

Harry Ainlay High School  
School Council Mtg. –  
November 26, 2007

Recording Secretary, Heather Tansem

1. At 7:05 the meeting was called to order by chairperson, Pat Sawatzky, as she welcomed everyone for the evening.

2. Reports:

a. Student Council Report was given by Amy Heidebrecht.

b. Chairperson Report – Pat asked that everyone please fill out a parent survey to find out the reasons why parents come out to the school council meetings. Heather Tansem commended Pat on designing the survey to determine what parents are looking for when they attend. The survey will be included when the minutes are distributed so that anyone on the email communication list will be reminded to fill it out.

c. Key Communicator? Parents as Partners Rep – Brian Nolan

There has not been a meeting at Edmonton Public since the last Ainlay School council meeting. The next one is this Wed. Nov. 28 on the topic fundraising. Brian is unable to attend the meeting this time but he will get the information from a colleague and distribute it to the parents from H.A.M.P.A. since they have a fundraising arm. Jan. 30 will be the first meeting of 2008, the topic has not yet been announced.

d. HAMP A – the parent rep for HAMP A was not in attendance, so we did not have a report tonight.

3. Advocacy – there was no news or current issues reported.

4. Principal's Report – Rosalind Smith

a. Ms. Smith distributed a handout from the Society for Safe & Caring School & Communities (SACSC) – on "Bullying" – she explained that cyber-crime is a huge focus right now as they need to get a handle on it as soon as possible. This particular type of bullying is growing rapidly because you can bully people without actually being in their presence. It is easier to bully someone in cyberspace because your alter-ego will allow itself to do things that you would not do face to face.

Staff will be taking part in a presentation by Bill Baisley who is a speaker from Cochrane in charge of [www.cyberbullying.org](http://www.cyberbullying.org)

b. The Harry Ainlay results review was held in November with our new trustee, Catherine Ripley, along with Gerry Gibeault. They were very interested in initiatives or concerns for our school planning. One topic of concern as reported by Ms. Smith is the new curriculum that is currently being implemented, Social, Science and

then Math in 2008. There is a great need for extra funding to implement these new curriculums properly. The cost of textbooks alone is astronomical and then there is other reference material, audio-visual support, etc. There is a huge need for additional funding in order to implement new curriculum.

- c. A new initiative this year with regard to the Christmas Drama Production beginning on Dec. 11. "Guys & Dolls" has upwards of 52 cast members. They have numerous consecutive nights where they are rehearsing at the school. The staff has agreed to provide one study evening each so that these students can go to a supervised study hall each evening in December that is affected. This is a new commitment by teachers this year.
- d. Other activities coming up in December, the Jazz Band, the concert, an Athletic Banquet. In fact, both Senior Volleyball teams from Ainlay won the bronze medals in provincials play-offs this past w/e.
- e. Other focus for the next while:  
There were 1226 students that achieved the standard of excellence last year at Ainlay. Staff are working together to develop strategies to maintain this incredible accomplishment.

Next week the leadership team will be looking at ways to reduce stress at certain times of the year, for IB students as well as all others. For example the week of Jan 7-14 (the week the students come back from Christmas, before January exams is a very big week for quizzes & assignments,) staff is looking at how to reduce the load.

- f. School staff will be looking for feedback from Parent Teacher Conferences. There were 1200 appointments booked this November which is great. Is there another way to get information to parents that is as effective or better?
- g. There is a "Junk Food Ban" being suggested across Edmonton Public. The school will be looking for feedback from parents with regard to this initiative in the new year.

There is a significant CTS grants available to schools. Mr. McNair is currently working on a proposal. If it is granted to Harry Ainlay, it could be upwards of \$37,000 and can be put to very good use in our Career and Technology Service areas of instruction.

Scholarship Night is Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup> ---students have been sent a written invitation to attend the evening and parents are also welcome.

Questions for Rosalind:

1. How is enrollment right now?

Answer: it is continuous---every day! We are currently at 2289 students. Ainlay will need to hire at least 1.5 FTE's for the second term to accommodate new registrations.

2. What do you cap your classes at?

Answer: The learning commission recommends 27 but we try to keep ours at 30-31 students.

3. What are the areas of most concern?

Answer: Pressure points in Math 30, Bio 20 & 30, Physics 30 & 30, and so on. It is a challenge supporting students in other areas, such as mental health support.

5. Old Business – South LRT

6. – Rosalind has indicated that herself and the principal from Louis St. Laurent have agreed to a partnership for the remainder of this issue. They believe there will be “strength in numbers” as they deal with this issue further. No report of late, but Jan. 26 is the date they are suggesting for a the next planning/reporting date.

Parents at Ainlay – two items of interest from Deb Olmstead

- a. Catherine Ripley, school trustee, has contacted the Parents at Ainlay committee to see if they might be interested in presenting at the Literacy & Learning Day Conference in April. This is something they would like to do and so the committee is putting together a proposal for them.
- b. Deb indicated that they would not be putting a new Parents at Ainlay article December 2007 newsletter. Rosalind suggested using one from a previous year as many parents would not have read one that was written in 2005, for example.

7:55 the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in the school library.