

## **LGS SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 16, 2012**

Those in attendance: Rennie Gladue, Randy Morden, Glen Denison, Trent McLaughlin, Janet McKnight, Barry Dale, Joanne Trudeau, Barry McLachlan, Neil and Gail Sandboe, Lori and Glen Leitch, Chris and Paula McLachlan, Linda Higginson, Olive Toews, Ron Longtin, Robyn Ouelette, Swanson, Lisa Allen, Irene and Rod Crumb, Gilles Doucette, Nels Nelson, Lisa Johnston, Carmen Johnston, Paul Bennett, Veronica Bliska, Janet Johnson, Brenda Eastman, Val Forsythe, Myrna Mills, Jodi Freeman, MaryAnn Durka, Laura Pasay.

Meeting called to order at **6:30 pm**.

Ron Longtin motioned to accept PAC Meeting Minutes from October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gilles Doucette. Pass

Motion to "Approve MaryAnn for signing authority as Treasurer" 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nels Nelson. All were in favour.

Janet – Welcomed all and briefed regarding school enrollment being low, funds based on capital, enrollment from 72 in 2011/12 School year to 54 for the 2012/13 School year. Sept 30, reduction of funds for School resulted in loss of teacher position, and support staff hours decreased.

ECS = 17

Junior High = 6

Paul Bennett – Discussed appropriate use of school funds. Staff wages can't be paid from fundraising budget. Alberta Education has strict guidelines for use of funds. Discussed Whitelaw's "Special Art Program" that was funded by Parent Council, being an exception that was granted permission under a Special Program.

Donation of laminating film and photocopy paper or paying for fax and phones -->NO.

Review Team – 3 evaluators gathering info, evaluating, observing and reporting at 4 pm on Thursday to Board of Directors, and the Board of Trustees, and a condensed version of report to School Council.

Lisa Johnston – Testing Results – after analyzing them, results indicated challenges with Math, and Reading across the Division and is lower than the past. Wants open dialogue from Division to parents, states there is NO communication from Division. Lisa felt Division and Trustees not doing enough for Berwyn School.

Glen Lietch feels let down by Trustees and School Board and is getting frustrated and tired fighting a losing battle.

Lori Lietch commented on previous committees, and the lack of support felt by the School Division. Lots of great ideas were turned down by Board. Parent's comments on transportation issues last year were not on report.

Janet McKnight commented on 'where did all the children go?' Based on parent comments they felt the options were better at Grimshaw Jr./Sr. High School, when pressed, the parents responded they felt they needed to put something down. Janet stated it was a domino effect, one child was leaving, then the rest followed. One was a family of 6 children that moved away. It was also noted that the Mile Zero Church had recently started a school with a capacity of 20 students.

Laura Pasay commented the low numbers are directly in relation to the parent support of the School Division and that parents haven't been happy with them for a long time judging by the numbers of Catholic School choices around the area.

MaryAnne Durka suggested that busing from Grimshaw to Berwyn should take place, for those students who prefer to attend in Berwyn. That would increase enrollment and support the students and parents going there. Feels it is discriminatory for buses to take children out of community, but doesn't allow others to be bused from other communities.

Paul Bennett discussed 'School of Choice' policy has opened the doors for students to go to any other school, but busing won't be provided if there is NOT an existing bus route. States other jurisdictions will use education dollars for transportation, PRSD won't.

Glen Lietch commented that busing and students are a benefit, children are going in all directions and school division allows them in.

Carmen Johnson commented regarding Transportation. "We (Board of Trustees) have the most difficult decisions, and the transportation issue won't go away now because of the School of Choice policy."

Regarding Program Closure Review for Junior High; Last year at Dixonville School, it was abandoned mainly because of the long bus ride students would have to endure to Peace River and/or Manning Schools.

Public commented on likelihood of Grimshaw being able to take all 54 students from Berwyn. Paul commented yes, as all the different age groups of children could be absorbed into existing schools in Grimshaw.

Laura asked, "At what cost are all the reviews by PRSD over the years?". Carmen replied "Lots". It is not budgeted out of "education" funds. It is a process, and policy that must be followed when low numbers triggered a review.

Carmen – encourages all to attend board meetings. The result of board decision, with the Tool Kit Review, may or may not go down the road of closure. In February’s Board Meeting, if decision was made would be the First Reading for closure.

Lisa Johnston states Communications Department seriously lacking in positive interactions with Parents, Public.

Innovative Program Funding – partnership \$30,000/\$5,000 to innovative grant funding. 10+ Applications with set criteria, example of schools qualifying → Manning.  
30<sup>th</sup> of October, going over grant applications

Gary commented on the community and businesses supporting the School, why doesn’t the Division?

“Where are the 6 other Trustee representatives tonight?”

It was suggested that Carmen Johnston fight more for Berwyn School as she is the elected Trustee for our Ward.

Other comments from Public include; Edmonton Sun reporting Kennedy 2.5/10 from Fraser Institute Report and Grimshaw HS had a toolkit review 5-6 years ago.

Feedback on transportation and Program closure review, and Local school boards should be making the decisions.

MICRO society ideas dismissed by PRSD and not approved although well researched.

Ron Longtin requested all Trustees come to meet (The Community and School).

Paul Bennett commented on the MICRO society with the Trustees at the time; he felt it wasn’t designed for success although parents and children really supported it.

Joanne Trudeau made comment about the support that was offered in regards to the MICRO society. Requests from public, for information regarding the MICRO society, be brought to School Council.

Springfield has space issues, AB Education defines it differently – generally under-utilized.

Public agrees to look for ideas to make the school work.

Jodi stressed the importance of being heard.

Next PAC Meeting, NOVEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>

Meeting adjourned at **8:47pm**