



FFCA NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2011
6:30 – 8:30PM

FOUNDATIONS
FOR THE FUTURE
CHARTER ACADEMY

In Attendance:

Cuong Dang, Laurie Aldridge, Christine Cloutier, Joanna Chan, Lorne McDonald, Nanja Struck, Tammy Schlegel, Angela Gallagher, Gerry Schuster

Approval of September Meeting Minutes completed electronically via emails:

- Moved by: Christine Seconded by: Terrie, Laurie, Nanja
- **Approved**

1. Approval of Agenda

- Moved by: Angela Seconded by: Christine
- **Approved**

2. School Council Goals for the Coming Year:

- School Councils chose the following three goals to work on in the coming year
- 1. Volunteering:
 - Hoping to see more volunteering opportunities and more people volunteering
 - Many showed up to volunteer on Hot Lunch Day, the communication was very helpful to achieve the success
 - Middle school teachers are generally more independent, Lorne will keep encouraging teachers to find more volunteering opportunities
 - Christine will continue to work with June Scott/John Deines to update the website with information on Council meeting dates, volunteering opportunities
 - The web site calendar currently displays event dates and number of volunteers needed
 - Tammy will involve the Leadership class to write an article on “Volunteerism, success in our community” for the Newsletter
 - Do not want to force people to volunteer, try to emphasize less on the number of hours, but more on participation, the SW campus made all families do at least 1 hour of volunteering so at the end 100% participation from all families was achieved
 - Christine will continue to use emails to inform families of the specifics of volunteering opportunities
 - 13% of the families already participated this year so far
- 2. Wellness:
 - Possible projects include holding a marathon, giving kids house points if they bring fruit for lunch, School Councils giving out fruit to kids every month....
 - School already started with information sessions, cutting down on pop drinking
 - SRC President was just elected, Ejaaz Lakhani, will invite him to School Council to exchange ideas

- 3. Community Building:
 - Leave raking for the Community is underway
- School Councils to continue to think of ideas and specifics, and to share and discuss at the next meeting

3. Administrators Update

- Manners Lady:
 - The Manners Lady presentation is on next Tuesday, Oct 25th
 - She will present to the grades 5 & 6, and grades 7 & 8 separately in the morning, then will have lunch with the staff to discuss manner issues kids have
 - 6-8 volunteers needed for outside supervision at lunch
 - Cost is \$2000, will share some expenses with the NEE
 - Evening 1-hour presentation for parents starts at 7:00pm, will also send invitations to the SMS
 - Announcement will go out via emails and on website shortly, will include information on: counting attendance towards volunteer hours, and that the event was sponsored by School Councils
- Math program changes:
 - Presentation to parents will be at the end of November
 - The new program brings more in-depth discussion of Math, but its heavy reliance on language use will have an impact on the kids that have language challenges
 - This school has 192 ESL students, last year had 172
- Volleyball season and basket ball try-out had started, all students also have opportunities to play at the intramurals
- Houses are doing well, the kids are wearing their house shirts
- Terry Fox Run raised \$1800
- Lorne would love to have a School Council to introduce the Manners Lady (Judi Vankevich) at the evening session, and also be around during the day
- Christine will get June Scott to include in the Monthly Newsletter “Spotlight on Councils”, will include a few councils every month. Councils need to write up a blurb about themselves and send it to Christine when ready

4. Committee Reports

- Volunteer
 - Christine can access volunteer hours and reports now
 - Has had good participation so far this year. These categories have the highest participation counts: “Work at Home”, “Classroom Assistance”, “Hot Lunch”, “Book Fair”.
 - Ways to recognize volunteers include sending out greeting cards, sending out thank you notes after a special event, giving recognition at special events
 - Will not pursue the idea of a prize for now, volunteering should be about making people feel better, not about getting a reward
 - May plan a Volunteer Tea for the volunteers with all campuses together
 - Will encourage 100% participation from families, not so much on number of hours
 - Volunteer hours per family include hours from all campuses combined
 - Emails will go out requesting for volunteers on the Manners day and for the leave raking project
- Hot Lunch

Terrie unable to attend meeting, updates were sent electronically to all Councils prior to the meeting:
Hot lunch is mr sub, again had record numbers 329 subs

Had 26 parents volunteer for hot lunch accepted 16 and 13 showed up. Had several teachers and the office utilize the volunteers.

And of course used volunteers as well.

I also had 5 parents help count money last week.

Looking at wok box as a new vendor. No msg, low sodium and low fat and reasonably priced

I have enough volunteers for hot lunch day! Thank you Christine you have made my job much easier.

Also I received a letter from Kim Burroughs from the legion and in the past years we have received a \$500.00 donation from them.

Each legion in the city of Calgary has a certain amount of money they have to donate to their local community schools. The way to get this is by sending them a letter of request and in return they send us a \$ 500.00 cheque. I can write the letter or if someone else wants to that's fine, I can forward the details. Susan Elson and I ran into each other recently and she asked me to meet with her next week to grab all the info for the casino which I will forward to council. She didn't want to just drop it off and leave us to struggle through it , I have been part of the casino process so she thought I might help

- Community Liaison
 - Mural Club to start next Friday, wall for the mural has yet to be decided, plan is to have mural done before Christmas, Amy Linton is helping
 - Laurie researched a number of ideas for community building events:
 - Friendly competition on Sports Day with Houses competing to hammer out a “frozen T shirt”
 - Door Decorating Project with Nutrition themes on the doors
 - Fun Causal Day themes such as “Whisper Day”, “Fashion Disaster”, “Fake Injury Day”
 - “Guess the Teachers” from baby pictures or from shots of different body parts
 - “Can” the Principal: fill Lorne’s office up with cans for Food Bank donation
 - Projects for the community include: Christmas cards or shoveling snow for the neighbors, Tammy will involve the Leadership class
- Treasurer:
 - Balance to date: \$3210, all cheques had gone through
 - Need \$2000 for the Manners Lady event
 - Headsets were all paid for
 - SUTP books will likely generate \$2000-3000
 - Currently no plans or need for extra fundraising events
 - Angela needs to know what day of the month she has to write a cheque for the monthly juice purchase, she will email Terrie
- Uniform Rep:
 - Nanja will call Cathy to find out if there is a continual role for Uniform Rep as Wearit will do all uniform related sales

5. Report from Board member Gerry Schuster:

- Charter renewal will be completed by December
 - Gerry will email Cuong the document on ‘Parental Partnership’. The Board wants to emphasize more on the partnership among teachers, parents and kids. The goal is to get parents to step up and be involved, but the focus is no longer on # of hours
 - We never had 100% of 20 hrs fulfilled in the past, will try a different goal of 100% participation instead
 - If focus is not on hours, may bring new lights on what parental partnership really means
 - Nanja pointed out without a concrete expectation, some parents may not know what they need to do

- Board has handed over the process to Administration who will then write up on the details of the new procedure, e.g. what to put on the pledge card
- AGM is on Dec 7th at the Central Office, the new Charter application will be sent off and a new Charter will be adopted
- Government relationship:
 - The new education Minister Thomas Lukaszuk has been very active and keen, he hopes to attend all schools' Board meetings, the FFCA Board has already sent him an invitation
 - Invitation also was sent to Premier Redford, the Board has a good relationship with her and she felt FFCA had done valuable and great work, the future is encouraging
- Public Charter School Conference is on Thursday and Friday, Lorne, John and Mr. Kostas are presenting

6. ASC meeting updates:

- Mary Marson-Troicuk from ASCA did a presentation at the last ASC meeting, provided eye-opening information on legislations and regulations developed for School Councils, Cuong will email contact information and resources to all
- How to improve parental involvement was discussed
- ASC challenged each campus to bring Council members to attend the next ASC meeting
- At the ABC meeting, lots of ideas were gathered on what School Councils do, the "Secret Sauce" document was handed out to everyone
- Online auction was discussed: will there be another one this year and will Gobid be used
- Council Appreciation Dinner is on Jan 25th, details to follow
- Character Fund meeting is on Feb 15th, feedback needs to be received by Jan 15th
- At the December AGM meeting, the board will pass the School Council Bylaws, feedback is being collected
- NM School Councils are invited to attend the Board meeting in June
- Each campus has to forward \$400 to ASC
- The Board will pay for one School Council's registration to attend the Annual ASCA Convention, likely will be in Feb/March in Edmonton
- The On-line Auction Coordinator, Pamela Wilson, requested a cheque of \$38 to be refunded to a parent, Angela/Cuong to contact Pamela for details
- Some other campuses advertise their extracurricular activities on their front lawn, Councils felt there is no need for that at this campus
- The High School campus is holding a Craft Sale, Christine will send notice to inform parents of the event, will have 50-60 craft tables, \$25/table

7. Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 pm:

- Moved by: Christine seconded by: Laurie
- **Next Meeting: 6:30 pm, November 14th 2011.**

