

École Intermédiaire Lawrence Grassi Middle School Council

Wed. Sept. 12, 7:00P.M.

Meeting/Staff Room LGMS

Minutes

LEARNING COMPONENT: Cell phone tower near LGMS (update)

Jan Tafel, Jan Desanier, Sean Krausert (Canmore Town Council), Andre Gigon

Jan Tafel read a letter she prepared and provided the council with background information regarding the Telus Tower that has recently been erected on 7th Street. Initially, Telus hand-delivered a letter to all residents who lived within 15 m of the proposed tower location. Some of these residents were non-Canadian residents. Jan is concerned about the level of electromagnetic radiation that is being emitted from the tower. She wants to endorse a letter writing campaign which addresses several issues: She'd like to pass a motion to reduce cell phone towers within a certain distance (150 m), and reduce the risk of students who have cell phones by implementing educational programs which inform students and parents of the damage they can cause to the body.

Andre Gigon presented a power point which addressed the amount of radiation that is present in front of LGMS. His concern is that this electromagnetic radiation is very high and it may also be seeping into the school. Despite the theory that increasing the tower's height may help the problem, he said that height doesn't matter, it's power that is a concern. Initially when the tower was erected, he phoned Telus to inquire about it and they assured him it was only a temporary structure. It has now become permanent. It was installed in October 2011 with very little announcement to residents and it is only 150 m from LGMS!

Andre presented some facts about cell phone signals, one being that the frequency of cell phone signals is in the microwave range. He stressed that while the maximum long term exposure for these signals in most countries is 1000 microwatts per meter, in front of LGMS, it is much higher. This level may be significant enough to change DNA strands and be carcinogenic. He showed his first measurements at LGMS in April, it was 1400 microwatts per meter. On May 7, it was 14000 microwatts per meter as he increased the range of his measuring instrument. There are no long term studies on the effects that cell phone signals have on children, but we know that the number of hours kids are exposed is high. Many families are using cell phones instead of land lines today. Andre estimated 4800 hours are spent exposed to cell phone signals over 4 years for students enrolled in grades 5 to 8. If we follow the stats from other cities, in comparison, we are very high.

Andre also wanted to see the antennae of the tower pointed in another direction, Telus wouldn't release the antennae diagram. He also suggested that as teachers, we could teach the kids a lesson on cell phone safety. He mentioned a movie called "Full Signal," for perusal if interested.

It is located on 7th street. Telus owns this land. The other sites are on rental land...they are renting from the town.

Sean Krausert (Canmore Town Council): Back in June, Telus consulted council and wanted to work with the Town of Canmore. Sean says that since this initial conference that misinformation has been relayed from Telus and they have been uncooperative. He feels they have lied to him. To verify Andre's results, Sean would like to propose a test of turning off the tower, measuring the level of

magnetic radiation, and then turning it on again to compare results. The town has offered other locations for the tower to be placed such as Elevation Place, but according to Telus the tower has to be within a certain area.

In discussion with those present, apparently other jurisdictions such as Ranchlands have had their towers removed after letter campaigns have been implemented. Jan has been advised to go directly to CBC or to go public as a last resort. There was a suggestion to switch services from Telus to other competitors.

INFORMATION:

1. Call to Order & Welcome to Any New LGMS Council Members and Guests

Call to order at 7: 05 p.m.

Attendance; Leanne McKeown, Alison Carter, Betty Mah, Alanna McLeod, Brian Wityshyn, Alison Andrews, Shari Worobey, Liz Baker, Lori Wynn, Adrienne Lawlor

2. Adoption (Amendment) of Agenda – any items to be added or deleted?

No additions

Confirmation/Approval of Past Minutes – already approved by email?

Approved by email.

3. Reports

i) Principal's Report (Brian Wityshyn)

Brian addressed the following information:

–It was a great summer and he welcomes everyone back.

–Staff returned on August 29th and students were back after Labour Day: This seemed to make a difference as it provided an extra break and students/ staff were ready to return 😊

–Enrollment: 386 students were enrolled at LGMS last year: 392 is the actual enrollment. The prediction was 362 based on ERS enrollment. There are 14 homeroom classes, some classes are a little larger i.e. 24 to 31 students are in English. This may lead to more funding in the near future. LGMS is down 1.5 staff members.

– Teachers in the district enjoyed a pancake breakfast on August 29th, 2012.

–Accountability survey results from last year were revealed and they were very positive.

–Complimentary courses that are taking place this year for grade 8 include foods, computer programming, construction, art, mountain biking, curling, climbing,

Bronze Cross, Bronze Medallion, and kayaking. If drama is going to be an option, we need to look at financing in a creative and innovative manner.

–Open House : Sept. 13, 2012: 7–8 pm

–Communication: Linda put together a hotline to communicate every Friday with parents. (Alison Andrews suggested that perhaps she put events for our school into the Leader’s community events section)

(*Discussion took place around the idea of balanced technology and responsible use of technology. The question was raised, “How can we be proactive to spearhead this initiative as a task force ?” We need to be role models as well with how we walk around with cell phones. Apparently, Telus has offered to hold an “Open House” for the community. Liz Baker suggested we hold Telus to their “Open House” so that they can provide information to parents. Liz will be in touch with Telus to see who to contact and when this Open House is. Betty suggested that Rob Seely, owner of the Phone Store may have some input.)

–AIS: Instructional Excellence is the focus this year. Chris McPhee will be at schools visiting classes and council meetings observing, talking, and sharing to assist in engagement. PLC’s (Professional Learning Committees) will also focus on this. On Fri. Sept. 21, 2012, Sharon Freisen will meet with the division and talk about rubrics and instructional excellence. Some of the topics will include, “ What does it look like? How do we deliver it?

–Grade 8’s are required to have computers this year. Some areas of concern may be how many plug–ins will be necessary. Where will the kids leave their lap tops?

–Library: open 5 days a week, with decreased hours (less time in morning and at end of the day)

–Gathering area: Furniture won’t be here until February...other options are being checked into.

–Lunch hour: Gr 7/8 students will be allowed to go down town for lunch next week. Sonya Howatt went to businesses to get feedback as to what their expectations were for students at lunch hour. The businesses want respect and reduced crowds among some of the feedback she received. This info was relayed back to the students. Let’s work with the community is the message. Other lunch options at the school are presented to kids so they don’t have to leave the school. In the morning, there’s early gym and ping–pong at lunch.

–Magazine assembly today for major LGMS fundraiser.

-Due to the new calendar, school hours increased 10 minutes a day...lunch is shortened by 5 min and dismissal increased by 5 min. Middle school, grades 1-9 has to be 950 hours by law and at 1000 hours at high school.

ii) **Treasurer's Report (Alison Andrews)**

(see attached)

-Alison sent the financial statement sent to most everyone

The following was reported:

- On Sept 4, \$10,500 was in the bank
- Funds from school fees is about \$ 1000
- Pizza Fundraising: 2 pizzas are being sold this year which she estimates will make about \$5000
- Expenses: effective behaviour support \$500 in pencils, (Alison suggests we let parents know more about this and promote an understanding effective behaviour support by possibly adding a slogan on the pencils to promote awareness and understanding),
- \$500 to Stream of Dreams,
- Iron chef supplies \$25 (On agenda for next meeting to discuss more funding)
- year- end barbecue \$500
- year-end gifts \$50
- staff appreciation \$600
- \$2300 in reserve for school wishes (undesignated- table tennis came out of this)
- \$3500 in reserve for gathering area, gym equipment for daily physical activity ie. Balls (blanket amount as needed)
- Surplus of \$8500 for the year: The goal is to have \$4000 surplus at end of year (may want to get leadership kids have input as to how money is spent).

4. Grant Writing Initiatives: Leanne McKeown

Leanne asked Brian what should parent council's attention be focused on for writing a grant? Brian addressed some programming options and various grants were viewed. One of the areas Brian would like to visit is the Arts. Last year LGMS had an artist in residence, they used internal money to help pay for art supplies among other things. If we want to continue to develop this field, perhaps we need to write an "art" grant.

Liz was speaking with Sandy Mergler and created a society so they could receive grants and host a casino at ERS.

Alison Andrews brought up a point : Is our goal fundraising?

One option to explore is the Banff Community Foundation as they have an Art grant.

5. Community Involvement Letter (Alison Carter)

Alison talked to Jeannie Godfrey about Spanish options...There must be a teacher who is in charge and oversees the operation of this option. Volunteers are considered residents who are working under the supervision of a teacher. Insurance must also cover volunteers.

Japanese may also be an option.

Candace Chow from Healthy Eating may also come to next council meeting: suggestions are healthy snack options, and how to promote healthy eating without the emphasis on weight.

Alana suggested to have a snippet about nutrition in the newsletter.

- Other times for meeting were discussed. Learning component perhaps could be presented on another day at another time and open up to the public/ parents. A newsletter would go out to announce this. Host it for one hour, every third Thursday, for example at 6:00 pm. Learning actions have resulted in a lot of action from these Learning Component sections of our meetings. We need perhaps to decide what our learning components are first before making this decision.
- 6:30–7:30 Learning component for next meeting: Candace Chow: our meeting will run from 7:30 – 9:00 (Motion made by Alanna McLeod, seconded by Betty Mah)

6. Mental Health Emotional Intelligence Proposal

Adrienne Lawlor: tabled until next meeting in October

This was briefly discussed: Adrienne saw that many of initiatives discussed in council are interrelated. Her comment was that in the end, we all want happy kids...so we need happy parents, happy teachers etc...She wants to establish a "happiness factor" so that a foundation for learning and being good citizens exists. Adrienne wants to take on promoting happiness within the learning environment. She will take all the info she's learned tonight and process it for the next meeting.

7. TREX Art Display Proposal (Leanne McKeown)

Leanne looked at travelling educational art crates to display in the school. She tentatively booked some displays that are available during parent teacher interviews. The cost is \$75 per month..She's approached a gallery owner to sponsor this but interest is waning. The material in the crate will be displayed in the gathering area/ library/ computer area locations of high traffic.

Brian has talked to staff about putting art work up onto the bare walls. Perhaps do this every year.

(Alanna made the motion for council to pay the \$75 and if the gallery comes through as a sponsor this will be reimbursed. Liz Baker seconded the motion)

8. Welcome Back Staff Breakfast (Leanne McKeown)

Date: Wed. Sept. 19, 2012

Budget 75\$

Leanne will email info...7:45 a.m. set up

Leanne will do the Sobey's run for juice, etc...

9. Vacant Council Positions

- **Chair:** Leanne McKeown (Accepted)
- **Vice Chair:** Liz Baker
- **Volunteer coordinator:** Betty Mah has volunteered tentatively. This position is still up for grabs!
- **Pizza coordinator :** Karen Dreaver
- **Poinsettias:** need a volunteer: Liz Baker will provide support but does not want to organize/ coordinate this. Liz will talk to Ms. Murphy to see if the band kids can take on more of a roll.
- **Secretary:** Shari Worobey
- **Treasurer:** Alison Andrews
- **Communications Coordinator:** Alison Carter
- **Members at Large:** Alanna McLeod
- **Members at Large:** Lori Wynn
- **Members at Large:** Adrienne Lawlor
- **Non-Committed Members:** Ian Wilson, Don Pederson: They will attend meetings and be involved however they can.

10. Reporting Procedures (tabled)

11. Arts Programming at CCHS (tabled)

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Date and time of next meeting:

- October 10, 2012