

**Harry Ainlay High School  
School Council Meeting  
January 28, 2008**

School Council Members present:

George Hoyt, Brian Nolan, Helen Rusich, Shron McKinnon, Joanne Jette, Amy Heidebrecht, Pat Sawatzky, Barb Greenlaw, Gane Olsen, Deb Olmstead, Heather Tansem

Recording Secretary, Heather Tansem

1. At 7:10 the meeting was called to order by chairperson, Pat Sawatzky, as she welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Reports:
  - a. **Student Council Report** was given by Amy Heidebrecht. Amy outlined the many events that are taking place.
    - January – Rotunda activity: hustle & line dancing
    - February – Aloha Ainlay on Feb. 14
      - Grad is selling 'Match Maker" from Feb. 13-15
      - Leadership has a guest speaker on Feb. 21 (gr. assemblies)
      - Tri-Prov begins this coming weekend, opening ceremonies Feb. 8
      - Rotunda activity – musical chairs
    - School Dance – Feb. 20
  - b. **Chairperson Report** – Pat Sawatzky  
Pat handed out the results of our **School Council Survey** which was completed in November. In general, the survey was meant to get anonymous feedback from School Council attendees on whether the format and items discussed at meetings were what attendees wanted. The three top items for people were:
    - 1) Principals' report
    - 2) Presentations on issues important to high school parents, i.e. Internet Safety, Drug Awareness
    - 3) Student Council Report (tied with) Presentations by School DepartmentsIt was recommended that this survey be done on a yearly basis and that the option of having the survey available online be looked, especially for parents who are unable to attend meetings. Requests for presentations on Mental Health and Teen Development, Internet Safety and Career Awareness will be considered.
  - c. **Key Communicator/Parents as Partners Rep** – Brian Nolan  
Brian Nolan and Pat Sawatzky attended a meeting on January 16th to give input on District Priorities for the 2008-11 . Several other council members reported filling out the online survey.  
Next meeting is a presentation by Alfie Kohn, entitled *Beyond Bribes and Threats: How Kids Benefit from Unconditional Parenting* on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 7-9 pm at Barnett House, 11010-142 Street. All parents are welcome at these meetings. For further information or to register, go to EPSB Parents as Partners Site: <http://partners.epsb.ca/CF/parents.cfm>

Brian passed on an invitation from Vernon Barford School Council (one of our feeder schools) to attend any of their parent presentations. Thursday, Jan. 31 on "Bullying" by Sandra Woitas and Monday, February 25 on Drug Awareness by Julian Madigan

- d. **HAMPA** - Sharon McKinnon reported on the upcoming activities for the Band Program including the Alberta Band Festival in Seattle, Big Band Bash on Feb. 23, and their next concert in March.
3. **Advocacy** – there is a meeting this Thursday, Jan 31 at the University of Alberta sponsored by PIA (Public Interest Alberta), which will focus on the concerns/downfalls of public education.
4. **Principal's Report** – presented by Gane Olsen in Rosalind Smith's absence (she was doing a presentation downtown at the Centre for Education)
  - a. Questions for parents was, "Does the orientation night in Sept. accomplish the goal of getting to know the teacher a little bit, their expectations, who they are? Etc?"  
"Do you want it moving from class to class (as your sons & daughters do each day) or have the teachers all in one place?" (overwhelming response was 'yes' to moving)
  - b. We added 14-15 new sections for classes in term 2. This keeps class size down and it is possible because of our surplus from last year. 14 new international students altogether for a total of 106 students. This Friday Mexican educators are coming to check out Ainlay's World Class education facility. Discussion followed regarding how full we are at Ainlay and how we are a very popular and successful school because we are multi-cultural, we have a good sense of community, kids are great, teachers are engaged and the parents care---what a combination!!
  - c. Registration for 2008-09 is April 16
  - d. 5 year agreement by the province for teachers will be signed January 31---no labor disputes for 5 years. The bigger issue now is 800 positions for teachers, support staff and custodial staff that could not be filled recently.
  - e. Marg Pepper retired today, she has been with Harry Ainlay since the very beginning, in fact she was the second employee that was ever hired here. Good-bye & best of luck in your retirement, Marg!
5. **Old Business – SLRT** – Pat drafted up a letter to send to the city to express our displeasure at the speed in which the pedestrian safety is being addressed. In Feb of 2007, we presented a video of the intersection of 111 St and 43 Ave. to the city planners. Their concern for pedestrian safety was absolutely immediate – even without the LRT! Nothing further has been done at this point, meetings are being postponed, etc. Please see Pat's letter (attachment).
6. **New Business** – The U of A is wondering if we would like a presentation on T2U "Transition to University" at a school council meeting. Discussion took place which noted that there were parent and student workshops at the university already that we can attend when need be.

7. **Parents at Ainlay Report** – Deb Olmstead distributed the Parent's At Ainlay article that is in the current newsletter. February's newsletter will feature "Stress in Teens". The committee is still deciding whether or not they will present at the Literacy & Learning Day Conference in April.

Joanne Jette addressed the Staff Appreciation Breakfast that is scheduled for June 6, 08.

Newsletter deadline for all submissions is Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>.

8. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00** in the school library.
9. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.