

AWEC School Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Seminar Room – AWEC

PRESENT:

Steven Schell, Allan Birch, Paula Buxton, Paula Hafting, Rion Microys

REGRETS:

Elizabeth Jefferson

CALL TO ORDER:

Steven Schell called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

None, although additional topics were discussed after the agenda was worked through and they have been added in New Business

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of January 21, 2016 we reviewed and approved as submitted

BUSINESS ARISING:

- **AWEC Land Acquisition** – Shaw will be gifting some property to the school as a charitable donation. A letter from the Minister is required to proceed with the land transfer and that is in the works.
- **O2 Program** – the program, open to students from grades 10 to 12, is accepting new applications. 18 students are interested. They will be working through the extensive application process.

PRINCIPALS' UPDATE:

Steven Schell:

- **Air Quality** – Room 207 tested positive for a small amount of mould. The south facing wall had a little gap in the exterior brick and let in driving rain from that direction. The problem was compounded by a leaking heating pipe. Everything has been repaired. Some mouldy art clay was discovered in an adjoining room which may have affected the air testing results. Mr. Schell circulated a letter and air quality report from Kim Strong (Design 1 Indoor Environmental Inspections)
- **New Staff** – Mr. Barnes is in for Mr. Fitzgerald, Ms. Merkley is in for Ms. Kaiser, Ms. Hubbard is in for Mr. Quinn, and Ms. Kenney is in for Ms. McGowan. All new staff are working out well in the school. Cookie Fraser is also absent and Pat Atwell is filling in
- **Integrated French** – Grade 7, 8, 9 and Senior High will be offered in 2016/2017. The program seems to be going well. Always a bit of a problem managing the class size, but so far so good. Mr. Schell has requested that the current two grade 6 classes get divided into three grade 7 classes next year as the current grade 6 classes are rather large
- **Letters of Commendation/Letters of Concern (attendance)** – These letters are going out this week
- **Projected Enrolment** – On target. Approximately 352 students are expected to enrol in 2016/2017. Class sizes are expected to be:

grade 12 – 52 students, grade 11 – 49 students, grade 10 – 46 students, grade 9 – 47 students, grade 8 – 63 students, grade 7 – 57 students, grade 6 – 38 students

Allan Birch:

- **2016 – 2017 Course Registration** - Mr. Birch and Mr. Walker met with grades 8 to 11 on Tuesday to

plan their classes for next year. This is important so all students meet the requirements for graduation and for whatever secondary studies they plan to apply for. On Thursday, March 3 there will be a course registration information night at AWEC for parents to find out more about graduation and program requirements. The idea is to do this before March Break so parents and students will have time to discuss their options over the holiday. There is an on-line process for registration. There is a review process to double check course registration and that the appropriate math program is selected.

- **Mid Level Winter Carnival** – Plans are being made and the carnival will run from March 7th to 11th. The schedule is flexible right now, but will be firming up soon

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Grants** – Sue Ann Cooper received a grant for \$500.00 for water testing kits. Mr. Fitzgerald received a Best Buy grant of \$3900.00 for calculators for math class. There may be an announcement regarding another grant soon.
- **Superintendent Search** – Margot Tate is retiring. The board is requesting input on the requirements of a new School Superintendent. Mr. Schell will be attending a meeting on the subject soon and any input should be forwarded to him
- **Dances** – Paula Halfting brought up the problem of unclean versions of songs being played at dances. Mr. Schell brought up the problem of inappropriate lyrics of songs at dances. Paula Halfting has volunteered to work with the O2 group, who supply the musical entertainment at the dances, to develop a clean playlist. There was some discussion on the possibility of paying the O2 group for their services so that there is more accountability in providing the service and that they feel more professional. Mr. Schell will follow up with the O2 group about being paid
- **Chrome Book Usage** – A general discussion was had on Chrome Book consumption versus creation usage. Mr. Schell advised that, in his view, parents have full authority over Chrome Book usage when the devices are at home. Mr. Schell was advised that the Video Chat function on the Chrome Book is operational. He also explained that there are ways to turn off functions on devices through a router. Paula Halfting suggested that random spot checks to review history on Chrome Books might encourage students to curb their extra curricular consumptive use, or at least make different choices. Rion Microys wondered if there are any ways to encourage creative versus consumptive use on the devices and if those students making the best use of the machines could be acknowledged
- **2017 – 2017 Grade 6 Class and the dissemination of information** – Paula Buxton expressed her concern over the next group of grade 6 students coming to AWEC. Mr. Schell described the current grade 6 group as being happy to be at AWEC and transitioning very well. Discussion turned to the fact that some of the mid level students missing key announcements in the morning. The possibility of a calendar on the AWEC website was raised. The former website calendar did not function well, but Mr. Schell will look into creating a public calendar to make parents aware of upcoming events, sports team tryouts and so on. Paula Buxton and Rion Microys also volunteered to create some kind of 'bricks and mortar' calendar for the school so students could check what is going on.
- **Executive** – Mr. Schell expressed again that though the AWEC is obligated to make time to hear the voices of parents, the School Advisory Council was intended as a parent driven group. Paula Buxton and Rion Microys volunteered to share the president/secretary duties.

NEXT MEETING:

- Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the AWEC seminar room

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.