increase in funding and hiring of additional teachers. The trustees were also focussed on 21st century learning which meant the focus on numeracy and literacy was lost. Because of this, a literacy and numeracy committee was created with the goal of helping to share good practices and successful programs of other schools in regards to literacy and numeracy programs. Parent input shows the areas of reading, writing, math as the most important. The committee will put an emphasis on literacy first, then look at increasing numeracy programs in the district. The goal is to share and allocate resources and information between schools and to work together to promote literacy and numeracy.

Shane Homes want to give back to Airdrie schools in the form of providing programs such as swimming lessons or anti drug programs in the schools. Sylvia will update on this at a later time.

Parent Questions and Concerns

The issue around parent involvement in school council meetings was discussed, suggestions given on how to engage and encourage more parents to attend. One suggestion was an anonymous survey seeking parent feedback of what they wanted to see at the meetings. The suggestion of publishing the agenda for each meeting ahead of time was also made. Parents would have an indication of what topics will be discussed prior to attending the meeting and therefore would entice parents to attend. The group also talked about having a "hot topic" at each meeting to engage and bring more parents in.

Next meeting on Monday, March 6th at 7:00PM

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM

Minutes submitted by: Christina Boschman