

Carman Collegiate  
Home & School Minutes  
Monday, May 3/2010

Present – Rob Hamm, Doris May, Deb Thoms, Joyce Nicolajsen, Lori Wiebe, Marie Dyck, Jeanne Holmberg, Michelle Doerksen, John Heard, Jack Phillips, Lynn Rempel, Wendy Clark, Donna Pritchard, Teresa Dunn, Karen Tjaden-McClement, Cathy McCullough, Jan Hay, Trish Middleton, Colleen Claggett-Woods, Richard Dyck.

Welcome – Deb Thoms

Jack introduced Lynn Rempel, teacher and support staff, as well as Donna Pritchard, guidance counselor for Carman Collegiate. Donna shared that her primary roles at the school are guidance and resource. She works with a number of different groups and individuals in the school, including administration, psychologists, teachers, students, etc. She plays a role in students making the transition from grade 12 to post secondary studies in a variety of ways. She organizes and is a part of field trips, course selection evening, take our kids to work day, gr. 10 career symposium, gr. 11 post secondary tours, distance education courses, summer school, tutoring, counseling, among other things.

Question asked by a parent about peer counseling? Donna answered that peer counseling does not currently take place at Carman Collegiate. She does assist students who need to be tutored by matching them up with other students that are willing to do the tutoring.

Question asked by a parent if counseling is an open door policy? Donna answered that yes, the students can come anytime to see her or set up an appointment to speak to her. Students also have the freedom to be excused from class if needed to speak to her about an issue.

Question asked by a parent if mentoring is available with the elementary school? Yes, it is in the way that some students from the Collegiate go to the elementary school through Career Technology Services (CTS). There is no tutoring available from the high school students to the elementary school students because there is enough going on at the Collegiate that needs to be dealt with.

Question asked by a parent why there was a delay in going to the gr. 10 symposium this year? Donna answered that the kids cannot get on the buses until she has told them the expectations of them being in Winnipeg. Students were very excitable that day so students were held back until they settled down. She had to be sure that everyone understood that they could not leave the Convention Center, etc. Also some students were on the wrong buses. Parent responded that the kids were very disappointed about the delay because it did not give them enough time to see the speakers that they wanted to see. Donna responded that students had enough time to do what they wanted to. She can speak to individuals that were disappointed.

Lynn Rempel works at the school as a support teacher, works with Career Technology Services (CTS) and also teaches a grade 9 Trans Math course. The CTS program consists of 30 hours of in class instruction with approx. 17-20 students/year. The purpose of this program is to look at the students interests and to be mentored in the public with someone. This was started because of technical schools. The school gets provincial recognition for running this program. It is good for students who are struggling with school to have a vision of what they could do and

explore their interests. The job internship allows students to get a chance to try a field of work before pursuing post secondary education. It opens discussion in regards to what employers are looking for.

Lynn also works as a support teacher with Jack & Lise MacNair. A large part of this work is with kids who would be seen as “falling through the cracks”. There are individual programs that are designed to help students. The work with these students does not receive funding. The referrals come from the teachers in the school. If students are not working at a certain grade level, they will be worked with to try to achieve this. A schedule will be set with a student who needs this extra help i.e. transitioning from gr.8 – gr.9 math. Instead of the student going to their regular math class they will go for extra support at this time. There are currently approx. 9 students going to this specially scheduled class. Next year they are also looking at a specific time slot for English support. Lynn attends advisor team meetings for different grades. He also acts as a student advocate and has a number of students that seek him out with concerns. Lynn is also involved in extra curricular activities including Envirothon, hovercraft competition, windmill competition, among other things.

Question asked by a parent that Lynn put together some information about the programs that he is trying to encourage students to become a part of i.e. Envirothon, so that parents can also help him by encouraging their kids at home to become a part of these programs also. He said that it is important for parent support. Comment was made that we would like to help him with this.

Question was asked what class student is pulled out of in order to go to the special support? Lynn answered that students were pulled out of a math class in order to do scheduled math work, etc.

### **New Business**

Grade 7 field trips - Question asked by parent why the scheduled French day wasn't attended by the grade 7/8 students? Jack answered that he made an error and this year the French day was only for the grade 5 & 6 students. Next year it will be for the grade 7 & 8 students as well. Parent commented that it was disappointing that the kids didn't go.

Question asked what the alternate activities were that were scheduled for the grade 7 students not attending Pioneer Camp? Jack answered that Morden fossil museum and doing digs for the day is being looked at. Also there is the possibility of the IMAX theater, a day at Fun Mountain, an Ecological day (looking at owl droppings, etc.) and a day consisting of June So Soon.

June So Soon is now going to be held on Monday, June 14 moved from the Friday before because a track & field meet is scheduled to happen that day. Exams have now been moved to start a day later, on Wednesday, June 16. Parent made a comment that they are disappointed that June So Soon is during Pioneer Camp. There was also the comment made that June So Soon shouldn't be held the same week as exams. Other parents agreed. Jack explained that June So Soon got moved because of the track & field day on June 11. Question was asked by a parent why couldn't June So Soon be held during the week of June 7? Jack answered that this is provincial exam week. The comment was also made by a parent that the students are not going to study every day all day long, so going to June So Soon shouldn't be that much of an issue. Approx. 50% of the students attend June So Soon. Comment that some students will not attend because they will want to be studying. It was suggested that this be looked at next year after it is seen how many students attend this year with it being held during exam week.

Parent made a comment that it would be good to make up a schedule at the beginning of the year to better schedule school events. Jack stated that the middle teachers are meeting next week to try to schedule for next

year. Parent commented that the grade 7's have not gone on any field trips this year, yet the grade 8 students have gone on 4 field trips. Jack said that he would look into this.

**School Goals** – Tabled to June 2010 meeting.

**MAPC AGM** – Tabled to June 2010 meeting.

Comment made by parent that Music Booster's was supposed to be replaced by Band Leadership Team (BLT's). This did not happen this year. Music Booster's used to fundraise at such events as the Roland Pumpkin Fair, among other things. This money was used to put on clinics, send students to Peace Gardens camp, and subsidized the band trips. (Jack had to leave at this point). Comment made that the administration decided that they didn't want to be a part of a parent lead Music Booster's group any longer. This is when the Band Leadership Team was started, which was a group of student's who were going to head up fundraising. Lise MacNair was the leader of this group last year. Comment was made that we should ask Lise to come to our next meeting to ask what happened to the BLT's? The parents would like this group to be reactivated. There is not a lot of opportunities for students who are not involved in sports, so it would be a good thing for the BLT's to continue so that music will also be encouraged in our school and not just the sports programs. Suggestion was made that there could be a music sub-committee to the Home & School group if there was no longer any leadership available for the BLT's. Parent commented that they would like to see the BLT's continue before looking at a music sub committee to the Home & School. We will discuss again after speaking to Lise.

Colleen Claggett Woods commented that she thought it would be very good for the BLT's or Music Booster's be restarted because the school has recently asked for a large sum of money to support the band program. Parent asked Colleen if it would make a difference to the School Board to see the school revive one of these programs? Colleen said that yes it would make a difference as a lot of other schools have these programs in place to support their programs.

Comment was made by a parent that their daughter has really enjoyed their grade 7 year at Carman Collegiate and doesn't want the year to end. She has really learned a lot this year.

Comment was made by a parent that parents need to come together and work with the staff and administration for the benefit of our school, students, teachers, etc.

Michelle mentioned that she attended the Safe Communities Forum last week. The Town of Carman and RM of Dufferin have signed an agreement to go through a 12 step program to make our community safer. i.e. crosswalk in front of the high school. People can contact Debbie Iverson if they would like to be a part of this committee. There will be 3 meetings held over the next year. Any community member can be involved including students. Student, Nathan Morgan recently wrote a letter in regards to the safety at the skate park. The committee would like Nathan Morgan to attend the meetings to get his input. People can also contact Tyler King if they would like further information.

**Draft Constitution** – It was suggested that we hold a special meeting in order to get through the discussions in regards to the draft constitution. It was decided to hold that meeting next Monday, May 10 @ 5pm in the Middle Home Ec. room. Only the draft constitution will be discussed at that meeting.

**NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, MAY 10 @ 5PM**