

**Sturgeon Composite High School
School Council Meeting
Oct. 20, 2008.
SCHS Staff Room**

Attendees:

SCHS Staff: Ron Pollmann, Ruth Kuik

School Board: Careen Fundytus

Student Representative: Connor Schafers

Parents: Irma Zembal, Rosita Delacruz-LaFrance, Barb McAllister, Becky Williams, Veronica Lee, Reesa Schafers, Darlene Torok, Terri Rigby, Wendy Smit

1. Call to order @ 7:00 p.m. by Veronica Lee.
2. Motion by Irma to accept minutes of last meeting. Seconded by Darlene. Carried
3. Business arising from the minutes:
 - Caretaker is looking after the sign and power to it is still to come.
 - 4 x 4 for Cardiff was approved but unsure which school division it may be linked with; could be Elk Island.
 - Wendy Miller not in attendance so unable to speak re: education needs- will table to future meeting.
 - Late start days- Have had 2. Mr. Pollmann noted there was some bus confusion the 1st day but that seems to have sorted it self out. Darlene Torok disagreed and noted that for the Edmonton kids there was NO second bus, they either had to come early or not come @ all, neither being a suitable option. As a group of concerned parents, they have taken this to Mr. Brigden as well as Dr. Dick and the Board and feel their concerns are being not heard. They would like this to be taken to Mr. Brigden again and stated they were never told about this prior to registration and it is not being dealt with in a timely or effective manner. Mr. Pollmann will take it forward to Mr. Brigden and hopefully there will be some resolve quickly, prior to the next late start. Irma noted that one of the reasons this type of schedule occurred was based on concerns re: PD days. Darlene queried why these education sessions couldn't be held on the already scheduled early out Wednesdays, having dismissal @ noon or so. Then there would be no need for 2nd buses and all the division would be the same.
 - Interim report - new coding system took a bit of extra work and was difficult for the CTS teachers as those courses are done in modules, with no real marks available until completion of the specific module. They may look @ a different system for those courses. Parents, in attendance, liked the new format.
 - Minutes of the Council meetings will be posted on the website prior to approval @ the next meeting.
4. Reports:
 - 4.1 Student Rep: Connor reported that SRC had a successful Hotdog sale on Oct.24th. There will be a double extended noon hour on Oct. 30 with team activities and the Miss Oktoberfest competition. A dance will be held from 7-11 and parent chaperones are STILL needed. Please contact the school or an SRC member if you can help out by

doing a 2 or 4 hour shift. A Turkey Trot was held on Oct. 9th and raised \$165.00 for the Gibbons/Bon Accord Food Bank. Oct. 16 was Jersey Day and all that wore their team jerseys got a free freezie. Remembrance Day Service will be in the South Gym @ 10:30 on Nov. 7th - all are welcome to attend.

4.2 School Board:

Careen reported on the September Board meeting. Guthrie has been awarded a portable to be used as a site for Day Care. She attended the staff recognition awards. Namao School will be modernized - all involved are very excited. No timelines as of yet. The Board is starting to meet with MLAs (as mentioned by Wendy last meeting). When they meet with Jeff Johnson on Nov. 12 they will be bringing up concerns about road changes needed around SCHS. They will also bring this up when they meet with the County. CUPE agreement has been reached and ratified. Division has 29 Scholarship recipients (4 are pending proof of registration at a post-secondary institution) - a great achievement. Will be holding their organizational meeting on Oct. 22nd. With regard to the laptop that was stolen, all families involved were notified. Division is aware of exactly what was on the computer. Better security measures are being implemented.

4.3 Administration:

All moved to the library for an informative presentation by teacher Kevin Hubick looking @ the new SCHS website. Great work!!!

Ruth Kuik reviewed the Special Needs Services offered @ SCHS, noting that @ present there are 91 students integrated into mainstream classes, 44 in the Knowledge and Employability Program, 21 in Senior Challenge and 10 in Lifeskills. These students have a wide range of abilities and every attempt is made to maximize their function. The numbers have gone up from previous years. The 91 students that are integrated attend a variety of classes throughout the day. It is a challenge to provide these choices, based on student interest, when using the staff allotment as set out by Central Office; not all students attend the same class @ the same time so sharing staff is not always an option. There is a lot of work done with transitional planning and looking @ the future for the individual students.

Ruth was very pleased with the fire drill they had last Friday - the entire school was emptied within 5 minutes. The Fire Chief was pleased with the results also. It was interesting to note that for the Special Needs students there are attention to details, such as blankets for them to access quickly, when they need to be out in the elements. A lockdown drill is planned next.

Ron Pollmann noted that there is an extreme shortage of caretaking staff @ present. They are using contract workers and students to fill in - noted that students do not have keys or access to secure documents. The security cameras are being worked on/upgraded. New computers and LCD projectors will be placed in each classroom thanks to a Provincial Directive. A new government initiative will see Sturgeon School Division receiving \$375,000.00 - most of which will go to CTS. Needs are currently being prioritized. Discussed what is being looked @ on the PLC days - CTS prioritizing their needs, departments re: looking @ Diploma exams, Second languages are

comparing evaluation methods; most departments have their agendas set and these are reviewed by the administration team.

4.4 Chairperson:

Veronica presented the incoming mail - newsletters are available for review @ the office. Noted that there are some free presentations being offered to students and adults and will look into same & bring to next meeting. Shared a newspaper article re: Schoolzone - a website where parents can login to see student progress etc. Ruth noted that they are looking @ a similar program called "Teacher Logic" but there is still a lot of prep work to be done. Council of School Councils will be held @ Central Office on Oct. 29th with Chair & Vice-Chair planning to attend.

5. New Business: None

6. Old Business:

Performing Arts Theatre plans are @ a standstill due to waste/water management limits. Board will discuss these issues when they meet with the County. \$\$ and timeline for SCHS office being moved to the front of the school is being addressed by the Board with the Provincial Government.

7. Meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson @ 8:25 pm.

NEXT MEETING: November 17th, 2008 @ 7 pm