

**Suzuki Charter School
School Council Meeting
Thursday, December 8, 2011**

Call to Order: 8:50 a.m.

Attendance: Dave Schenk, DeLee Foley, Karen Spencer, Beata Zitnansky, Shannon Eskow, Kerry Crawford, Marcie Arnold, Colette Fluett-Howrish, Arthur Guimaraes, Madame Gareau (attended briefly on behalf of teachers)

Approval of Agenda:

Approval of November 17, 2011 Minutes: Motion to approve by Kerry. Seconded by Shannon. All were in favor. Motion carried.

1. Principal Advisory – Karen Spencer

- a. **Extension of the lunch recess** – Karen requested further feedback from School Council. No concerns were noted.

- b. **Registration process** - The online survey given indicated that communication between some partners requires further clarification. As a result, the school will continue communication with partners, communicate registration information to parents through use of an informational video at this year's open house, display information on the website, and reinstate a paper copy of the parent handbook for new parents by next year.

2. School Council Goals – Dave Schenk

- Distributed Oct. Workshop notes for review. See attachment #1
- Distributed School Council Goals – See attachment #2
- Dave suggested that over the course of the year we review policies. Karen will bring a copy of the old policies.

3. Suzuki Approach in Action– Madame Gareau

- Madame Gareau gave an overview of the French Program, illustrating how it complimented the Suzuki Approach.

5. Old Business

5.1 Excellent Teacher Nomination – Kerry Crawford

- Kerry outlined the criteria for nominations which can be found at www.education.alberta.ca/teachers/excellence.aspx. The deadline for nominations is Feb. 3, 2012. Kerry volunteered to be the nomination coordinator. Discussion continued surrounding who would be a suitable candidate(s) for nomination.

5.2 Classroom Reps.

- A letter will be sent out shortly. Two \$10 gift cards will be drawn out of returned ballots in order to encourage response.

5.3 Hot Lunch - deferred

6. New Business

6.1 – Book Fair

- It was suggested that students not purchase books during their allotted times, but rather use that time as a preview and time to formulate a wish list. Parents can then come at a later time to make purchases, or arrangements can be made with the teacher if necessary. This is to alleviate the feelings of being left out by some younger children, as well as eliminate the bartering and negotiating that is taking place between students. School Council was in favor of this idea.

6.2 Craft Night – Mrs. Allen

- A family craft night has been planned for Dec. 16 from 6 – 7:30 pm in the library. Light refreshments will be served.

Next Meeting – Thursday, Jan 12, 2012 at 8:45 am in the school library.

Adjournment: 10:30 a.m.

These minutes are based on the writer's interpretation and are considered to be an accurate recording of the items discussed. Any discrepancies and/or omissions should be reported to the undersigned in writing or brought up at the next regular meeting.

**DeLee Foley
Secretary**

Attachment #1

School Council Workshop Highlights

1. Alberta School Council Association function:
 - advocate & train School Councils
2. School Council's mandate:
 - To advise to the board & principal on matters relating to the school
 - To support & enhance student learning
 - Challenge: to give parents a purpose & voice
3. Parent Involvement: more the better (studies prove it)
4. Role of S/C's:
 - Reflect Culture of School: **Discuss** - what is the culture of Suzuki Charter?
 - Be part of school-based decision making
 - Represent parents' views
5. Members: Parents, principal, teacher (others)
 - Purpose to give principal picture of what parents want (consensus)
6. **Discuss** - decide operating procedures/voting (follow the school act)
 - Check out Alberta School Council Resource Manual
7. Functions: To follow mandate (advise & enhance), know operating process/policies, carry out activities relating to its role in school-based decision making, handle money, give report to board.
8. School Councils...
 - Have the right to know reasons for decisions being made
 - Get agenda to speak to 3 year plan (need to understand & ask to be part of the plan)
 - Get parents to "come & be heard"
 - Are permitted to view school budget plans for up-coming year
 - Should ask how or where support to principal/school
 - Support meaningful involvement (what is meaningful to the volunteer)
 - do what works for the school
9. Fundraising Society: registered under the F/C act
 - **Needs to be separate from S/C**

*** For those really who want know more go to www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/ for more useful information.**

Attachment #2

Suzuki School Council Goals – 2011 – 2012

Goal 1: Support Student Learning, Achievement and School Improvement

➤ **Strategies:**

1. Be familiar with the school's "Three Year Plan."
2. Remain current on overall educational matters.
3. Be encouraging and communicate with faculty.
- 4.

Goal 2: Promote Meaningful Parental Involvement

➤ **Strategies:**

1. Support an active school council.
2. Encourage parental involvement all aspects of education.
3. Practice effective and open communication between all school partners.
- 4.

Goals 3: Support a Safe and Caring School

➤ **Strategies:**

1. Advise principal on issues of concern within the school community.
2. Support and organize school patrols.
3. Promote healthy living practices.
- 4.

Goal 4: Promote School Activities and Functions

➤ **Strategies:**

1. Promote Spring Concert & Auction.
2. Support Sports Day.
3. Encourage parents to participate at school functions.
- 4.