**Aurora Middle School**

**School Council Meeting Minutes**

**October 23, 2014 – 6:30p.m.**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Present: Lucie Theroux (chair), Samear Abougouche, Chris Clark, Angele Kaufman, Cindy Kruk, Kim Nashim, Stacey Nowicki, Jackie Routhier, Ron Taylor, Lara Walker, Rob Wicker, Salwa Zaitoun, Pam Onciul (recorder)

1. **Approval of Last Minutes**

**Minutes of School Council Meeting - September 23, 2014**

C. Kruk motioned to approve the minutes as presented.

S. Nowicki seconded the motion. All in favour.

1. **Business Arising From the Minutes**

* “Do Good Awards” – The school is still figuring them out. No decisions from the school’s point of view. Does this group want to be involved?
* We Day – Nine students are interested but we can only send eight plus two adults. R. Taylor shared that We Day was discussed at a board meeting and security will be heightened for the event due to the recent tragedy. JAWS students are taking a bus and our students can ride with them. We were asked if we would be willing to sponsor $1200 towards the bus and a hotel room for the driver. At most it will be $1500. Each student will be paying $50 to attend the event.

1. **Additions To the Agenda**

Ron Taylor – Discuss Maintenance Issues

1. **School Reports**
2. **Principal Report**

It has continued to be a good year. The school has a good tone; it is a happy, pleasant place to be. The administration have seen less discipline issues than this time last year and feel that the closed campus helps. Also it is a great group of kids. Aurora held its third fired drill yesterday and everyone was out of the building in two minutes. There were a few issues with doors not closing properly but over all went well. The school will be practising lock down drills in the next month and a couple more over the winter. The Cafeteria is going well. Grade eight students have volunteered to deliver the pre-ordered food to the grades 4 and 5. It is working great.

R. Wicker distributed the most recent ‘Accountability Pillar Overall Summary’. The results are obtained from three groups – Parents, Students and Teachers. This survey is completed annually using grades 4, 7 and 10. R. Wicker went over some of the results with the group. A concern from the Dr. Swift results was parent involvement. The group discussed how to get more parents involved. Some parents don’t know how/where they can volunteer at a middle school. Volunteer opportunities should be posted on facebook and in the newsletter so parents know what is available.

R. Wicker presented a budget report to the group and explained how the school receives money from Alberta Education. In total this year we are receiving $3,150,984 for students. Inclusive Education has replaced Medically Fragile Allocation funds. We will receive $662,167 to support all students. This gives us a total of $4,012,409 total. From our guestimate when the budget was done last spring to October 1st, we are showing a surplus of $199,258. We will find out if we have a surplus and the exact amount in November. Most of the budget is allocated to staff wages – almost $3 million. If there are any questions, please contact R. Wicker. He will update us about the surplus at the next meeting.

1. **Liaison Report – C. Clark**

C. Clark described his role with the school. He leads some assemblies, class presentations, hangs out with the kids to create a positive relationship with the students and police, deals with issues etc. He is a presence in the school and works on forming relationships. It is a proactive approach that police are good. He will be in on Halloween Day to look at the students costumes, to be at the dance etc. Next week he is presenting at the assemblies on Halloween Safety and Cyber Safety. The students will be receiving a brochure and flashing lights to wear on Halloween night.

During the cyber safety talk next week C. Clark will be covering Snapchat, Facebook, Tinder, Instagram, Twitter etc. It will be a different discussion for each grade level. The group discussed the need to educate the parents on cyber safety as well. Parents need to know what is out there, what they should be watching for, who is responsible if a child posts/shares something inappropriate or illegal, how we can tell what our children are looking at on the internet etc. C. Clark suggested a Community presentation and R. Wicker offered to donate space.

A question was asked about the school zone sign. A motion needs to be made at the County to get the sign put up. R. Wicker has asked to have the grade 6 involved as they study local government. Students will present to the County to ask for the sign.

1. **Grade Level Reports**

**Gr. 4** – More of the grade 4 classrooms are starting to use the Chrome books. J. Routhier’s class will be going to the county to talk about recycling. She also took her class to the Interpretive Centre and Sobeys. J. Routhier asked the group if they would consider funding Gloria (the Bug Lady) to present to the Grade 4’s. It will be $829.50 for 4 presentations or $682.50 for 3 presentations including mileage.

**Gr. 5** – DARE is starting.

**Gr. 6** – A new teacher is starting on October 28th. Her name is Jennifer Perrin.

**YAP** – Students have done the following: Heavy Equipment Operator worksite tour, excavation, and cosmetology, hair, nails, and facials.

**Gr. 8** – K&E Class prepared a full Thanksgiving dinner and it was great.

1. **Extracurricular (team sports, music, Student’s Union)**

S. Nowicki is willing to be a parent representative for the Student Union.

The Student Union decided to run a photo booth on Halloween day. We need a few parents to help run the booth. L. Theroux suggested that maybe their minutes can be sent to us so we can be involved and help out.

1. **School Expectations – Procedures**
2. **Rules – (Electronics, hates, gum, playground, lunch)**

S. Nowicki and L. Theroux spoke with R. Wicker regarding the rules.

1. **Attendance**

The school is in the process of working on a call system for absent students. If a parent calls the school it is marked as an acceptable absence.

1. **Parking**

There is to be no parking right in front of the school.

1. **Recycling Program**

Students and Staff are responsible for the recycling. Half goes into a Staff Fund and half into the Student Union.

1. **Milk Program/Milk Machines**

L. Theroux is working on a milk program for grades 4-6 and will get back to us with details. For grades 7-8 there is a new program starting in January and they can get prizes. Dr. Swift owns milk machines and they will be brought over to Aurora.

1. **Yearbook**

A staff member is organizing a year book club.

1. **Report Cards – Grade mark vs Outcome Based**

We have been using the Outcome Based reporting for the past two years. The School Board passed a mandate in June that a percentage will also be supplied for the four core subjects. All other subjects will remain outcome based. This will only be for grades 5-8; grade 4 will remain completely outcome based. The school is still figuring out how it is going to work to use and join two different measuring tools. They are asking for, and would appreciate, our understanding as they work through this. The systems are different and it is very difficult to make an outcome based report card with percentages attached. There might be some confusion initially. The teachers and administration are doing their best to provide good information.

1. **Maintenance Issues – Ron Taylor**

R. Taylor explained to the group that over the last 3-4 years there have been provincial cuts in the maintenance department. Unfortunately they cannot complete everyone’s wish lists – they do not have the staff/money to handle them all. We have things we want to happen and we have things we need to happen. With moving the schools the essentials had to be moved, anything beyond is a perk. The division has to decide if a request affects the operation of a school. For items deemed to be a perk we will have to wait and there will be a fee.

Some examples: We want concreate barriers put outside the school – there is no impending danger so it is considered a perk. There is a screen, a couple of smartboards etc. we want moved from Dr. Swift which are perks. If parents want to move the items they can as long as they have the expertise and follow safety rules.

R. Taylor enjoys coming to the meetings and is willing to come to anytime to answer questions.

1. **Funding**
2. **Coded Students – (Medical Model – Inclusive Model)**

Covered in R. Wickers budget presentation.

1. **Basic Student Funding**

Covered in R. Wickers budget presentation.

1. **Special Programs**

Read to Succeed is for grades 4-5 and is small group learning. Grades 6-8 have Literacy Intervention.

1. **Your Turn**

* The volleyball jerseys were in on time for the tournament. They looked great! Thanks for the work of all the coaches
* Great job to the Administration for organizing classroom schedules. Seems to be going well.

1. **Upcoming Meetings:**

Meetings will be held the 1st Wednesday of every month. Meeting dates are as follows:

December 3, January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3.

1. **Meeting adjourned** at 8:30p.m.