

**Saskatchewan Community Schools Association
Executive Meeting
Friday, September 21, 2007
Arcola Community School
2315 Abbott Road Regina
10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Minutes

In attendance:

Tanya Price-Wright, Pat Corbin, Nina Henry, Donna Blunt, Wendy Dice, Delphine Melchert, Krystal Fehrenbach, Shelley Sargent, Maureen Strawson, Margaret Marsollier

Guest: Elaine Caswell

1. Welcome and Introductions – Delphine Melchert

Delphine welcomed everyone and reminded executive members of the important for the survival of the SCSA.

2. Additions to the agenda – adoption of agenda – Delphine Melchert

Call for Nominations – All positions

Motion by Margaret Marsollier to *adopt the agenda* with flexibility for changes throughout the day. **Seconded by Nina Henry**

3. Minutes of last meeting – Tanya Price Wright

Tanya apologized for not having the minutes from the last meeting in writing, but verbally gave an overview of the last executive working meeting dated May 29, 2007.

Motion by Wendy Dice to accept the minutes as presented, **Seconded by Pat Corbin**

4. Report- meeting with Deputy Minister Wynn Young & ADM Darren McKee/ July/07 Delphine & Shelley

- An overview or history of the SCSA was presented. Included in this overview was the number of community schools, regions, reality of life in a community school, roles and responsibilities, partnerships and community development.
- Foundations for outcomes
- Energy into things that “work” – who is our champion, who works on behalf of community schools
- First Nations community -- how do we fit in, what role do we need to have
- Open dialogue – shared information, good direction

5. Progress report – “Renewal/Review of Supports to Students”

Gillian McCreary – not able to attend, Elaine Caswell presented the progress report (Attached)

Issues, Challenges and Opportunities and Enhancements (gathered from meeting with the executive: April 30th & May 29, 2007, and ongoing discussions with school divisions)

Highlights of this report: Issues & Challenges identified

- *Funding*, Program enhancements, program expansion to eligible schools
- *Leadership and shared ownership*
- *Enhanced focus on student learning (reading)*
- *Accountability & shared promising practices*, outcomes focus
Program evaluation, sharing promising practices
- *Access to human service & other supports*, need for case management structures, Aboriginal partnerships and student mentors and success coaches
- *Student Movement*, access to affordable, safe housing, teaching “students”
- *Increasingly “troubled” students*
- *Summer & after school programming*
- *Nutrition*
- *Engaging the First Nations and Métis community*
- *Strengthened role & status of community school coordinators/enhanced community development capacity*
- *Elders and outreach* (knowledge keepers)
- *Increasing “multicultural” student populations*
- *Early learning and child care*
- *Liability issues*
- *Supports for community-based education*
- *Trades training & adult education opportunities*
- *Education & training in community education*
- *Space/facilities*
- *Maintain focus on whole child*
- *Secondary community schools*
- *Representative work force*

6. Department update – Elaine Caswell

- *Renewal “Supports to Learning” (18 month contract)*
 - What does it look like
 - Community schools/ schools plus – what it will take to move forward
- *Programs – Issues and Opportunities*
 - New investments to services & supports
 - Curriculum & Supports to students will have equal consideration in the frame work. Ensure there is support for schools in this complex climate
 - Human services integration forum
 - School plus is included to “supports” to students
 - Special education – funding that is responsive to the need and based on needs apposed to disability
 - English as a second language – funding will be reviewed
 - Youth in custody – under review

- Mandate of programs – are/have they met the needs

The department is currently being reframed, reallocated, and reorganized. The External Advisory Committee will be part of the look into the future. There is a large scope of representation with this External Advisory Committee and will develop a new way to do business as they work through the challenges, accountability and outcomes of their tasks.

Supports to Learning Branch – Staffing changes/reassignments

Pat Ehardt (return to position), Judy Cormier (central office), Jill Nutani (research), Victoria Jerome (health/childcare/daycare/protection) Shelley Adams (region 3)

Children Services

Leadership, research/policy, data management, accountability and outcome. The superintendents have indepth knowledge and expertise with their portfolios. Staff will not be assigned regions but will be a central team to address the total province (North, Central & South). This is a time of significant change, increases to strategic supports that identify priorities, goals/action based with measurable outcomes.

First Nation Education

- Support to cultural diversity
- Ancestry should not be criteria for new school (needs of school & students instead).
- Truancy through grades 8/9/10 across the province (currently non available right now).

Direction from SCSA

- Focus of Community Schools
- What data is required for “outcome”
- Role of community school coordinator
- What do Directors of Education/Boards/Superintendents understand about the role of coordinators (result of questionnaire sent to school districts)
- Retaining the status quo and recognizing that community schools are important
- Communities of Hope document – rubric for coordinators and the role of community schools
- Nutrition – ensure balanced diets, feeding/snack programs, education to students, families, community

7. Financial Report /Proposed Budget – Margaret Marsollier

(attached)

General Account & Weyerhaeuser Planting Dreams Account:

Motion by Krystal Fehrenbach

To adopt the reports as read and with proposed changes to the columns for clear understanding on the written report. (All sub totals and final balance brought to the far right column)

Seconded by Shelley Sargent

Weyerhaeuser Planting Dreams Account:

Motion by Nina Henry

To invest \$100,000 to a GIC for 1 year

Seconded by Donna Blunt

Motion by Maureen Strawson (*Proposed budget*)

To combine the proposed \$20,000 backpack maintenance funds to the Weyerhaeuser Legacy Grant.

Seconded by Krystal Fehrenbach

8. Newsletter Nina Henry/Laureen Sawatsky

- Call for articles will go out after the conference (November)
- The spring newsletter did not get on the website as there was some difficulty with the website.
- Have call for nominations posted on the website – Please forward to Delphine anyone who is letting their name stand.

9. Membership – Luanne Price

No report – most were paid at the last meeting

10. Website – Shelley Sargent

- Conference 2007 registration is on the website
- When additional conference material comes in it will be posted to the website
- Call for nominations will also get posted
- Website can be a resource for funding agencies – Krystal has a resource started and we can build from there.

11. Conference 2007 – Delphine Melchert/Margaret Marsollier

- Myrna Sopal has been hired to assist with the conference 07 in Prince Albert.
- Key Note Speaker has been confirmed – Vera Tourangeau is from the PeePeekisis First Nation and is a mother, grandmother, motivational speaker and children's advocate. She has been very highly recommended.
- At present we have 52 sessions/presentations confirmed

12. Executive Assistant position - not being filled at this time

(Duane's final report)

Delphine read the letter she had received from Duane. Duane thanked the executive for the positive experience and understood the decision to terminate the contract.

13. Regional Reports

(Region 5 & 7 attached)

- There were concerns across the regions of funding shortfalls. The north region had a shortfall of \$40,000.
- Saskatoon has increased their community schools by two. (not government designated schools).
- Saskatoon has received \$8,000 to create programs to meet the needs of the community (after school programs, pediatrician).
- Regina school division is not taking funds out of community schools to support perimeter schools
- In region 2 they are not hiring coordinators they are hiring program facilitators
- There is the recognition that some boards are putting additional funds into community schools where others are not.
- Region one – hired a rec coordinator for after school and evening programs. This was made possible through grants. The focus this year is for a playground leadership program and the hope project. Funding has been received for some family literacy initiatives (data collection & implementation as all programs are grants and partnerships)

14. Adjourn and next meeting

- **October 25, 2007 AGM meeting at Conference, Prince Albert**