

Carman Collegiate

Home & School Minutes

Monday, Dec. 6/2010 @ 5pm

Present: Lori Wiebe, Deb Thoms, Michelle Doerksen, Lynne Melvin, Garth Shindle, Elaine Owen, Rob Hamm, Nicole Nitsche, Rosanne Massinon, Cathy McCollough, Doris May, Marie Dyck, Trish Middleton, Jan Hay, Joyce Nicolajsen, Tracy Owen, Kyle Shields.

Welcome and call to order – Michelle Doerksen

November Minutes – Read and approved. Lynne Melvin made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Lynne Melvin seconded. Carried.

Old Business

Garth shared that the Genesis House came to the school today and did a 20 minute service in the theater. Students and adults participated. Fourteen white roses were carried in to represent the fourteen women that were murdered in Montreal in 1989. The purpose of this day is to bring awareness to ending violence against women.

Band Trip – Fundraising – Cheese fundraiser made \$700 – Bake sale made \$175. This \$ will be split between the students, go towards helping pay for chaperones and the bus driver's rooms. There are approx. 40 students attending. Parent requested further info. on the Days Inn that they will be staying at. The fee being charged includes a continental breakfast for the students. There will be 2 days of travel and 1 day in Minneapolis. Parent asked if there would be any way to extend the band trip? Garth commented that the cost would have to increase and that could be an issue. Also some of the teachers/chaperones may not be able to be away for that long. Michelle said she would speak to Jack and Ms. Cooper about the possibility of extending the trip.

Ski Trip - Parent asked if there will be a ski trip for the Senior students? Garth stated that he isn't aware of one. He said that the grade 7/8 ski trip is sitting at approx. 70 students attending. Garth will look into and speak to Jack about a one day ski trip for the seniors. There will need to be a couple of teachers to go along. Parent suggested that he check with Mr. Lang.

Student Support Program – Garth gave a slideshow presentation – see attached. Parent commented that a part time psychologist for the whole school division is not enough. Elaine Owen (trustee) commented that there has been a job posted for a full time person for some time now but no one has come forward to fill that position. Formal counseling with Donna Pritchard does not happen at the school without the parent's knowledge. Trustee asked if there are any programs in place for kids at the other end of the spectrum (than those in the Student Support Program)? Garth stated that there is no set program for that. Lauren Adams is currently in charge of students receiving individual funding.

Parent asked where funding for the Student Support Program comes from? Garth & Lynn Rempel are in charge of the Student Support Program.

½ hour classes – Parent asked if there are still ½ hour classes going on? Garth stated that was 2 years ago that that was happening as part of the regular timetable. Teachers didn't really like it. It is done now to accommodate for vertical classes to ensure that students in full year courses see every teacher three times per cycle. Parent commented that their gr. 10 student is frustrated with their math class because it is a ½ hour class. Another parent stated that they thought the core classes should be blocked in 1 hour increments. Discussion was had that vertical conflicts with kids being able to have core classes being taught, but the students not in vertical are still not able to move ahead because the students in vertical aren't there to hear the lesson. Garth commented that there is still teaching taking place during this time and kids can receive help on assignments with support available. Jack stepped into the meeting for a moment and commented that he tried to run Phys. Ed against vertical to get away from this problem, but he couldn't make it work with the timetabling.

Administration Report

School Sports – i)Transportation - Garth gave a handout titled School Sport Information Sheet. See attached. Michelle commented that she has had a couple of parents ask her why they have to wait until January to be reimbursed for gas money when they have driven students to sporting events? Ms. Massinon stated that it was her understanding that the costs wouldn't come out until January. Jack and Garth will check into this situation. Parent commented that they had spoken to Agnes Gauthier at the school division office and the bus costs have been sent out. We will table this issue until the next meeting to further investigate. Michelle commented that she had contacted another school and their transportation costs are subsidized and worked into the budget that that school receives from the school division. That school paid \$80 this year for JV volleyball and the parents who drove received .40 cents/km. Garth stated that he spoke to other principals around the division and they have some concerns about re-allocating money toward extra-curricular transportation costs. If it is not "new" money then it is just taken from other budget lines and causes other concerns. Trustee asked if Garth has any #'s in regards to what other schools are paying? Garth stated he is in the process of compiling that information. Parent commented that the school must have books somewhere showing how things have been done in the past? This issue was tabled until the January meeting. ii) JV & SV – Michelle stated that she has had a couple of parents approach her re. if a student plays JV & SV, do they have to play both? Some students are feeling pressured to be on both teams and are finding it to be too much. Garth stated that a student can certainly decline if they so choose. Students are approached by staff if it's felt that there is talent there. If costs are too high or if there is too much pressure they don't have to. Students must play at their age appropriate level although this guideline is not written anywhere. Parent feels that this needs to be looked at further. There was discussion amongst the group, some were in favour of the students only playing SV if they so choose, some parents felt that if they play SV and they are in gr. 9 or 10 they should also have to play JV. Garth commented in his last 7 years at the school, the JV programs have gotten much stronger. If you pull kids up from gr. 9 & 10 to play SV then the gr. 11 & 12 kids don't get the opportunity to play because they can't play JV. This thins the numbers out for both

teams. There is a new Phys. Ed teacher coming in January. This issue can be re-evaluated then. If parents have concerns they can meet with Jack or Garth.

New Business

Graduation – Parent commented that other schools have already held grad. meetings, should we be having a meeting? Garth commented that Jeannette & Kyla have a schedule of what happens each year. The school sets the date, books the hall, caterer, etc. Michelle commented that the school should give parents a heads up in regards to the process of graduation. Parent commented that it would be good to update the link on the school website. Each year, the parent group involved with grad. decides if they would like to do fundraising that year. Parent mentioned that she spoke to a parent from another school who had attended a mandatory safe grad. meeting. To everyone's knowledge at the meeting no one from Carman Collegiate attended this meeting because no one knew about it. It was stated at this meeting that it was mandatory a parent be there from each school or the insurance would not be granted to that school group.

School Website – Parent commented that the school website links need to be updated. i.e. Performing Arts – there is no info. on band trip/fundraising/music/choir/drama, etc. Garth commented that Jack deleted some info. from the website accidentally. He's been working on inputting it back in. Parent commented that at the last couple of meetings there has been discussion re. opportunities for parents i.e. Learning Disabilities seminar info. was given and also that speaker Gabor Mate would be coming to Winkler. Parent would like to see these types of things be included in the school newsletter. Michelle commented that she had asked Jack to put info re. Gabor Mate in the newsletter but it didn't make it in there. She wasn't sure why.

Parent commented that she would like to see school co-curricular programs i.e. "Safe Worker's of Tomorrow" spread out more. There was a lot in the month of Sept. for her gr. 11 student. This meant missing a lot of class time in a short period of time.

Students turning 18 – Parent commented that her daughter turned 18. Her daughter brought some papers home to have her parents sign off on being able to get information from the school in regards to her. The parent was quite surprised to get this paperwork and hadn't heard about this before. Garth stated that he has discussed this with Jack and they are looking at the best way to deal with this. Parent suggested putting this information in the info. pack that comes home at the beginning of the year.

Provincial Assessment Policy (Academic Responsibility, Honesty and Promotion/Retention) – The provincial government announced that it is changing its provincial assessment policy. Trustee stated that it's been changed and will come into force next fall. You can view the changes at the Dept. of Education website. The division has to have a policy put into place for Feb. 2011 to be implemented in Sept. 2011.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30pm.

Next meeting will be Monday, January 10th (the 2nd Monday of the month).