

Alberta Chinese Language Consortium
9:50 am, June 25, 2012
Videoconference Meeting: Confucius Institute in Edmonton,
Woodcroft Learning Center, Edmonton

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, Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association (ECBEA); Xinxin Fang, Chinese Language Advisor; Xenia Bubel, Alberta Education; Ryan Dunch, University of Alberta; Norman Sieweke, EPSB/IISLE

Video Conference: Helmut Kriser, Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD); Wei Cai, University of Calgary

1. Call to order and welcome

Stuart Wachowicz welcomed everyone.

2. Approval of the Minutes from January 16, 2012

Amendments to the last minutes:

ECBEA reports:

- 5 advertising billboards, instead of 2 have started to increase enrollment.
- Clarified the wording for “Lost Year”: The documentary film, “Lost Year”, supported by ECBEA won the Best Documentary Award (History & Culture) & Prize at the Guangzhou International Documentary Film Festival on Dec 5, 2011 held in Guangdong, China.

Doreen Poon-Phillips motioned to adopt the minutes as amended, Norman Sieweke seconded. Carried.

3. Old Business arising from the minutes

Professional Development questionnaire

- There is no feedback since the last meeting. Stuart will review the questionnaire. (Action)
- Stuart Wachowicz to email a copy of the questionnaire to Wei Cai. (Action)
- It is suggested to do electronic version of survey e.g. survey monkey.
- Stuart motioned to send survey out electronically and given 2 weeks in the beginning of October for feedback. Helmut Kriser seconded.
- Some suggestions for the questionnaire:
 - #2 and #4 are redundant. They should be combined.
 - Add Second language conferences to #1.
 - PD series on data bank on website.
 - Teaching resources.

Ryan Dunch motioned to accept the survey as amended. Wei Li seconded. All in favor.

Dr. ZHOU Fang's PD presentation did not occur. CIE will try to invite Dr. ZHOU again in Fall and can try video conferencing with Calgary.

4. Updates

Alberta Education Chinese Language Advisor

- Two students from Red Deer Public got full Chinese government scholarship —5 years scholarship (1 year for language training, 4 years for degree study)—one in history in Wuhan univ.; one in education in CNU—the first time on other major rather than Chinese Language.
- CBE teachers visit CNU in Beijing and schools in Chongqing in March
- Red Deer hunting hills students visit CNU in Beijing and schools in Chongqing in April.
- St. Albert Protestant schools + Grande Yellowhead public schools + Grande Prairie public schools delegation visited Beijing and Chongqing in May.
- Chongqing Southwest Univ. visited in May 19-22, exploring master degree candidate of Chinese international education do practicum/internship in Alberta schools.
- China trip July 8th to 15th. Participants from 15 school districts are participating, visiting Hanban and Chongqing.
- One volunteer teacher from Chongqing came in March to Chester Ronning School, Battle River school district, to teach Chinese language and culture.
- One exchange teacher from Chongqing coming in Sep. to Red Deer public to start teaching in Junior high, for 2 years.
- One Chongqing Beibei district school principals delegation visit St. Albert Public Schools + Grande Yellowhead Public schools + Grande Prairie Public schools from end of Oct to early Nov.
- 3rd Fenghua Cup Chinese Competition supported by QiaoBan (Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council) will be held on Nov. 24th 2012, by 4 Chinese heritage schools: 70ish students attend.—AE supports some prize
- Education Consul Zhang finished his work by June and New Education Consul Du Jian starts from June.

Calgary Catholic School District

- Helmut Kriser reported that by the end of the year, the IB program in Father Lacombe School will no longer be available.

Edmonton Public School Board

- Norman Sieweke reported that the meeting with elementary and junior high bilingual teachers will continue in next year. Topics include Shandong partnership, Can-do statement, Chinese language portfolio, performance assessment and how to use technology.
- Teaching Math at 95% in target language.
- Junior High Can-do statement is ready in draft form, will be ready in Fall.

Alberta Education

- Xenia Bubel reported Alberta Education is working on a 10 point plan, how to address some of the most pressing challenges students face.

Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association (ECBEA)

- Doreen Poon-Phillips reported events since last meeting: Chinese New Year celebrations at Metropolis, WEM, City Center Mall; 30th anniversary banquet; award ceremony.
- All kindergarten classes in 5 bilingual elementary schools are full.
- Having another bilingual school in another site will not be happening in the immediate future.
- ECBEA continue to work on retaining students in the program.

University of Alberta

- Ryan Dunch reported hosting the 1st Chinese Bridge Competition for university students at U of A.
- U of A hires Dr. Xun Guo Zhan as a lecturer in Chinese.
- Staffing is a challenge.
- Funding is a challenge for graduate support.
- Language classes tagged as expensive.

University of Calgary

- Wei Cai reported HSK and YCT tests will be offered in Oct and Nov.
- U of C invited Dr. Bai as a lecturer last year; will try to bring more scholars to U of C for lecturing.

Confucius Institute in Edmonton

- Stuart Wachowicz presented the Update including the following events:
- Alberta First Chinese Bridge Competition for university students.
- The 5th Alberta Chinese Bridge Competition for Elementary and Secondary students.
- 2012 Spring YCT and HSK tests.
- Scholarship from CIE and Alberta Acupuncturists and Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Association.
- Book Purchasing for High Schools.
- Chinese Test Summer Camp to Shanghai.
- Hanban Special Scholarship.
- YCT scholarship and Chinese Bridge summer camp at CIE.

- 2012 YCT & HSK Scholarship ceremony.
- Change of staff at CIE.
- Promotion Strategies.

5. New Business

Confucius Institute – ASBALE scholarships for 2012

- One teacher receives the ASBALE scholarship 2012 to study in Shanghai for a month.

Action to be taken with Professional development survey

- Stuart Wachowicz to revise the survey form and send it out in October for feedback.

Possible project for discussion (CIE)

- CIE Board of Directors has approved the initial 2 phases of marketing by Donovan Creative. CIE will have a follow up meeting with Donovan tomorrow.

Ideas for additional potential projects

- It was suggested to bring all the parties together to promote the program to increase the quality of teaching and the quantity of students.

6. Other Business

- Helmut Kriser from Calgary Catholic School District suggests setting up a network for students to communicate with each other in high school level.
- Stuart Wachowicz to send an email link to Helmut Kriser to assign chat room #10 from oovoo to link with Lillian Osborne and Queen Elizabeth.
(Action)

7. Next Meeting: 1:00 pm, Monday Oct 29, 2012 at CIE

8. Meeting adjourned

Doreen Poon-Phillips motioned to adjourn meeting at 11:50 am; seconded by Sijun Wu.