

2012-02-14

Cremona School Council

19:00:00

Meeting Minutes

School Library

Attendees: Karen Olson, Teri Minton, Gerard Kulcsar, Brenda Pereversoff, Bill MacFarquhar, Scott MacDonald, Chelsea Robertson, Joanna Harvey, Andrea Reid, Gary Whitehead

Meeting Called to order: 7:08 PM by Gerard Kulcsar

Minutes

Agenda item: Previous Minutes

Brenda Pereversoff had pointed out a correction in regards to the dates for the band trip, it should have read February 27 and 28 not January. Karen Olson stated that she had corrected the minutes and that the corrected minutes had been reposted to the website.

Discussion:

Karen Olson motioned that we accept the minutes from the January 10, 2012 meeting
Brenda Pereversoff seconded
Approved by all

Agenda item: Business Arising out of the Minutes

Discussion: None

Agenda item: Financial Report

Discussion: Gary Whitehead presented that there is currently around \$750.00 in the School Council account, and there should be more from the last two pizza days in January and February which has yet to be deposited.

Agenda item: Renaissance Survey

Discussion: Joanna Harvey presented that the Leadership class and staff have given input for the survey questions. The following are questions that have come from discussions with the staff:

Do you feel that the present rallies are a positive addition to our school environment?
Would you like to see the **Minute to Win it** challenges continue?
How often would you like to see rallies occur?
Once a month? 4 times a year? Once a semester?

Should the rallies be divided, with 2 or 3 all-school rallies and separate rallies for each division (high school, middle school, and elementary)?
Are you in favor of prizes for academic rallies? If yes would you prefer large prizes to few students or small prizes to many students?
Do you have any suggestions to improve the rallies?

Would you like to see high school pep rallies return as a replacement for some of the renaissance rallies?

**Discussion
con't:**

Should students earning academic awards receive prizes or just a certificate?
Should every child receive a "Stellar Student" award at one point during the year?

Should this be different for Elementary, Middle & High School?

What kinds of student presentations would you like to see?

Should there be separate assemblies for elementary?

Brenda Pereversoff presented that she thought parents were going to be included on the committee.

Joanna Harvey replied that yes she is looking for parent input / feedback.

Teri Minton presented that she and Karen Olson had done up a survey, Karen presented that it was meant to be a starting point not the final survey.

Joanna Harvey presented that they will put all the questions together and hopefully have feedback for the March School Council meeting.

Karen Olson presented that would it be possible to see the survey before it is sent out or posted on the website. Joanna replied that yes she would do this.

Joanna Harvey presented that she would like the survey to be on Survey Monkey on the website so that we could get results back quickly. Chelsea Robertson presented that we had talked about having the library open for parents to be able to access the computers to do the survey online.

Andrea Reid presented that would there be a paper copy of the survey going out? Or even a notice about it being online so parents are aware it is there.

Scott MacDonald replied that yes they could do both.

Joanna Harvey presented that the survey would be posted online for 2 weeks. She also presented that did we need something in the survey about what Renaissance is? Karen Olson replied that yes she thought this was something that had been discussed and that the message about what Renaissance is about is not coming across.

Agenda Item: Student Council

Discussion: Chelsea Robertson presented:

Middle School dance was held last week. Student Council help organize, had the Middle School do the decorating, which was kept to a minimum as most of it gets destroyed during the dance. Student Council also helped with taking in the money and organized a Middle School clean up crew which worked well.

March 8th, 2012 was supposed to be the High School Dance but now has a tentative date of March 22nd, 2012 and will have a Leap Year or Spring theme.

February 14th, 2012 was Formal Day, and suckers were given out in Elementary, Middle and High School for the best dressed. In High School that also ran Don't Steal My Heart - High School girls were given a heart to wear and were not allowed to talk to the boys unless they were in class. The boys had to try and make the girls talk to them and if they did, than the boy got to steal the girls heart. The boy with the most hearts one chocolates. It went very well. Brenda Pereversoff asked how many students dressed up and Chelsea replied that there were quite a few who did.

Student Council is running the next assembly on February 22nd, 2012, there will be a Minute to Minute and possibly related to Integrity as that is this months renaissance theme / characteristic.

Cremona Idol will be happening in March. Student Council has asked for input into the judging from teaching staff to help keep the voting fair.

Agenda Item: Band Society

Discussion:

Brenda Pereversoff presented that the next Band Society meeting is on February 16th, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

Coco Brooks pizza sale forms all need to be in by Wednesday February 15, 2012. Delivery of the pizzas is expected for March 7th, 2012.

Karen Olson presented were the pizza forms sent home to the Elementary School? Brenda replied no but that forms were available in the office.

Brenda presented that the Grade 7 & 8 band are going to Edmonton on February 27 & 28, 2012 and no dates have been set for the Moose Jaw trip.

Agenda Item: Cremona School Enhancement Society

Discussion:

Teri Minton presented that the CSES has received a couple of grants.

Teri also presented that they are currently looking at getting people from the community with a trade or skill who would be willing to come in and help with Fun Friday's.

Andrea Reid asked Teri if they had found a coordinator for the Fun Friday's. Teri replied that she had volunteered but that they are also looking for additional help. They are looking at talking to people who are participating in the community spring craft/product showcase to see if anyone is interested in working with them on the Fun Friday's.

Andrea Reid asked Teri if they are hoping to do a Fun Friday soon? Teri replied they are working on finding people to showcase a skill or craft to work with all 3 schools. Joanna Harvey presented that the funding is in place and that the CSES is looking at how it will all come together.

The following was submitted on behalf of the CSES by Brenda Eerkes via e-mail to Joanna Harvey:

Sorry CSES cannot make it to the parent council meeting.

A quick update :

Teri Minton Dyke has generously offered her help with the fun Friday program. We have just provided her with a list of possible workshops to bring into the school. This is to fulfill our fun Friday grant from Trans Canada. These workshops do not have to be held on Fridays. Tanya Shand has also offered to help as a parent not a FCSS director.

We are continuing coffee sales in fact next order is due this Thurs Feb 16th.

We also recently fulfilled the library funding request for Robert Munsch.

We are working on planning an evening fundraiser.

A CSES meeting will be announced soon.

Agenda Item: Administration Report:

Discussion:

Presented by Joanna Harvey:

New Hire: Dallas Johnson from Didsbury. Dallas is filling in the position that has been funded by RAWG (Resource Allocation Working Group) to enable the admin team more time to work with the staff as instructional leaders.

Tracy Edwards has taken a one month leave of absence and will return March 1st, 2012.

New semester has begun with a few timetable changes.

AISI (Alberta Initiative for School Improvement) Working with Maureen McDiarmid – last session March 5, 2012

- a) Elementary – picture clues and critical questions to find out information
- b) Middle School – Hunger Games – collaboration with other schools inside and outside the district
- c) High School – Critical Questioning – how to build them and how they help – Scott MacDonald presented that they are trying to craft a common program for devising critical questions. This will help students make and ask better questions using a common language

**Discussion
con't:**

Healthy Schools – Healthy Future – 1.5 year grant – Joanna Harvey presented that it is a pilot project that Cremona School and Spruce View have signed up for Grades 4 & 5, and a proposal will be put in for the rest of the Elementary School. Joanna also presented that it is a socialization project.

- a) Provides us with .2 teaching time
- b) \$8000.00 to spend
- c) Target age is grades 4 & 5
- d) We have put together a team and are putting a proposal to run a wellness program targeting social issues
- e) We will run this along with our wellness worker for all elementary classrooms

Kristy Muir is heading up a social etiquette awareness addition to our health program in Middle School for the next couple of months. We are anticipating it running once a month for a couple of target classes and continue next year in more classes.

Trickster – April 1st, 2012 is the deadline for the government grant to cover 75% of the cost. This time we would be looking at them coming to work with all of our students with a global issues focus. For the younger students global would mean local.

Their week would include work on digital citizenship and working with media as well as drama. The final product would be posted on their website and we would be able to see other schools that have had their productions posted. Do we have support for this?

Joanna Harvey presented that CSES was looking at a year long Artist in Residence program but did not know where this was at. Joanna presented that the other 25% of the funding would have to come from community donations, school fundraising etc.

Bill MacFarquhar asked Joanna if they had looked into the program that Carstairs Elementary had just finished running? He presented that it is put together by 2 women and that it is around ½ the cost of Trickster. Bill also presented that this other program is focused more on the learning along the way, and is driven less by the final performance. Joanna replied that yes she was aware of that program but that it is only geared to Elementary School and Cremona would require it for all 3 schools. Joanna also replied that Trickster is also based on the learning along the way as well as digital citizenship, blogs and twitter.

Brenda Pereversoff asked if it could be expanded to include Middle School? Joanna replied that it usually does not go past grade 6.

Joanna asked if there was support for moving forward with tricksters and that the grant application needs to be by April 1st, 2012

Karen Olson presented that she thought the CSES had agreed to do the paper work for the grant at a previous meeting.

Student Leadership team have been working on a project with Eppo Eerkes on the children of war over in Uganda. The name our students are working under is the Army of HOPE. They are presenting their project, which at this time is awareness of what is happening to many children in Uganda, at the rally on the 22nd.

There will be a letter going out to all grade 5,6 & 7 students about the content of their presentation. Karen Olson asked what about the K-4 students and Joanna replied that they will be removed before the presentation takes place and that parents can opt to have their grade 5,6 & 7 student removed before the presentation as well.

Chelsea Robertson presented that the presentation to K-4 would not have the "shock" value that the one for the older students would. Andrea Reid presented that she would have concerns about how some of the grade 5,6 & 7 students would process this "shock" type presentation? Chelsea Robertson presented that she felt the presentation should only be for grade 7 and up. Scott MacDonald presented that we were getting bogged down on the word shock. Joanna Harvey presented that once the presentation is finalized they might decide not to show it to the grade 5's. Brenda Pereversoff asked if parents would be able to preview the trailer before it is shown. Joanna replied that the trailer is not contain the shock factor. Chelsea Robertson presented a bit on how the Leadership Class might present the "shock" factor of the presentation, but the presentation has not been finalized. Andrea Reid replied to Chelsea that she respected what they are trying to do but need to watch that their wording is age appropriate. Chelsea Robertson presented that the short term goal of the project is trying to raise awareness with a community walk and that the long term goal is to take bicycles to Uganda – possibly in 2013.

Accountability Pillar – staff and students in grades 4,7 &10 as well as parents will have completed this by the end of the week.

**Discussion
con't:**

FCSS – Neighbors Day – to be held here at the school on March 21st, 2012 which is parent teacher conferences and our book fair. Joanna presented that there would be a number of organizations and services from Cremona and Water valley represented. Bill MacFarquhar presented that Carstairs has done something similar for a number years.

Accountability Pillar – staff and students in grades 4,7 &10 as well as parents will have completed this by the end of the week.

Newsletter – the last printed copy went out last month. This month it will be posted on the webpage and e-mailed to those who requested that. A couple of families have requested printed copies. Andrea Reid asked is it possible to e-mail out a copy or a reminder about the newsletter being on the website.

Jan Shand new EA Lan tech – trial for the tech department. It is going well.

Swimming – K-6 will be swimming this year in Didsbury. K,1,2,4 & 5 will be going in March and April. 3 & 6 will be going in June after PAT's

Ski Trips – High School is booked into Sunshine. Grade 4-8 is booking into Nakiska – tentative date March 22

Michael Kusagak – story teller is here on March 27th, 2012 for K-4

Munsch Puppets here at the school on April 19th, 2012 for K-4

Renaissance Survey – input for questions you as parents would like to have

Science Fair is on Thursday February 16th, 2012 in the school library

Agenda Item: Trustee Report

Discussion:

Bill MacFarquhar presented:

Chinook's Edge School Division has signed a letter of intent for a possible wind power agreement that will look into a project regarding green power for schools

Teacher's Convention is next week and the board members participate in this as well as administration and teaching staff

CESD is supporting the regional Science Fair in Red Deer

The board is starting the process of working on next years budget, they will be involving principals again to help look at allocating funds amongst the schools

The provincial budget presented last week is neutral in terms of how it affects the CESD

End of ATA agreement is coming up and this will be addressed after a provincial election has taken place

Bill asked Brenda Pereversoff if the Darren Jacobson had presented the proposal for the band trip to Moose Jaw as it had not come before the board yet. Brenda said she thought that he had. Bill mentioned one that had been approved for Didsbury and Brenda mentioned that it might be part of that proposal as they would be going together

Bill mentioned the Carstairs Elementary School is hosting a sledge hockey game to raise funds for their new playground and breakfast program in March

Agenda Item: New Business

Discussion:

Joanna Harvey presented the following request for funds from the School Council:

Request for Funding:

The library is hosting author Michael Kusagak from Nunuvit visiting our school in March for an Author visit. This will be for grades 1 -4.

The cost is \$350.00 per session and we have booked him for 2 sessions plus question period.

Any financial aid would be appreciated to help cover this cost.

Karen Olson motioned that School Council pay \$350.00 towards one session

Gerard Kulcsar seconded

approved by the rest of council members present

Andrea Reid asked if it was possible to e-mail a copy of the newsletter or a reminder that the newsletter is available online to parents. Joanna Harvey replied that if they had everyone's e-mail then yes they could but they do not have everyone's e-mail. Joanna also mentioned that you can sign up for a subscription to the newsletter on the Cremona School website. Bill MacFarquhar presented that getting away from paper copies has been happening at other schools throughout the district. Karen Olson suggested that maybe a link on the main page once the newsletter is available at the beginning of the month might be helpful as well.

Joanna Harvey presented that she has staff working on their pages on the website and that Scott MacDonald's was looking good.

Vending Machines:

Brenda Pereversoff and Karen Olson presented that they would like to revisit the vending machines in the school. Brenda has talked to the school nutritionist Jen? and she is willing to work with a group of parents on helping to revise the vending machines and their contents.

Nut Policy at Cremona School:

Brenda asked Joanna Harvey if we could revisit the nut free policy at the school. Some of the reasoning behind this is that by not having any nut snacks we are missing out on a range of nutritional snack options. Students are exposed to nut snacks away from the school and learn to avoid them so they could do the same while in school.

Joanna replied that yes this could be done, would we want to do a separate date for the discussion or do it at the next School Council meeting? Gerard Kulcsar replied that anything that could bring more people out to our meetings would be beneficial so we should do it at the next meeting.

Brenda and Karen will work on getting the information about the Vending Machine / Nut Free Policy presentation out to parents before the next meeting.

Gary Whitehead presented that Brenda Pereversoff had participated in the teleconference call that the Provincial Minister of Education had with representatives from school council members. Brenda replied that it was a summary of where the province is going and a Question and Answer session and that a second conference call would be held on March 19th, 2012 and that if more people are interested we could use the Engagement Site.

Some points from the call:

- Diploma Exam results: Alberta students marks look lower than other provinces when they apply for post secondary, but that as they progress through post secondary they are finding that these lower marks do not correctly reflect the students scholastic abilities. Saskatchewan is now adjusting the marks of Alberta students who apply to their post secondary institutions. They are proposing that both the classroom mark and the diploma mark both be on students transcripts. The Minister indicated that this shows that Alberta students are well prepared for diploma exams and post secondary education
- Province is also looking at how schools will be utilized in the future as the population shifts around within communities some ideas are older schools with declining student populations being used for community activities
- The Minister also pointed out that not all the BMW's you see are being driven by University graduates, some are driven around by trades people and that students should be looking beyond Universities for their post secondary choices
- Education is the 2nd highest funded ministry in the province with 80% of that funding going towards salaries and 20% towards ? and that it is difficult to find a good balance

Bill MacFarquhar asked Brenda if the teleconference seemed like a rushed process as that has been the result in the past with these types of things. Brenda replied that it did not come across that way. She said that it had obviously happened before as some of the things the minister talked about were answers to questions from a previous teleconference. Brenda also mentioned that if he did not have an answer at that time that he would research it and get back to it at another time. Bill also mentioned that it looks like the government would try and pass their 10 point education plan before the next election is called.

**Discussion
con't:**

Gary Whitehead asked Joanna Harvey the following in regards to May Monarch

- Does the school support this and what grades would be involved
- If the school does support it than they would need 2 student and 2 parent reps

Joanna Harvey replied that yes they do support it and would get back to Gary with further information

Andrea Reid asked Joanna Harvey if she could get teacher feedback in regards to the Classroom Rep program that School Council has been working on since the fall. Feedback in regards to how it has been working, what we can improve would be appreciated. Andrea also mentioned that we could attend another staff meeting if that would work. Joanna replied that she would send out an e-mail to staff asking for feedback.

Karen Olson presented that she had received a request from Cremona FCSS in regards to the Neighborhood Day coming up in March asking if School Council would be interested in having a booth at the event. Joanna suggested that even an information board would be a good idea. Gary Whitehead presented that he and Karen would discuss it and get back to Cremona FCSS.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:29 PM

Next meeting March 13th, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the school library