

**Sturgeon Composite High School
School Council Meeting
Feb. 9th, 2009.
SCHS Staff Room**

Attendees:

SCHS Staff: Brian Brigden, Ron Pollmann

School Board: Tracy Nowak

Student Representative: Connor Schafers

Parents: Irma Zembal, Veronica Lee, Reesa Schafers, Gilles Lafrance Jr., Rosite Delacruz-Lafrance, Barb McAllister, Annette Sagar, Norma Cartwright, Carol Arnold, Terri Rigby, Darlene Torok, Jan Wilsom (Hirschi), Becky Williams

1. Call to order @ 7:00 p.m. by Veronica Lee.

2. Motion by Irma to accept minutes of last meeting. Seconded by Connor. Carried.

3. Business arising from the minutes:

-All schools have submitted their ideas for AISI 4, SCHS proposed looking @ the assessment and reporting process; possibly including the use of the Home Logic Program. Possible reporting in 6 week intervals . {Mrs. Kuik is @ the AISI conference in Calgary @ present} Also looking @ a program whereby Grade 10 students would have to earn their privileges.

4. Reports:

4.1 Student Rep: Connor reported that SRC sold candy grams that will be delivered for Valentine's Day. Several members plan to go to leadership conferences in the Spring. Dance Feb.19th Still looking for a few volunteers; call the school if you can help. The theme is "Famous Couples". Sleigh rides booked for Feb.13th. Spirit wear order is in. SRC and Rural Crime Watch working together to plan a guitar hero competition between SCHS and MCHS. Other plans in the works include a BYOB (bring your own banana) for St. Patrick's Day- March 17th.

4.2 School Board: Board highlights were reviewed. Upcoming week end retreat. Busy with Namao revitalization as well as policy reviews.

4.3 Administration: Ron reported that Diploma exams are completed. Busy time for sports around the school, 4 BB teams, and 2 curling teams on the go. Looking @ replacing the small transport vans.

Mr. Brigden noted that diploma exam marks should be available Feb. 15th-Feb. 21st. Dance is going ahead as planned. The Resource Officer will again be on hand, even though there are usually not a lot of problems.

4.4 Chairperson: Veronica attended the last Council of School Council meetings and due to the poor turnout, not a lot of business was accomplished. Bon Accord will be hosting the next one in early May- more details to come. Incoming mail included the Alberta High School Council

Assoc. newsletter and the County Volunteer of the Year Nomination forms. Please advise Council if you wish to nominate someone from here; the deadline is Friday, March 20th.

5. New Business: Irma will host the Council table @ the SCHS Open House on March 10th. Mr. Brigden will assist by getting a door prize.

6. Old Business: Comment made re: lots of missed class time recently due to exams and semester break, Teachers' Convention and now Family Day. Mr. Pollmann responded that although it may seem like a lot of time off during exam week, it depends on which courses our child is in as some were busy writing exams almost every day. Comments were also voiced that 84 minute blocks were too long, question raised to the Board member as to why the blocks can't be shorter and there be fewer PD days.

The Trial project of Late Starts has not been completely successful, as no solution has been found for late bussing of the students from North Edmonton. Although Mr. Brigden still prefers the Late start option, as this allows for early morning staff meetings, he agreed that it isn't without problems. Since Transportation is NOT willing /able to provide a second bus run for these students, Mr. Brigden proposed that SCHS send a Teacher's Aide in the 24 passenger bus to do a pick up @ 2 designated stops- Northtown Mall and Blockbuster. This option was not seen as acceptable by the parent group in attendance. Mr. Brigden explained that the bussing for these students costs about \$25,000.00 and that amount comes out of his school budget, NOT the Division budget as there is no compensation for them. After a lengthy and somewhat heated discussion, looking @ both sides, Mr. Lafrance noted that one of the current bus drivers was willing / able to do a second run but the other driver wasn't. He suggested that Mr. Brigden send the TA in the little bus to do that second route instead of just making 2 stops as that way no student would be left out or forced to walk an unreasonable distance to get a bus. Mr. Brigden agreed to follow up with the drivers involved but noted he was already told that it was NOT a possibility. Mr. Pollmann was also witness to this conversation with Transportation. The parent group voiced their appreciation for this effort as well as their strong concern that it has been left too long and likely nothing will be resolved for the remaining 5 early starts.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Brigden promised he would have a decision by Friday, Feb 13th, in an attempt to rectify the problem before the next late start day (19th) and would notify those students involved. Parents gave Mr. Brigden a list with their email addresses and expect to hear from him @ this time as well. A couple parents commented that Mr. Brigden has not been answering their emails. Mr. Brigden said that he had not received the emails- likely due to firewalls. *If you send an email to the school and do not receive an acknowledgement within a suitable amount of time- PLEASE follow up with a phone call- it is highly likely that the staff involved isn't even aware you are trying to contact them.* Reesa questioned what happens if this option is not viable, should the bus go with the 2 set stops as presented earlier- parents involved again voiced their displeasure @ that option and told Mr. Brigden not to bother as it was totally unacceptable. As another way to deal with some of the bussing issues, Mr. Brigden has been speaking with the Principals @ Namao and Guthrie and if approved, all three school will do early early outs instead of late starts for next year. More info to come about this @ next meeting.

Veronica adjourned the meeting @ 805pm.

NEXT MEETING: March 16th, 2009 @ 7 pm