**Aurora Middle School**

**School Council Meeting Minutes**

**January 7th, 2015 – 6:30p.m.**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

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

1. **Approval of Last Minutes**

**Minutes of School Council Meeting – December 3rd, 2014**

K. Nashim motioned to approve the minutes as presented.

E. Shulko second the motion. All in favor.

1. **Business Arising From the Minutes**

* *Thank you to Sobeys for the free oranges and Lisa Stratichuk for the chocolates that were given to the grade 4-5 students.*
* *Lunch tables update*: S. Nowicki spoke with AB Gaming and Liquor and PAC cannot buy furniture. NLSD will purchase the tables and PAC will purchase the chrome books as they are around the same cost. The tables were ordered on December 16th for a total of $10,911.60 and take approximately six weeks to be delivered.
* *Bingo/Casino Representation – Joanne Meyer and Stacy Nowicki* will work as a team to ensure all paperwork is completed.
* S. Nowicki will attend the Student Council meeting on January 8th.
* The Girl Guides did canoe safety at the Athabasca Landing Pool. S. Nowicki will provide the contact information in case anyone is interested. K. Nashim will contact Heather Stromquist so she can make sure Cenovus is aware that we are not being offered the rafting trip this year.
* The website is now set up to have our minutes added. Minutes are to be sent to Lorna Scharfenberg so she can add them to the Parent Council page.

1. **Additions to the Agenda**
2. *Brain storming ideas for parent involvement for 2016 Casino*
3. *Letter sent out to teachers requesting parents’ names to help improve the parent involvement in the school*
4. **School Reports**
5. **Principal Report – R. Wicker**

As an observer of the December 19th Student Union activities it was a really good afternoon. The whole school participated in relays in the gym and then they separated. Grades 6-8 had a dance and Santa came for the Grades 4-5. Our new Superintendent started January 1st. We have been focusing on gratitude at school. Started with staff giving staff cards and then extended it to students so they can distribute to the staff and bus drivers. 1000 cards were purchased to recognize students which will be mailed to their homes. We have chrome books at every grade level now – about 150 in total. We are working on building capacity and training staff. It is great to be able to be collaborative and work together. The school continues to be a happy, positive place. It is impressive how positive the school is. R. Wicker gave information on the Shining Stars Award for former students of NLSD who have achieved success. Three former students are recognized each year. R. Wicker received 50 magazines from SOS Safety Magazine.com. Wanted to know what parents thought about sharing with students. It was suggested that the magazines are handed out at Parent/Teacher interviews so parents can choose if they would like to share it with their child.

1. **Liaison Report – C. Clark**

C. Clark was unable to attend but the Community Event is being planned for March.

1. **Grade Level Reports**

* All grade levels are currently enjoying Science in Motion. Every grade gets an individual, hands-on presentation. The grades 4, 5 and 8 also had assemblies.
* Science Olympics - we can send grade level teams for grades 6-8. We will send 4 teams for each grade. Thought it would be good for the grade 4/5 to start learning about Science Olympics. E. Shulko’s homeroom would like to plan and run a Science Olympics for the grades 4-5. Looking at the first two weeks of March so it is not conflicting with Music Festival.
* *Gr. 4 & Gr.5 – grades fours and fives get an assembly with science in motion from the Telus world of science that is called bite-size science. (gr 8 as well) And then each class in grade 4 is getting their own lesson of choice. (4M & 4R are going skating on January 22nd).*

**Gr. 4** – see above.

**Gr. 5** – Science Olympics are coming soon. Also planning skating.

**Gr. 6** – PAT preparations are happening. Still planning on the County field trip. Working towards their Coffee House presentations.

**Gr. 7** – Working towards the Coffee House as well.

**Gr**. **8** – *(Science Olympics in March)* Completed eye dissection. The fish eggs are coming for science. The students raise rainbow trout as part of the Fishing Schools Program. In June they are released into the trout pond.

**YAP** – K. Nashim is waiting to hear back from Portage on dates for Native Cultural Arts and an electrical lab. Also George Berland is offering welding in this month.

1. **Extracurricular (Team sports, Choir, Student’s Union)**
2. *Coffee House – Our Fine Arts Coffee House Showcase for grades 6-8 is on January 27th at 7pm and is a “Legends” theme.* Will be about 1.5 hours. We will need the projector from Dr. Swift. There will be a concession.
3. *The grade 7/8 band trip to Edmonton is on Feb 10-11, and we have over fundraised for this. We will be working with students at the Grant MacEwan conservatory of music, watching Beauty and the Beast at the Jubilee and performing on stage at West Edmonton Mall.* We have purchased a cotton candy machine with the fundraising money. We are also looking at purchasing a 2nd popcorn machine and a hotdog machine.
4. The basketball tournament is February 7th.
5. ***Board Request – (cut and paste from NLSD email)***
6. *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 include meeting with staff, students, parents and community stakeholders.* If interested contact Heather Stromquist.
7. *The Board of Trustees of the Northern Lights School Division No. 69 (NLSD) would like to invite School Council Chair to participate, via videoconference, in a meeting with other NLSD School Council Chairs and Trustees to discuss issues of common interest within the School Division. This meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 13th, 2015 at 7:00p.m. Lac La Biche Office – 10220 – 101st Street, Lac La Biche 780-623-4414.* S. Nowick will be attending as L. Theroux is unavailable.
8. *School closures – amendment to policy – When Police are “not advising travel” – busses may be cancelled.*

*Bus Operations - The decision to operate buses, except where schools are closed, considers the authority given to individual bus operators/drivers. 2.1 Under extenuating circumstances and with the approval of the School Principal and in consultation with the Director of Transportation, bus operators/drivers may make arrangements with their respective school parents for earlier than normal dismissal of their bus route students, or decide not to operate due to adverse weather and/or road conditions as per the procedures in the Transportation Policy Handbook. 2.2 When inclement weather conditions exist, bus operators/drivers are granted the discretion to make additional stops and/or to extend bus routes onto private property to ensure that students are delivered safely. 2.3 If the R.C.M.P. close and/or strongly discourage travel on particular highways, the Director of Transportation will consult with the local detachment and make a joint decision on bus routes impacted by the advisory. The decision will be communicated to bus operators/drivers by the Director of Transportation.*

1. **Your Turn – What do you see as being a “positive” in the school**

There is good mentorship happening. It was shared at the staff meeting yesterday that the grade 8’s are mentoring young kids. The kids are giving the gratitude cards to teachers, cleaners, bus drivers, Marisol, kids from other grades etc.

1. **Casino**

Our next casino will be late 2015 to early 2016. We need to brainstorm ideas to get parents involved. We should start thinking of ways we can get them to come forward. JAWS gave an incentive to work at the casino and still only had three parents.

1. **Letter to Teachers**

A letter has been given to the teachers to give us a list of parents they think might be able to help us when we need volunteers. We will phone each parent to see if they are willing and able to help.

1. **Upcoming Meetings:**

The group discussed Wednesday evenings not being convenient for many parents. Meetings will be held the **2nd Tuesday** of each month starting February 10th.

Meeting dates are as follows: February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9.

1. **Meeting adjourned** at 7:33pm.

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