**Aurora Middle School**

**School Council Meeting Minutes**

**December 3rd, 2014 – 6:30p.m.**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Present: Lucie Theroux (chair), Samear Abougouche, Kim Nashim, Stacey Nowicki, Melody Raffael, Lara Walker, Rob Wicker, Walaid Zahra, Pam Onciul (recorder)

1. **Approval of Last Minutes**

**Minutes of School Council Meeting – October 23, 2014**

S. Nowicki motioned to approve the minutes as presented.

K. Nashim second the motion. All in favor.

1. **Business Arising From the Minutes**

* Parking is generally working well.
* L. Theroux received the kit from the milk people. At this time there is nowhere to hold the extra milk.
* S. Nowicki gave an updated regarding the cafeteria tables. There are a couple of prices depending if we get the tables with stools or benches. Also depends if we get the permatough (a spray that is put on to protect the table). The tables will be between $1300 and $1507 each depending on what we choose. The stools are better. There will also be a charge of $225/table for shipping. The NLSD purchasing agent may be able to get a better price. S. Nowicki will contact her.
* *“Do Good Awards”* – Cards have been designed and order that say Good Job and have the Aurora logo. They will be distributed to teachers and will be mailed to parents with something positive written on them. We will be starting early January. The school has also started one for teachers to give each other at staff meetings. The intent is to use positive message to build up a positive community.
* *Parent Teacher Interviews* - 79% of parents attended parent teacher interviews.
* Mirasol has lunch cards available that can be purchased for teachers as a gift.
* Milk machines and screen from old school – It is on the list to be moved but will still be awhile. The items on the wall that we paid for (example: smart boards) can be sold and would be a revenue for us to help pay for the items we want moved.
* S. Nowicki will contact the Student Union to see if they need help with the events they are planning on the last day of school before Christmas break. She will also contact Lisa Stratichuk to see if they would be willing to donate oranges/candy canes.
* Scholastic book money from Central was used to be new books for all of Aurora. There was a deadline to use the money so Administration asked the teachers for wish lists and used the money for classrooms and the library for all grades.

1. **Additions to the Agenda**

Screen time during lunch, Kids Are Worth It lunches, School Website

1. **School Reports**
2. **Principal Report – R. Wicker**

At our October meeting we were waiting to hear how much of a surplus budget we had. We ended up with a surplus of $149,000. Administration was given only one day to reallocate the funds. Money was distributed to Fine Arts, Special Education, Technology, classroom budgets, and a budget line was added for an FMNI Committee. Also $60,000 was set aside for some capital projects.

We would like to soundproof the upstairs gym room. Maintenance has recommended speaking to a sound consultant. We would sound proof the band room doors at the same time. R. Wicker also spoke with Maintenance about the portable at Dr. Swift. The School Division is moving away from buildings attached to the ground to portable buildings. The portable at Dr. Swift is owned by Alberta Education even though we have had it for a very long time. The only way we can keep it and have it moved to Aurora is to convince Alberta Education to decommission it and say they are no longer interested in owning it. The only real value to it is the furnace/air handling unit. We are going to arrange a meeting with the person who handles the buildings for this area from Alberta Education and ask them to decommission it. We won’t spend money on the band room doors until we know if we can get the portable. We can use the football portable as cold storage. It cannot be used and is not worth fixing but we need the storage.

With all the money reallocated the surplus is back down to zero. We will need to look at purchasing desks. We want to spend the money as we will probably lose any money we have left at the end of the school year (over 5%) and it will be reallocated. The budgets are healthy but not extravagant.

NLSD held a Christmas art contest. There are three winners in Aurora – one in grade 5 and two in grade 8.

An FMNI Committee has been started and met today. The goals of the Committee are to narrow the gap between the general population and the FMNI students. In regards to attendance, academics etc., there seems to be a gap between the overall results and FMNI and that’s what we want to narrow. We want to do things that are good for both the FMNI students and the general population and want to support things that are good for both. We want all the students to feel included so it is not going to be just an FMNI activity. We are hoping to have a bread, tea, and story day in February. We will hire someone from different cultural backgrounds to make bread for us. The students will get bread and a drink and then there will be different stations where the students can go and listen to someone talk about a story from different cultures. We are also looking at having different demonstrations. The Committee has a budget but is looking for support from PAC to help run the events etc. More information will follow. We would like to possibly have a Cultural Day in May as well.

Darlene Coy has been making donuts and wants to make one for each student in the school.

1. **Liaison Report – C. Clark**

C Clark could not attend the meeting tonight. He is still trying to plan a community event for February.

1. **Grade Level Reports**

**Gr. 4** – a couple of the classes are going skating. Each class has a certain amount of money to use the facilities at the Bold Center. It is not the Phys Ed Department planning it but each classroom teacher. Discussion about Chrome books.

**Gr. 5** – *Grade 5 classes are all using the Chrome Books – parents should ask their children to show them what they are doing on the chrome books, students can log in anywhere there is internet on any computer.* W. Zahra explained more about the google apps. With a Gmail account you can go to the chrome store and use any apps that we have at Aurora. A lot of the apps the students have access to are paid for by NLSD and what they can see is controlled. He suggests we do go on our kids accounts to see what they are doing.

**Gr. 6** – are planning a trip to the Bold Center. They are trying to get a trip to the County to present and ask for our speed sign. The new teacher is settled in. They are being taught for PATS. They will be part of the Coffee House not the Christmas Concert.

**Gr. 7 & 8** – K. Nashim gave an update on Yap. One grade 7 and one grade 8 class are going to be participating in Big Brothers Big Sisters at Vera. Some JAWS students are coming to Aurora to participate.

**Gr**. 8 – Are planning a ski trip. The rafting trip will not be happening this year. Discussion ensued. S. Nowicki will find out who the Girl Guides went with in Athabasca to do kayaking.

1. **Extracurricular (Team sports, Choir, Student’s Union)**

*Choir: All groups who performed will receive funding from Festival of Trees.*

* *A few choir members will be caroling at the Community Christmas Party this Saturday, at the Fire Hall and also at the final Farmers Market next Friday.*
* Request from Monique Ulliac – she would like to organize a potluck for staff on December 12th. They need 20 parents to supervise between 12-1. A few people are needed 15 minutes early to set up. K. Nashim shared that they are going to be putting the staff into groups of 5. Every 3 weeks a team will prepare a lunch for the staff. They will have a budget of $75 to make the meal. December 12th will be the kick off.

1. **Christmas Concert**

*Christmas concert will be Thursday, December 18th at 1pm, featuring all our grade 4/5 music classes, Pow Wow dancers, jiggers, grade 6 hand bell ensemble and special guests the grade 7/8 band. There is no cost to watch but a silver collection will be available to go towards our music programs, and there will be a special concession proceeds to go towards the 7/8 band trip.*

1. **School Lunch**
2. **Lunch Prices** – The prices given for Grade 4/5 were incorrect, the prices are actually lower than listed. K. Nashim will update the prices on the facebook group. They should also be updated on the website.
3. ***Kids are Worth It*** *– Admin to attend next Kids are Worth It meeting to discuss the idea of having the program run at Aurora. At present, money from Tree Festival donation is going to basic sandwiches made by Mirasol – at cost.*
4. ***Hot Lunches*** *– Discussion of the idea of providing “subway days” & “pizza days” (gr. 4/5) – Milk Program.* L. Theroux discussed these days with Mirasol and she says maybe she could make the pizza and the subs. L. Theroux said it might be a fundraiser for grade 4/5. We don’t need to have fundraisers when we have a balanced budget. There is concern about the amount of staff time used for these days when we have other options for hot lunches. Grades 6’s are able to preorder with the grade 4/5’s so they are guaranteed what they want to eat.
5. **Maintenance Issues**

Discussed above.

1. **Board Request**

*Northern Lights School Division is looking for Community Members interested in sitting on our Strategic Planning Steering Committee which will include representatives from the division as well. The strategic planning process is scheduled to take place between January and May and will including meeting with staff, students, parents and community stakeholders.*

1. **Your Turn – What do you see as being a “positive” in the school**
   * W. Zahra will look into setting it up so that Lorna can add the PAC minutes to the website
   * The whole feeling is good. There are kids who didn’t want to stay home when the buses weren’t running. It is a positive place. Administration is most impressed with the grade 8s. The older students are engaged and showing respect. The Rocky Mountain book club is once a month.
   * The Remembrance Day Ceremony went really well.
   * It is hard for teachers to get to know each other because it is so busy. You don’t see people that are not in the same hallway very often. Staff lunches will help.

1. **Upcoming Meetings:** *Meetings will be held the 1st Wednesday of every month. Meeting dates are as follows: January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3.*
2. **Meeting adjourned** at 8:20pm.

*\*Details written in italics is information pre-written on the PAC Agenda*