

Saskatchewan Community Schools Association

Executive Meeting

Thursday, January 22, 2009

1:00 – 4:30 pm

Tommy Douglas Collegiate

130 Bowlt Crescent, Saskatoon, SK.

Minutes

Attendance: Tanya Price-Wright, Diane Kopchynski, Darlene Furber, Carol Kivell, Laureen Sawatsky, Cathy Cochrane, Ross Tait, Jason Danyluk, M. Guy Binette, Shelley Sargent, Krystal Fehrenbach, Pat Erhardt, Ron Nowlan, Dean Brooman, Donna Blunt, Delphine Melchert, Dianna Kozak, Robertine Elliott, Margaret Marsollier, Nina Henry, Wendy Dice, Maureen Strawson

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Margaret welcomed everyone and requested a round table introduction from all in attendance.

2. Additions to the agenda/adoption of the agenda

- No additions-Motion by Carol Kivell to adopt agenda - Dean Brooman second.

3. Minutes of the last meeting /errors or omissions/adoption – Krystal Fehrenbach

- Motion was made by Shelley to adopt minutes as is – Laureen second.

4. Business arising from the minutes

- There is no new business arising.

5. Conference 08

- There is still fees coming. Positive feedback was received by the layout of the conference.

6. Conference 09-10 progress report, Saskatoon – Ross Tait/Maureen Strawson

- Ross reported that a planning committee has been set up with representation from Catholic and Public.
- Dates chosen for the 2010 conference are April 28th, 29th, & 30th. It had been decided after asking for some feedback at the October meeting that a Spring conference would be worth trying.
- Held at the Radisson Hotel.
- Theme will work around the ideas of renewal, diversity and 30 years of Community School.

7. Update from the Ministry

❖ Pat Erhardt

- There is a Renewal of Community Education with good support for Community Education right up to the Deputy Office. They are looking at accountability and what expectations they have and will be articulating that more precise.
- Pat is looking at developing a good news piece to share on literacy and a resource that could be used by other schools. There will be or may have already been a survey distributed through email that she is asking complete in regards to Literacy. She is looking at how successful we are with literacy and partnerships with literacy and all the different areas of support that are being offered.
- Nutrition guidelines and action plan are in progress at the ministry level. Continue to use guidelines in the Building Communities of HOPE document until nutrition guidelines are completed.
- Assessment for Learning data is completed and is available.
- Directory is still fine tuning the community school directory.
- Professional Opportunities are available.

❖ Ron Nowlan

- Doing research on the accountability end. Have to have capacity building and leadership building empowering people at a school level.
- Looking at ways to build capacity through organization.
- Empowers people at a community level. A piece they would like to develop into Community Education.
- Want to look further into Blackboard Communications.
- 40 Developmental Assets is a useful surveys – If you are interested to be part of that you will Ron can put you in contact.

8. Newsletter – Nina Henry – Laureen Sawatsky

- Revived 2 articles out of 97 schools. If we want to do a newsletter people need to contribute. Encourage the regional reps to encourage others.

9. Community School Pamphlet – Nina Henry

- Nina has made the changes that were requested and they are ready for print. The pamphlet was circulated. Once they are printed we will distribute them to schools once they have paid their membership. Nina would like to know how many copies to print. Cost is about .40 cents a copy.
 - ✓ Copy 1000.

10. Website – Shelley Sargent

- Pheonix is working well. Anything that has come to Shelley has been posted. Executive information was circulated and asked to check over your information to make sure it is accurate. Shelley will make changes were needed.
- Ron suggested having a link for blackboard that could link people to blackboard for Community School general discussion
- We will check at what phoenix is costing and keep open minded about possibly switching to another company.
- Shelley will look into other options. Shelley will get back to us with information in regards to this.
- Count of hits on Website are:

11. Membership – Donna Blunt

- Emails went out to Regional reps in December. Once Directory is completed Donna will start a mail out. Change in letter: **Please make cheque payable to SCSA in bold.**

12. Financial report – Tanya Price- Wright

(attatched)

- Motion by Tanya to accept the General Account financial report as presented Second by Dianne.
- Motion by Tanya to accept the Weyerhauser Planting Dreams financial report as presented Second by Carol.

13. Review of goals, vision and objectives SCSA

- A planning day will be set on goal setting and rediscover who we are as an executive.
- Pat made a suggestion to set a day to do some visioning with a larger group. Get the right facilitator to walk us through this process.
- Goals & Outcomes. New common language we should be using. What are your outcomes and what are the indicators of these outcomes.
 - Outcomes are now your goals
 - Indicators are now objectives.
- The key to guide our goals should come from the membership at large.

14. Review of executive positions and responsibilities

- Job description was put together by Margaret. It was passed out to all Executive to read over and make any changes where needed.
- Once we sit down and determine our outcomes and indicator that may change the job description. It will continue to be a working process. Subcommittee will be created
- Adjustment
 - Change title from Program to Initiative.
 - A 1. Responsibilities to support the project and initiatives of the association
 - All ensures will be pulled out throughout the job description.
 - C – Take out this because this is outlined in the constitution.
 - D2 – omit from description
 - D9 –as directed by the present
- Margaret will make that changes and we will look at it at the expected outcomes workshop.

15. Report – Executive Director – Delphine Melchert

❖ Executive Director Report – Sept/08 – Jan/09

Things have been extremely busy over the past 4 months. It is gratifying and exciting to hear from so many of you in our Community School Family. Your hard work and commitment is truly making a difference in the lives of our students and their families and ultimately the communities in which they live. A huge thank you goes out to Maureen Johns Simpson and her team at the First Nations and Metis Branch for their partnership in all aspects of our work in Community Education. The addition of Pat Erhardt and Ron Nowlan as Community Education Consultants will bring back the elements so necessary to the success of the Community School Program. It is so wonderful to be able to contact them regarding your concerns, questions, issues and know that we will get an answer/resolution to situations. I am also grateful for the wisdom and commitment of the SCSA Executive who work tirelessly off the side of their desks to fulfil their executive roles. Thank you to our new President, Margaret Marsollier, for her leadership and partnership.

As Executive Director for your Association, I deal with a range of issues, inquiries, information sharing, organizing and development. No two days are ever the same. Here is an overview of the areas of activity. There is an average of 35 – 40 contacts/day.

Legacy Grant – 15 grants have been approved, with many inquiries coming in and several schools presently putting their grant applications together for approval.

Community School Conference – Lots of activity, planning, contacts Aug-Oct/08 with a successful event and many loose ends to wrap up Oct – Dec/08. I look forward to working with the Saskatoon committee in 09/10.

Newsletter – info sent out through regional reps, gathering info, passing info to Nina

Membership Call – Working with Donna to put out the call through the regional reps.

Directory – Working with the Ministry to gather info – follow-up through regional reps of first draft, many changes – lots of contact with schools – am making corrections for final draft.

Website – working with Shelley to post/update info. All Legacy Grant info has been updated and posted.

Meetings – Preparing for upcoming meetings requires countless contacts with the Ministry, regional reps and people who plan on attending, venue plans, agenda's, meals, AV, registration, etc. The first "Inservice and Planning Day" required a great deal of work to ensure all areas were covered.

SCSA Pamphlet- All information is now in – Nina will have the pamphlet produced soon.

SCSA contact person – general inquiries – This is an important role. People are able to contact a person representing the Association to have their questions/concerns addressed. Inquiries range from stats keeping at the school level, designation of their school, family literacy info around the legacy grant, meeting minutes, conference info, inquiries from other Provinces, people who have found us on the website and have questions, etc. If necessary, I forward them on to the Ministry, Margaret or handle them myself. All information is forwarded to the President to keep her in the loop.

Partnerships – Skate Canada, SLN and the Sask Assoc for School Councils have called re: shared projects/MOU, Canadian Assoc for School Health (we have been invited to have input into the organizing of the national school health conference in Ottawa in May/09)

Future Initiatives – corporate partnerships, National partnerships/networking, more immediate input from the grassroots to the Ministry to prepare for the next budget year – we need to have input ahead of time not after the fact. Our Association could be very helpful in gathering information through the regional reps/inservice and planning days, using available research to assist in making community schools more effective in addressing educational/social needs of students and their families. Working more closely with the First Nations schools to benefit from each other's experience/family connections. There is so much potential for partnerships at the Provincial level with so many groups/organizations/govt agencies, etc that would translate into benefits at the school community level. (Big Sisters/Brothers, Sears, SK Sport, Health and Fitness, Business, etc)

Words seem inadequate to describe the energy and commitment I feel from everyone throughout the Province whether they work in Community Schools, are our community partners, at the University Level, from the Ministry, etc. It has been such a privilege to do this work on your behalf – I look forward to the months ahead and meeting many more great people working in community education. **Respectfully submitted by Delphine Melchert**

16. Constitution –

Amendments will be made at AGM – 09/10

17. Additions

- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding between Saskatchewan Association of School Councils and Saskatchewan Community School Associations.
 - Dean made a motion to politely decline Memorandum of Understanding between Saskatchewan Association of School Councils and Saskatchewan Community School Associations Nina Second it.

18. Adjourn and next meeting

- Guy made a motion to adjourn meeting Shelley second it.
Next Meeting – To be determined.