

Valhalla Community School
Parent Council
Minutes: May 7, 2012

Attendees:

Barb Vig, Amie Nemezc, Brenda-Lee Kjemhus, Jason Bratland, Steve Mumert, Lorraine Gerow, Pat Moutray

Called to Order: 6:35 pm

Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes from both March and April meetings adopted as read, no errors or omissions. Motion: Lorraine 2nd:
Pat Moutray

Old Business

- No Old Business items discussed

Reports

Chair Report (Barb Lind)

- Unpaid School Fees: invoices will be sent this week. Will include a letter from the Superintendent and a fee waiver for families that cannot afford fees.
- Spoke with the Town of Beaverlodge regarding school swimming lessons. To date they have not yet planned anything for school swimming lessons and asked to have an outline of past lesson schedules, fees paid and number of students we expect to take lessons forwarded to them so they can look at possible offering lessons.

Treasurer's Report (Linda McKay)

- Read by Pat Moutray as Linda was not in attendance.
- Current bank account balance is \$2006.23.
- Need \$500.00 in cheques signed, do not have receipts yet
- Food for classrooms was about \$300.00. The in class snacks are going over really well.
- Linda will provide muffins for grade 9 PATs and chocolate milk. Others are welcome to volunteer snacks/drinks for other classes doing PATs.

Secretary's Report (Amie Nemezc)

Nothing to report

Principal's Report (Steve Mumert)

- Long weekend: May 17 to 22
- Voice for Life Sexual Health Education – May 25th, in newsletter
- May 16th, Roadside Cleanup – younger grades in yard, older ones will do the road and community areas.
- School Supplies/Fees:

- Tends to be an abuse of the system – kids do not take good care of items provided and is becoming costly for the school. General school supplies cost the school roughly \$20,000.00 per year. Discussion on having families provide their own general school supplies (a list would then be provided each year).
- Motion: Parent council advises the Foundation Board that families of VCS students provide their own general school supplies for students in Grade 1 – 9 beginning in the 2012/2013 school year. Parent council also advises that the Foundation Board does not change school fees and that they remain at \$75.00 per year for grade K, \$100.00 per year for grades 1-9 plus \$50.00 per year textbook rental for grades 1-9. Motion: Pat Moutray 2nd: Lorraine Gerow, Carried
- Discussion on removing the school fee cap of \$300.00 per year per family. Parent council decided it would be best to give families the opportunity to voice their opinion on removing the school fee cap. Open meeting to discuss school fees is set for May 24th at 7:00 pm at the school. Babysitting will be provided by Parent Council.
- Tech Fees:
 - Discussed student use of laptops – would like to have enough to assign to each student grade 5 and up – in this case would like to see a tech fee of \$60.00 for willful damage to the assigned computer. Members present at the meeting support the implementation of a Tech Fee once we are able to assign laptops to students.
- Headsets:
 - Would like to have one headset per child in grade 5 and up. Still encouraging families to provide their own computer headset if possible (for hygiene and wear and tear on the sets).
- CTBS Results:
 - Summary presented – overall students did really well. Results will be sent home to parents by mail.

Foundation Board Report (Brenda-Lee Kjemhus)

- On April 21st interview were held for a new superintendent. 4 candidates were interviewed. Awaiting Alberta Education approval and hoping chosen candidate will be able to start June 1st.
- Also interviews for interm Secretary/Treasurer position
- Looked at dissolving the school 4-H program. A motion has been made to withdraw from the 2012/2013 school year as paid 4-H members

New Business

School Clothing Orders:

- Pat was concerned about school clothing orders as they have been getting less and less every year. General discussion was very much in favor of continuing school clothing orders. Discussed having a better quality order form for people to view or putting color images on school website to encourage more clothing orders.

Charter Review (Alberta School Council Assoc):

- Does parent council want to hold an organizational meeting to plan for next year. Would like to have more parent involvement, e.g.: do we want to have a grade parent representative and/or teacher representative. Parent council likes the idea but an organizational meeting date has not been set yet.

Hot Lunch:

- Concern from Linda regarding use of the room that includes the kitchen appliances in the mornings of hot lunch. Room is currently being used as a classroom and can create difficulty for Linda to prepare for lunches. Barb to discuss with Linda some hot lunch logistics. For next year Parent Council will have to discuss some organizing options (e.g.: community organizations or volunteers) to help the hot lunch program continue to succeed.
- AGM Foundation Board meeting on March 26th at 7:00 pm at the Valhalla School. Everyone is welcome to attend.

BBQ:

- Encana BBQ booked for school year end (June 28th) and Grade 9 farewell (June 15th).

Meeting Adjourned at 8:29pm (Amie Nemezc)

Next Meeting: June 4th, 2012 at 6:30 pm