

École Intermédiaire Lawrence Grassi Middle School Council  
**Wednesday, October 9, 2013**  
**Meeting/Staff Room LGMS**  
**Minutes**

**LEARNING COMPONENT: Strategies to Manage Screen Time      6:30 – 7:30pm**

Kristin Spangenberg and Fred Folliott, addiction counselors from Alberta Health Services presented a hands-on informational session with the focus of how to reach a balance at the home with video gaming. About 10 people were in attendance with 3 children. The conclusion to the presentation reiterated that in the end, if there is one thing that stresses adults it is the time consumed with gaming. Council thanks Kirsten and Fred for their time and effort put into preparing the information presented. The Alberta Health Services, Addictions Counselors, have contacts and a presence within each school and are available to parents to contact if they have concerns.

**International Men's Day Presentation:**

Scott Heathcote, a paramedic, was present to inform council about a program he wished to implement in schools on November 19th, 2013 (International Men's Day) a presentation to grade 7-8 boys and girls called, "Ignite Your Passion." This is a program in which the goal is to inspire boys to find their passion in life and to develop a plan to pursue it.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1.0 Call to Order & Welcome Any New LGMS Council Members & Guests**

Meeting was called to order by Leanne McKeown (council chair) at 8:05 pm.

Those in attendance: Leanne McKeown (council chair), Liz Baker (vice-chair), Shari Worobey (secretary), Alison Andrews (Treasurer) Sonja Howatt (teacher), Brian Wityshyn (Principal), Adrienne Lawlor (Member at Large), Betty Mah (Volunteer Coordinator), Alanna McLeod (Member at Large), Nadine Trottier (Assistant Principal), Anna Montoro

**2.0 Adoption (Amendment) of Agenda**

1. Leanne and Liz mentioned that they are both running for trustees and are both very supportive of each other. They are very positive and looking forward to working together in whatever capacity.

2. National Math Contest : tabled for next meeting.

**3.0 Confirmation/Approval of Past Minutes**

June and September minutes were approved by email. Minutes will be posted on LGMS website on a regular basis once approved.

## **4.0 Reports**

### **i. Principal's Report**

- Brian thanked everyone on behalf of the staff for the wonderful staff breakfast.
- He introduced the new assistant principal, Nadine Trottier.
- Enrolment: LGMS enrolment is now at 478 students, most of the class sizes from 4-6 French immersion and English are in the low 20's. Grade 7/8 french immersion is still high and in the 30's and Brian is still looking at how to meet the needs of these kids.
- New staff: About 11 new staff members at LGMS: This includes a grade 5 teacher, Laura McCauly, new Assistant Principal, Nadine Trottier, an LST, Janis Bekar, and Rene Husdal, a 0.5 librarian.
- Chrome Books: Brian is waiting for the invoice from Kevin Dyck. \$4000 is earmarked and \$18000 overall is what they cost. Fundraising activities may help go towards this.
- Magazine Fundraiser: grade 4's sold most of the magazines! Final total raised is not yet determined. Funding will go towards the "whole school."
- Terry Fox: over \$1400 raised...incentive was to throw pies and Mr. Wityshyn enjoyed the pie!
- Student Led Activities: This has been successful and Leadership is looking at doing more of this i.e. they organized Terry Fox and it was great!
- Grade 6 classes: This class took part in a planting event and planted trees in the park.
- Cross Country Zones: grades 4 to 8 participated on Wednesday, Oct. 8 at the Nordic Center.
- Camp Caroline: Grade 7's and 8's in band left Wednesday, Oct. 8 at noon for band camp.
- School Garden Project: Brian met with coordinators for this project and he is planning on meeting with Ken Riorden and Kelly Smith (staff coordinator) to discuss what this will look like.
- Science Fair: Will be hosted at LGMS on March 18th, 2014.
- Lunch hour clubs: Writer's Club: Ruth Kerr will start a writer's club at lunch hour. Other clubs to start will include a Chess Club and an Art Club
- Dances: There will be a grade 4/5 dance on Oct. 17 at 6:00-8:00 as part of their last year's Farewell Dance. Grade 7/8 will have a dance Nov. 7th and parents have volunteered to run this.
- Right to Play: This will occur with gr. 4-6 and 7-8 on Oct. 17th.
- Oct. 24-25 Parent Teacher Conferences: Learning Clicks and a French Scholastic book fair will happen at this time
- Shared vision of Instructional Excellence: developing leadership capacity within school walls...Brian is working with teachers to move this journey forward.
- Science Fair Club: Being offered to all students at LGMS on Oct. 18th at 4:00 pm. Shari is planning on hosting this the third Friday of every month to guide students along with their projects.

### **i.i. Treasurer's Report**

- Pizza: money is still coming in...over \$19000 gross of which we will have a \$7000 profit. Panago generously subsidizes pizza for the kids who are on "Food for Learning" on the pizza days.
- Brian has some Rotary money to spend...\$257 extension cords may be purchased and other equipment. He will look into this.
- \$4000 for Chrome Books has been allocated
- One chair ball is still coming in to be funded. Adrienne will provide receipt for this.

### **5.0 Roving Council Members for Student-Teacher-Parent Conferences**

Last council meeting it was discussed to have council members present at Student-Teacher-Parent Conferences on Oct 24 & 25. Those interested are asked to contact Leanne. A table would be set up to answer questions and promote/ inform regarding council information. If nobody is able to attend, perhaps set up a table anyways.

### **6.0 Extra-curricular activities :**

Tabled to next meeting

### **7.0 Long jump pit:**

Brian said people were going to dig a pit etc...will wait until track starts again in the spring. Follow up will occur.

### **8.0 Fundraisers :**

Grocery cards: Do we use this to raise money for Chrome books etc...Brian will meet with Leanne to discuss this idea further.

Movie night: A night has to be decided upon still as well as which group(s) will watch which movie. Options are still up in the air as to whether or not two different nights: one for younger kids vs. one for older kids would take place, or just one night for everybody. Perhaps a half day Friday or another night when families would attend would be a good time. Further discussion with Brian will occur.

### **9.0 • Finding Kind Documentary**

The video trailer, "Finding Kind," was emailed to council members to view. Adrienne was hoping to have a community screening of this video and link with the high school. The movie is a documentary that two young women created to promote kindness with young girls. In this documentary, the girls are talking about their own experience and try to promote friendship, and respect. It would cost \$500 to bring the film to the community. Afterwards those who have watched the film do a "kindness pledge".

Discussion included the following points: Perhaps the Leadership group could be in charge of this. There would need to be a charge of \$2 or some fee. Could this be something to put on during the "International Men's Day" to connect with the girls? This may be an event the YWCA could manage. Age 12 and over is the recommended age. What follow up will occur if this is an emotional film? After discussion, Adrienne decided to approach YWCA with the idea of film viewing as this falls within their mandate. More discussion is needed.

#### **10.0 Items outstanding & Action Items from minutes**

Casino proposal tabled to next meeting

#### **11.0 Learning Component**

December, ideas for future speakers are needed

November: Peter Baylis will present "Teenage Brain" despite low attendance. Discussion occurred as to the "catchy title" to entice more attendance. Discussion ensued re: how/if to promote these learning sessions. Low attendance likely reflects "busy lives" of Bow Valley parents as well-advertised events have had low attendance in the past. Attendance seems to fluctuate.

- **Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm by Leanne McKeown**
- **Date of next meeting: November 13, 2013: Speaker Series with Peter Baylis**  
**"Teenage Brain" will occur from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

**Council Meeting will follow from 7:30 -9:00 p.m. Everyone welcome!**