



MEMORANDUM

Date: 14 June 2011
To: Board of Trustees
From: Tim Monds – Superintendent
Originator: Kelly Wilkins – Deputy Superintendent
Subject: **Student Advisory Committee Minutes**

Recommendation

That the Board of Trustees receives as information, the Student Advisory Committee Minutes of 17 May 2011 as presented at the Regular Meeting of 14 June 2011.



MINUTES OF THE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD AT MEMORIAL COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL IN STONY PLAIN,

ALBERTA ON 17 MAY 2011

ATTENDANCE:

Student Representatives and Student Guest from:

Blueberry, École Broxton Park, Duffield, Entwistle, Graminia, Greystone Centennial Middle School, Memorial Composite, École Meridian Heights, Muir Lake, Spruce Grove Composite, Stony Plain Central, Tomahawk, Wabamun, Woodhaven

Irene Goebel, Trustee and Co-Chair of Student Advisory Committee

Richard Gilchrist, Board Chair

Dorcas Kilduff, Trustee

Elsie Kinsey, Vice-Chair

Eric Cameron, Trustee

Kathleen Linder, Trustee

Tim Monds, Superintendent of Schools

Kelly Wilkins, Deputy Superintendent

Emilie Keane, Associate Superintendent

Claire Jonsson, Associate Superintendent

MLA Mr. Doug Horner

Christie Kobailko, Committee Co-Chair

Leah Andrews, Director Learning Services

George Couros, Principal

Principals from attending schools

Regrets:

Ron Heinrichs, Trustee

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Goebel at 9:05 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting began with the singing of 'O Canada'. Trustee Goebel welcomed students to the last Student Advisory Committee Meeting. Students introduced themselves and stated which school they attended.

Chair Gilchrist introduced MLA Doug Horner. Mr. Horner spoke of his role in government and that he has submitted his name for the position of leader of the Conservative Party. He believes it is important to hear from students on their view of education and goals for the future. He encouraged them to share their opinions with him.

TEAM BUILDING

Students from Stony Plain Central School organized the Team Building activity. Participants drew the name of an animal from a bucket. They were to make the sound of that animal and then find a group of participants making the same animal sound. As a group they were to strategize how to build a structure with marshmallows and toothpicks. The tallest stand alone structure would be the winner. The dog group won.

LIFE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Students from Memorial Composite High School and Spruce Grove High School provided an insight as to life in High School. Three students did a skit on the biggest fears of going to high school. Three fears highlighted were: fear of older students, lots of homework and no time for social life and getting lost in a big building. Students then gave advice on the positive experiences of High School life. Students were told of the benefits of the various options available, the opportunities to make new friends, the importance of working hard, the benefits of getting involved in organizations and clubs in high school and advice on how to get through the class work and homework of high school.

Grade 8 & 9 students were given the opportunity to work in groups to discuss and report on: 1) What are you looking forward to most next year as you enter High School? 2) What are your greatest fears about entering High School? See appendix A for comments.

While the Grade 8&9 students worked on their task, Mr. Horner met with the High School students.

SHARING TIME WITH MLA DOUG HORNER

Students and staff took the opportunity to talk with Mr. Horner and ask questions about policy, programs, education, etc.

Trustee Goebel thanked Mr. Horner for joining the Student Advisory Committee meeting and responding to questions.

FOLLOW-UP TO LIFE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Ms. Boyce and Ms. Marcinkevics took the opportunity to respond to comments/questions raised during the student activity. They indicated a zero tolerance for froshing and encouraged students to get involved at High School.

TEACHING, LEARNING & TECHNOLOGY

George Couros and Leah Andrews invited students to participate in an online survey to share their thoughts about how students can be involved in the future of teaching, learning and technology.

SCHOOL TOURS

Student leaders from Memorial Composite High School provided school tours.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board hosted a BBQ lunch for Student Advisory Committee and guests.

**Student Advisory Committee Meeting
17 May 2011**

LIFE IN HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY

What are you looking forward to most next year as you enter High School?

- The wide variety of extra-curricular activities
- Meeting new people
- New teachers
- A better education
- Making memories – good ones
- More independence
- More opportunities
- Different schedule (longer classes/semester system)
- A “change” – no change since kindergarten
- New freedoms – like wearing a hat in school
- Greater respect as young adults
- Sports and sport teams and athletic facilities
- Cafeteria
- More involvement in community
- Trips
- More responsibilities
- Almost being done school

- **What are your greatest fears about entering High School next year?**
- Older students
- The work load
- Strict teachers / mean teachers
- New pressures from peers
- Drama (not the subject)
- Leaving your junior high comfort zone
- Bigger school / getting lost
- Froshing
- Unacceptance
- Different bullying experiences – possibly more intense/less noticeable
- Less individual help in the larger classes
- Long bus ride
- Grades / failure in class
- Getting in with wrong crowd
- Drugs
- Too much responsibility
- Handling more work / harder subjects and material
- Figuring out your future