

Minutes – Michael A. Kostek School Council Meeting
April 10, 2008

Attendees: Carol Bruineman, Jennifer Wallin, Ariana Mcmonagle, Bev Crossman, Marion Ramsey, Rob Saramaga, Trudy Letto, Darlene Miller-Radesh, Bob Shulko, Carol Anne Konkin, Melanie Parks, Laurie Walker, Roberta Bish, Shelley Brennan, Karen Munro, Corinne Jacobsen, Monica Benson, Colleen Hoke, Teresa Patrick, Denise King, Corinne Ferguson, Lynne Spencer

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Amendments of minutes from February 21, 2008 meeting:
Family Night changed from May 29th to May 22nd.
Acceptance of amended minutes of February 21, 2008 meeting: Motion to accept made by Corinne Jacobsen, seconded by Roberta Bish. Carried
3. Old Business:
Literacy and Learning Conference (April 19) – This is a professional development day for parents and offers a variety of sessions on different topics. The keynote speaker is Barry MacDonald who specializes in gender issues. His recent book is entitled Boy Smarts – Mentoring Boys for Success at School.
4. Correspondence:
A note was received from the food bank thanking MAK for the contribution of food from Family Ski Night.
Next year Family Ski Night will be on Sat. January 31st, 2009.
5. Treasurer's Report:
The balance in the account is \$3840.17 with a liability of \$600 for the 2009 ski night deposit.
6. Parents as Partners:
The last meeting for this year is on Wednesday, April 23rd at the school board building. It is entitled "Extreme Makeover" and is on the upcoming changes to the math and social curricula.
There is also a public board meeting at Jasper Place High School on April 15th at 6:00.
7. Family Night: Corinne Ferguson
This will be held on Thursday, May 22nd. The hayride has been booked and the DJ for the family dance. There will be 2 balloon men (and possibly a third) and at least 2 Jumpy Things. Sobey's will do the food again. Bev wondered about the grade 5's doing face painting.
Volunteers are needed for some organizational things. Contact Corinne Ferguson. Marion will add a request for volunteers on the website.
This year payment can only be made by cheque as there was quite a bit of difficulty with the handling of cash last year.
Carol Bruineman recognized Corinne Ferguson, Rob Saramaga and his wife for taking on Family Night this year as well as last year.

8. Spirit Wear: Carol Bruineman

Orders are due by April 18th. Future offerings are dependent upon the success and interest of this launch. Questions were asked regarding t-shirt colour selection and input was requested and given on colour options for future consideration.

9. Early Thursday Dismissal

Bev discussed a need at MAK for more structured time for staff to get together for professional development and collaborative planning with each other and with their trio schools. These are very important and necessary activities yet with all the demands on teachers today it can be very difficult to find time to get together. The other trio schools already have early dismissal on Thursday and thus MAK staff has had to miss some of the important PD they are doing. As over 90% of Edmonton Public elementary schools already have early Thursday dismissal, other PD often begins at 3:00 as well (for example Balanced Literacy) which means it is difficult for MAK staff to attend. Bev really feels that to keep up the excellence at MAK the school needs this early dismissal time on Thursday. Bev's goal is to do what will ultimately benefit the students the most as well as keeping in mind staff wellness. Of the 75 (323 sent out) budget planning surveys that were returned 60% were in support of early dismissal and another 5% gave conditional support. The response from the survey sent home indicated 77% support with 145/323 returned. The major impact is childcare which was why a partnership was formed with NAIT to provide a one and a half hour program on fitness and healthy lifestyles on Thursdays. Though the costs aren't definite they would likely be approximately \$5.50/session per child which includes a snack. Because of this positive response, Bev has shown the assistant superintendent and leadership services that there is strong support at MAK for early Thursday dismissal.

A discussion then took place around several issues: Questions were raised regarding the impact on instructional time, on the lunch hour schedule, busing schedules and the kindergarten program. Other questions centered around the NAIT program and the ability to accommodate all the students who needed to attend (they can take at least 100). Carol Bruineman summarized the discussion and based on the new information provided at the meeting and given that over 50% of families had not responded to the survey recommended that one last correspondence be distributed to parents to provide: detail on the NAIT program including costs, number of available spots, and the process for how the school would determine access based on need; the impact on busing schedules, and timelines for finalizing the decision. Some members felt enough correspondence had been sent. At the end Bev indicated the decision would be made by the administration.

10. Input into School Plan:

Bev went over the results of the Provincial Accountability Pillar Overall Summary. This survey is done by students in grades 4, 7, and 10 and their parents as well as all teachers in K-12. As a district, significant improvement was noted though there were some areas of concern around the grade 3, 6, and 9 provincial tests. MAK's results were excellent in all the areas that applied to us.

Those who could, stayed and gave some further input into MAK's priorities for the next three years.

11. Next meeting: Wednesday, May 14, 2008