

T.A.C. Meeting Minutes
Theme: Year Wrap Up
Tuesday, May 20th, 2008
Dr. Marg McDonough Library
(4:00 – 5:30)

MEETING GOAL:

- a. Review & Discuss Video by Dr. Dan Brown “The History of Traditional”
- b. Review the Year’s Events & Set Dates For Next Year
- c. Collect Feedback for Creation of TAC Website & Traditional Teachers’ Orientation

Agenda Items:

Welcome, Attendance & Distribute Materials

Attendees (12): J. Field, S. Lawson, V. Neufeldt, R. Sidhu, A. Wiebe, S. Schleppei, D. Rama, G. Hildebrand, R. Kandal, L. Toews, J. Parker, W. Bradford

Updates

Dr. Marg McDonough Library Dedication – April 22nd, 2008

- Picture of dedication to be framed and mounted.
- District order to place post for mounting of quotation by M. McDonough Reading Circle has been placed
- Video of event to be edited and distributed to member schools.

Traditional School’s Appreciation Dinner – May 12th, 2008

- Approximately 30 parents, teachers, administrators, trustees and superintendents were in attendance.
- Principals gave school reports
- Trustees & Superintendents spoke about the growth of the program.

Traditional School’s Spelling Bee – May 15th, 2008

- Gr. 5’s from South Poplar and Auguston participated
- Event was organized by Mr. Lawson, Mr. Stobbe and Mrs. Bathe
- Event was hosted at ATMS/ATSS
- Auguston student won the event

Video – “The History of Traditional” taken from ATMS PD April, 2008

- Improvements to current edition include improving sound to stereo and making title text for each chapter larger.
- 14 copies of the DVD are required for member schools, Dr. Dan Brown & Dr. Marg McDonough

SUMMARY:

Dr. Brown outlined 3 defining characteristics of Traditional Schools:

High Academic Standards – programs were focused on academics and had high standards for student performance. “Good enough” was not good enough. Students who had difficulties were spotted earlier. It was not easy to get grades and student work ethic was high. Student success was recognized and celebrated.

Emphasis on Student Care – principals were constantly vigilant to nip discipline problems in the bud, the schools all had clearly defined dress codes and student uniforms, there was a focus on “antibullying”, school norms were known by and actively monitored/enforced by everyone (staff & parents) & student self discipline was a school wide focus. The values behind behaviour guidelines were explained to students to ensure understanding.

Parents As Partners – parents were not just involved in their schools, but integrated into their daily operations. Parents were seen on site all throughout the day and PAC meetings were largely attended by families. Parents were active in fund raising for their school and felt that the school honoured their family values.

GROUP FEEDBACK FROM VIDEO

Back To Basics - When the King Traditional Elementary first came into existence the educational climate was distinct. Year 2000 reforms calling for student directed learning and open classroom concepts were seen by some families as unsuccessful models. Parents wanted to have a school where structure, control, quality instruction and a focus on character development were consistent across all classes. Parent felt that open concept classes promoted by the Year 2000 were in many cases chaotic and that students were not being taught the basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills required for a good education. The students were happy, working in groups and exploring their interests, but they didn't seem to read or write as well as in previous years.

Antibullying – some students had noted that the traditional elementary schools were places where students felt safer. When there was a problem on the playground, teachers actually did something about it.

A Desire For Greater Parental Voice – parents in the era were feeling that in most schools the only time they got invited was when fundraising was needed. Parents who backed traditional schooling wanted greater say in the education of their children and wanted to be treated as meaningful partners.

A Sense of Purpose – our schools are more intentional in their attempts to better educate students. The schools have a greater sense of their vision and purpose. They seem to be universally shared by all parties working in conjunction for the same goal. Issues that affect student development are discussed with the entire staff and parent feedback is used to shape decisions.

Changing Perceptions of Grades – a generation ago the average grade in school was a “C”. Now many parents feel their student is not performing well unless they are getting “B”'s. Honest evaluation was seen to be a defining characteristic of the traditional elementary schools. Students who got A's did not just meet the curricular objectives, but went beyond them in everyway. There was a perception that getting an “A” was no easy feat and that students had to work very hard to get one. Parents sometimes send their students to traditional because they think their child will be more likely to get better grades. While it is true that a more ordered environment may facilitate student learning it might actually be harder for students to get good grades in our schools. Typically, our schools assign more homework and track its completion more diligently.

Directions for Next Year

- 4 meetings will be held next year (dates are posted at end of minutes)
- TAC will focus more on projects, event planning and sharing of information from member schools.
- Major projects for next year include the development of a TAC Webpage and organizing a Teacher Orientation. Currently 13 teaching position in our schools have gone to posting.
- 2009/2010 our schools will organize and deliver a Provincial Wide PD Series on Traditional and/or Choice.

TAC Website

Proposal – develop a TAC website the will serve to:

- a. Act as a repository of Traditional School information for the benefit of new parents, staff and students.
- b. Provide a venue for promoting and celebrating excellence in our programs.
- c. Act as an official link between our schools. Our individual school websites would be brought together in a central location.
- d. Act as a vehicle for the planning of Traditional School Events (Master Calendar, PD, Interschool Events)
- e. Provide a venue for sharing TAC and/or Traditional School news with the community at large. (Photo Gallery)

Action Plan:

- a. Collect initial feedback from TAC to develop a DRAFT webpage with the technical assistance of Mr. Doug Williams.
- b. Share DRAFT with members at first meeting of 2008/2009 academic year
- c. Perfect site based on member feedback & update throughout the year.

GROUP FEEDBACK FOR TAC WEBSITE

- The site will connect all member schools and provide a central location for accessing their sites.
- TAC materials will be shared on this site (meeting dates, agendas, minutes, etc.)
- TAC developed documents will be accessible (The 10 Tenets, Key Visuals, Dress Code Essential Agreements, Codes of Conduct Mission Statements, Student Courtesy Codes, Athletes' Honour Codes, etc)
- Testimonials/Informationals from all members of our community (parents, teachers, students, TOC's) will be shared so that prospective members will have an idea of our school climates.
- A History of Traditional will provide information about the programs growth since 1995.
- A "Frequently Asked Qxs" section will be available.
- A "Day in the Life of King" video will be posted and used as a model for a newer version of this resource.
- Dr. Dan Brown's lecture will be posted.
- A "Parent Survey" will be posted. Parents will take the survey to gauge their level of interest in the programs. Completion of this survey will be a prerequisite to registering a child and parents will use the website to register their student.
- All school brochures, student handbooks will be accessible.
- Dress Codes, images of student uniform items and ordering information for all schools will be available.
- Milestones will be catalogued with summaries and pictures, including King's 10 Year Anniversary, The Opening of ATMS, The dedication of the Dr. Marg McDonough Library and the First Annual Traditional Schools Spelling Bee.

- Links to other traditional school through out Canada and North American will be provided.
- Research & Documents will be available so that studies on our schools can be reviewed.
- THE SITE WILL BE PRESENTED IN DRAFT FORM TO TAC AND THEN ALL SCHOOL PAC'S.

Traditional School's Orientation for New Staff 2008/2009

- Once we have an idea of how many new staff we have for 2008/2009
- Information about Traditional Schools needs to be available to potential hires in June before their consider our programs.
- The development of a Traditional Teachers Orientation short course is needed. Teachers would have to take the course as a prerequisite before applying to our schools. It would be a good way to provide information prior to interview so that teachers themselves could decide whether or not they were a fit for our programs.

2008/2009 Meeting Schedule

Date	Theme
October, Tuesday 21 st , 2008	Principal Reports, TAC Website
December, Tuesday 16 th , 2008	TBA
February, Tuesday 24 th , 2009	TBA
May, Tuesday 26 th , 2009	TBA