

Highlights of October 25, 2011 HASC (Horace Allen School Council) Meeting

The October HASC meeting saw a full positive agenda with 20 people participating.

The chair, Scott Warris, presented information on what School Council is meant to do. He began by quoting the Alberta School Council Handbook:

School council is a collective association of parents, teachers, principal, staff and community representative(s) whose purpose is to advise the principal and the board respecting matters relating to the school. It is a means for parents and community members to work together with the school to support and enhance student learning.

He also highlighted that:

- The majority of school council are parents, and any parent/guardian of a child in HAS can be involved.
- His choice of format for the HASC would be the town-hall style, where we, as parents are welcomed and invited to attend all meetings and we'll all have a vote on school council matters.
- Council's responsibility is to create a culture of collaboration, to do that we need simple, regular communications.
- To achieve that Scott proposed creating a Communications Committee to create the content and organize regular communications with parents and the greater school council community through such means as the HAS web site, emails to parents, and the HAS newsletter.
- His full report will be available on HAS website.

Guest speaker was **LaVonne Rideout of the EC Mapping Project**.

- The EC Mapping Project is Alberta wide and collects data from kindergarten teachers to determine how the community is doing preparing our children for learning. Right now 27% of our kids are arriving at school without all the tools they need to be successful. You can view the entire presentation on the HAS web site or check out their website at www.ecmap.ca

Our principal, Elaine Garner presented her report next. Here are is a summary of events that you can participate in:

- Breakfast program has resumed. Volunteer help would be appreciated- if you can assist from approx. 8:15-8:45am please contact Penny at 563-5613 and you will be added to the list and advised of the schedule to help.
- Mon Oct 31st @ 1:30pm Costume Parade in Gym plus Halloween activities.
- Thursday Nov 10 @11:00am - Remembrance Day Assembly presented by K2 and Grade One classes. Both these events are open to the whole school community including friends and family.

- Nov 25th is Staff Planning day and the District Superintendent will be leading a session to work on a "Path" for HAS for upcoming years. Parent input is requested for this and if you are able to attend this meeting please advise Elaine or HASC.
- She also presented allocation of the budget of 1,470,840.53 for HAS.
- Her full report will be available on the website along with the budget presentation. It is very interesting -please look through it!

Our Vice Principal and Teacher Representative Myrna Dembicki presented the teacher's report, here are some highlights - as well her report will be posted to website.

- Pinnacle, the new electronic grading system. An info session will be part of the November 22 HASC meeting- please plan to attend.
- IEPT=**Inclusive Education Planning Tool**- info/update
- "Thank you, thank you, thank you" for the new HASC volunteer working session arrangement.
- Home Reading program funded partially by HASC use and distribution.
- Rides for Walking Students, could HASC consider a program for this.

Clara Yagos, School Trustee presented information on just what a trustee does and how they can be involved with our school council. Her full presentation will be available on the HAS web site.

Nicole Pearse HASC Volunteer Working Session Chair presented update:

- Every Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 8:30am to 11:30am.
- Parent volunteers work on various projects required by teachers and staff.
- Teachers are enthusiastically embracing the service with new project work being added regularly.
- Involvement has been positive and is growing, please consider joining in the fun!
This is a simple, effective way to be involved with your school.

Catherine Graham discussed school apparel. She has arranged a full selection of shirts, jackets and more with the HAS logo. Further discussion will take place on Weds Nov 2nd at the Working Session - come and join in that! Prices and order forms will be sent home with students in November.

Next School Council Meeting November 22. This will be a **joint meeting with ISS School Council** and will include a detailed presentation on the **Pinnacle** grading/report card system in the gym. More details will be available soon.

Please mark your calendars and plan now to attend...Everyone is always welcome!