

Austin O'Brien School Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes: Wednesday, April 20, 2016

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Chair: Yvonne C. **Call to order:** 7:02 p.m. **Location:** AOB Rm 134 **Recorder:** Keri W
Present: AOB Staff: David Warawa (Principal), Anna Gomez (VP, Grade 11), Ignacio Haro (VP), Ryan Feehan (VP), Patrice Teveniuk (graduation coach)

AOB parents: Yvonne C. (chair), Ron F. (treasurer), Val S. (co-chair), Keri W. (secretary), Monica P., Leanne P., Doreen Z., Teresa M., Linda C., Jackie S., Bozena P., Karen H-M. Karen McV.

Regrets:

Item	Discussion	Motion	2nd	Action
1. Prayer	IH	-	-	-
2. Welcome / attendance	Sign-In sheet circulated	-	-	-
3. Approval of Agenda		LP	KM	
4. Approval of Minutes	LP Did not attend SAC Feb. 17, 2016	VS	KM	KW Change and repost minutes.
5. Admin Update	<u>Administration report – Feb 18 – Current</u> - Multiple activities going on in school in February as we focus on our Open House (Dance programs, classroom displays etc... - Basketball continues with our four teams playing well. We are building our programs and we are proud of that - Teacher's Convention - End of Feb - Mar 2 – Open House – Very successful (700 people?) - Grade 9 registrations - Sat March 5 – Great turnout - AOB Concert Ensemble – Winspear – Mar 7 - In House registrations took place Mar 7 – 10			Parent feedback on online report cards requested. Feedback will be given June meeting.

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	• Badminton began at AOB for the first time in years allowing different students to access a sport! • Drama Production – Urinetown – Great reviews for musicians and actors! Great show. • Various field trips continued (Holocaust Symposium, Model UN etc.) • Holy Thursday – In class services • Easter/Spring Break • New Life/Easter Mass at Basilica – Mar 7th • April Diploma examinations at AOB • Cheer team wrapped up winning their last tournament of the year • Apr 13 – We Stand – Leadership students • Vancouver Sun Run – April 17 – 11 kids • This is last week for student teachers • AOB Instagram account started to share addition school news • Soccer season began – Rosters are set • Track and Field also started up Upcoming • AOB's Got Talent – Talent Show • Report Cards on Friday • Pep Rally Wednesday 27th • Parent Teacher Interviews on Thursday • Kiwanis Music Festival end April • Dynamic Lockdown coming up... preparing kids			
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	• Grad – Commencement and Banquet – May 5 and 7 • Mental Health Awareness week – School activities - May 2- 6 • 21 Day Happiness Challenge – Helping student for a new habit of sharing Happiness and overcoming difficult situations • Dual Enrolment at Norquest College for a Psychology course for the fall • No cost to take. Saves \$600-\$800 if taken at the College post high-school. DW May 12 Flex day will include a session for 100 led by Sarah Chan, mayor's wife, on the topic of supporting citizens and students who are poor.			
6. Treasurer's Report a. status of signing authority	Ron F Balance \$862.12 as of March 31, 2016 a) Just received minutes on school letterhead indicating election of new SAC executive. The bank was being difficult, demanding the previous exec members also attend, but Ron F spoke to the bank manager and clarified required process: 1) file minutes at the branch where the account resides, 2) thereafter, new signatories can attend at any branch to add their signatures to the account. Will also request online banking to avoid paper			Ron F to submit documents to bank on Saturday. DW and YC to attend branch/s convenient for each to provide

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	statement charge \$3/mnth. No withdrawal privileges on bank card; deposit only.			signatures to account records.
7. Old Business	n/a			
8. New Business: a. Every Grad Matters	DW See attached from PT, requesting parents spread the word or otherwise assist with monetary support or donations in kind. - Some students at risk of not graduation “don’t care” ‘cause they can’t afford the ceremony. Making the ceremony do-able helps motivate student academic effort. - One individual provides \$\$ to dress graduates with rentals from Derks. - Ties into poverty reduction since education is a tool for people to lift themselves out of poverty. - FYI Graduation costs include: \$60 commencement fee + \$90 banquet + clothing etc. - donations will be receipted. 8 students assisted last year for a total of 25 people who were able to attend the ceremonies. Ron F SAC funds not applicable as the SAC funds are for initiatives that benefit all, not just a few students.			PT to check with partner parish’s Knights of Columbus for sponsorship opportunity.
b. District policy to eliminate fees	See attached presented by Ryan F DW District has voted to eliminate fees for <u>mandatory requirements</u> next year based on Catholic teaching of mercy in these economic times. This does not eliminate all fees, but if a class is required for graduation, student shouldn’t have to pay for it.			DW to present district’s decision re: allowable fees to next SAC.

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	• Admin working to have a plan of which fees will be waived and which will continue to be collected by May 13. Schools will collaborate to put a cohesive plan together for district approval. • Examples of fees under scrutiny: Foods programs, currently the school subsidizes costs of consumables (ingredients) and keeps costs in check by rationing and pre-measuring ingredients for Grade 10s.; English require students buy \$10 novels to be used as study guides (students can annotate as necessary) vs. borrowing from district lending stores; Math 30 (not required for graduation) requires students purchase a \$20 workbook at cost. • If all current fees (approx.. \$300/student are waived, with 800 students, will result in a \$1.25 million shortfall which is the equivalent of 2.5 teachers, without which class sizes increase to the 38 student mark. • AB government has said it is not increasing education funding. • AOB has a current surplus of \$200,000, holding it to get through next year to make up shortfall, but worry about the year after. Discuss regarding how to absorb or offset anticipated funding shortfall. Ron. F His experience is that parents fundraise for			
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c. May 12 Flex Day	technology but district's letter said the district pays for technology. Finds it confusing and plans to question. TM Suggests that the district pays for some tech, but it requires updating by parents before district is prepared to do so. DW Explains that school funding is a lump sum based on an amount per student that theoretically includes \$\$ for tech, but at the school level, the admin allocates the \$\$ to best meet the myriad needs of the school. There is no separate, earmarked district \$\$ specifically for tech. • Example: Tarmac sand covered from winter. District won't pay for removal. Out-of-school costs to keep it a safe space for students. DW Last Flex Day. Planned to provide students with many options for learning: academic help, academic enrichment via special presentations by staff and exposure to community issues via guest speakers. Students need to be here. Not optional. Teachers going out of their way to offer extra opportunities. BP Ask that Flex topics be shared with parents in advance, perhaps as part of the Powerschool generated calendar of events.			DW will present to SAC in the fall, the current year's allocation and a line-by-line breakdown of planned spending. DW Will include a list of flex topics in communication to parents.
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d. SAC questions	Ron F. Questions value of reliance on Powerschool when some families don't have English skills or computer access. IH One World, One Centre provides AOB with translators, cultural interpretation. PT Welcome to Canada during Grade 10 orientation, presentation to all newcomers at once.	DW Will include message that families having trouble accessing information off computers to come to the office for assistance. Message to be included in August mailout to parents.
	LP Ranking of AOB building condition on district's most recent Capital Plan?	PT Will include this message in the Welcome to Canada session.
	DW AOB renovation is the 5th item valued at \$20 million on first year requests with a total price tag of \$169 million.	

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e. Parent-Teacher Interviews	We're ranked higher on the list than last year, but there are 2 NEW schools requested ahead of us on the list. Note this is not confirmation of funding, but a request by the district for the necessary funding from the province. K H-M What is the likelihood an AOB reno will be funded and go ahead? DW Even those of us with kids in Grade 10 won't see it. We've been on the list since IH was a student! Ron F. Is a new school planned for north of Manning Drive? DW No. Existing schools are expected to accommodate student demand in the NE. While O'Leary is so full it has closed its boundaries (accepting students only if they are within the catchment area or with sibs in the school), AOB has room for up to 100 more. AOB enrolment expected to be higher next year. AOB has 500 bussed-in students already. DW Staff is discussing moving away from holding these on a single night each term. Prefer issues be addressed by parent-teacher contact when it arises. Acknowledges reality that timely intervention is essential to solve problems and attendance at traditional PT Interviews is low. Already any contact by school to parents is logged to watch for patterns.			AOB will issue explicit invitation to parents to contact teachers with any issues at any time.
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	Will keep Meet the Teacher. DZ Support this change. Sometimes interviews are good, but when I see an issue, I get in touch with the teacher immediately and don't wait until the official Interview date. Personally have thought the Demonstration of Learning in lower grades were a waste of time. Ron F. agrees demo of learning is a waste as it does not provide enough feedback from teachers to parents about what the child needs that parents can provide. DW Most parents that come to the formal Interview night have students that are doing well. BP teachers must make contact when there is an issue. Ron F. What is done about the non-Catholics in the schools that skip faith development days and events?			Will require teachers to proactively contact parents if students are struggling. Sept. 14 @ 7 p.m.
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	TM Not able to graduate ? DW Noticed a pattern of absences and field trip forms not being returned. To stress the importance of this aspect of the school's mandate and culture, admin decided to take these kids (no field trip forms returned) to St. Basil's for Easter celebration, after contacting parents by phone. District cannot prevent anyone who meets provincial requirements from receiving their high school diploma, but students who choose not to complete the district-required religion classes are not permitted to attend the AOB graduation ceremonies. Admin respects this choice. Very, very few students choose this option, perhaps one per year.			
9. District Correspondence	The Learning Team newsletter from ATA available at meeting. DW Fundraiser emails forwarded to YC. Ron F Fear that will be how fee funding shortfall will need to be addressed, by the same small group of parent volunteers. DW Individual programs/classes fundraise for themselves, i.e. band. Ron F. Greenhouse sales seem profitable, noting Kohlman's. Would need to organize in February. TM adds Salsbury Greenhouse is also an efficient			

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	fundraiser.			
10. Other	AG Exam schedule will be posted on the website by end of the week. Closer to the date, will be emailed to all parents.			AG post exam schedule on website by end of the week. Email schedule to parents closer to the dates.
11. Adjournment	8:24	MP	Ron F	-

NEW MEETING DATE: MONDAY, MAY 30, 2016 at 6:00 pm at Chianti's. We will begin with our meeting at that time.

Please do RSVP as before, to the office (Maria or Anne) by May 25, 2016 (780-466-3161).

Short business meeting prior to dinner, compliments of AOB in thanks to School Advisory Committee (SAC) for its feedback and attendance at meetings. Business meeting open to all. Dinner open to parents who've attended at least one SAC meeting in the 2015-2016 school year.