

Alberta Chinese Language Consortium
1:10 pm, May 27, 2013 (Amended on Oct 21, 2013)
Videoconference Meeting: Confucius Institute in Edmonton,
Languages Centre at Woodcroft, Edmonton
CBE Ed Centre, Calgary

Chair: Stuart Wachowicz, Chair of Confucius Institute in Edmonton Board of Directors and Advisory Board

Attendees:

Edmonton: Stuart Wachowicz/Wei Li/Sijun Wu, Confucius Institute in Edmonton (CIE); Doreen Poon-Phillips/John Yee, Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association (ECBEA); Xinxin Fang, Chinese Language Advisor; Alberta Education; Norman Sieweke, EPSB/IISLE; Magdalena Tundak, Edmonton Catholic Schools; Joe Wu, U of Alberta; Guests: Consul Xue/Consul Du, Chinese Consulate from Vancouver

Calgary: Elaine Schmidt, Calgary Board of Education

1. Call to order and welcome

Stuart Wachowicz welcomed everyone.

2. Approval of the Minutes from October 29, 2012

Amendments to the last minutes:

Woodcroft Learning Center should read: Learning Centre at Woodcroft.

Wei Li motioned to adopt the minutes as amended, Joe Wu seconded. Carried.
Amended minutes will be posted on CIE website.

3. Old Business arising from the minutes

n/a

4. Updates

Alberta Education Chinese Language Advisor – Xinxin Fang

- Dr. Xinxin Fang gave an update on: Student and Teacher Exchanges, Delegation Visits, Professional Development and Scholarship. Details see notes attached.

Calgary Board of Education – Elaine Schmidt

- About 500 students registered in the bilingual program.
- Will open the 3rd elementary bilingual school in Sept 2014.
- Highwood School's K-6 will move the Grade 5 and 6 students to Colonel Irvine School in September.
- Junior High's enrollment grows quickly.
- The Chinese Bridge Competition in May 10 was well received by the bilingual and public.

- 31 junior high students participated in the YCT level 2 and HSK level 4 exams.
- Thanks to Hanban and Alberta Education for the assistance for the trip in China.
-

Edmonton Catholic School Board - Magdalena Tundak

- Currently do not have Chinese program offered in Edmonton Catholic, hope to have it in the future.
- Thanks for the information of summer camp.

Edmonton Public School Board – Norman Sieweke

- Refer to notes from Norman. The main updates are:
 - Partnership work with Confucius Institute in Edmonton
 - EPSB Can-Do Statements for Chinese Language Arts
 - In-service: Math in the Chinese Bilingual Program – Grade 2
 - Literacy Foundations for Bilingual & French Immersion Programs
 - Off to a Good Start
 - Second Languages Matter PD Day – Feb 14, 2014

Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association (ECBEA) – Doreen Poon-Phillips, John Yee

- Advertising campaign started in January. Information brochure for elementary and Junior high updated
- Good enrollment for the 5 elementary schools
- The request for the new site was rejected by EPSB, will explore other options.
- Chinese New Year events at City Centre Mall and West Edmonton Mall were successful.
- ECBEA scholarship award in process. Will present about \$20,000 to students this year. This is the first year students can apply the scholarship on line and the application went well.
- The award ceremony will be held on June 9th, 2013 from 1 pm to 4:30pm at City Hall. All are welcome.
- John Yee and Peter Wong attended the conference in Vancouver to provide experience of the bilingual program.

University of Alberta – Joe Wu

- All minor undergraduate programs will be gone because of U of A's severe budget cut.
- Certificate program might be offered as alternatives.
- CIDA will finish the last international project in China.
- The Faculty of Education and EPSB are working together to use the bilingual program to support the teaching program in minority areas in China. CIDA will provide \$300,000 to support this project.

University of Lethbridge

n/a

Confucius Institute in Edmonton

- Dr. Wei Li gave an updates on the followings, details see notes attached:
- Visitors to CIE
- YCT and HSK tests for schools
- HSK test for the general public
- CIE winter session graduation
- Principal delegation trip to China
- A new book launch
- CIE and Guofeng gala
- Alberta Chinese Bridge Competition for elementary and high school students
- 5th Anniversary of CIE and re-signing of the partnership agreement

Others

Stuart Wachowicz updated on the Branding Project.

- Special funding from Hanban is required to fund the branding project.
- Madame Xu Lin showed support to this branding project.
- New CIE website with on-line registration form is being designed.
- The branding project will be launched on June 19th, 2013
- Re-signing of the partnership between EPSB and Shandong Education Commission is on June 19th, 2013.

5. New Business

Action to be taken with Professional development survey

- A draft letter to the Minister of Education regarding the redesigning of Chinese language curricula is presented for discussion.
- Doreen Poon-Phillips, on behalf of the ECBEA, will support the ideas in the draft letter.
- Stuart Wachowicz will contact the Faculty of Arts at U of A regarding this draft letter (**Action**).
- Doreen Poon-Phillips motioned to submit the letter to the Minister of Education in relation to the redesign of Chinese language curriculum, Sijun Wu seconded. All in favor. Carried.

Ideas for additional potential projects

- The idea of teaching mathematics in target language in the bilingual program was discussed.
- Teacher's proficiency to teach math, the availability of resources and the ability of the students to understand the math questions were the challenges raised during the meeting.
- Stuart Wachowicz will create a proposal to bring teachers together for discussion to create some ideas for the feasibility of teaching math in the target language. (**Action**)

6. Other Business

- Consul Xue and Consul Du were pleased to see the program and activities happen in Alberta. Her office will support the development of Chinese language.
- Chinese Government Scholarships are available for undergraduate and graduate students.

7. Next Meeting: Monday, October 21, 2013, 9:30 am at CIE

8. Meeting adjourned

Doreen Poon-Phillips motioned to adjourn meeting at 3:15pm; seconded by John Yee.