

**Alberta Chinese Language Consortium**  
**9:30 am, October 21, 2013**  
**Videoconference Meeting: Confucius Institute in Edmonton,**  
**Languages Centre at Woodcroft, Edmonton**  
**Manning Centre, Calgary**

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

**Attendees:**

**Edmonton:** Stuart Wachowicz, Confucius Institute in Edmonton (CIE); Doreen Poon-Phillips/John Yee/ Heather-Jane Au, Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association (ECBEA); Xinxin Fang, Chinese Language Advisor; Alberta Education; Melody Kostiuk, EPSB/IISLE; Joe Wu, U of Alberta

**Calgary:** Lilien Perera Perez/Carmen Fandino, Calgary Board of Education

**1. Call to order and welcome**

Stuart Wachowicz welcomed everyone.

**2. Approval of the Minutes from May 27, 2013**

Amendments to the last minutes:

Learning Center at Woodcroft should read: Languages Centre at Woodcroft.

Doreen Poon-Phillips moved to adopt the minutes as amended, Melody Kostiuk seconded. Carried.

Amended minutes will be posted on CIE website.

**3. Old Business arising from the minutes**

**Letter to the Minister (update)**

The letter has been sent to the Minister. There is no response yet. Stuart Wachowicz will follow up.

**Proposal on Math PD as per CBE request**

A draft proposal for teaching Math in Mandarin Bilingual schools has been prepared. It will be discussed under New Business.

**4. Updates**

Edmonton Catholic School Board, Calgary Catholic School District and University of Lethbridge declined to attend this meeting since the Chinese language program is no longer offered.

### **Alberta Education Chinese Language Advisor – Xinxin Fang**

- Dr. Xinxin Fang gave an update on: 1. The 2013 Chinese Bridge Summer Camp for Canadian students in Beijing and Harbin; 2. Fenghua Cup Chinese Speech Competition in November; 3. Chinese Writing Competition in October; 4. Professional Development; 5. Delegation visits. Details see notes attached.

### **Calgary Board of Education – Lilien Perera Perez**

- 639 students registered in the Bilingual Program.
- 261 registered in Language and Culture Program

### **Edmonton Public School Board – Melody Kostiuk**

- On behalf of Norman Sieweke, Meoldy Kostiuk gave an update on: 1. Enrolment for Chinese Bilingual schools; 2. Partnership work with CIE; 3. Chinese Resources for Teaching Math; 4. Chinese Technologies Self-Guided Tours; 5. IISLE Website with Chinese Expansion; 6. Bilingual Program Share Site; 7. Literacy Foundations for Bilingual & French Immersion Programs; 8. In-service: Math in the Grade 2 Chinese Bilingual Program; 9. Off to a Good Start; 10. Second Language Matter PD Day. Details see notes attached.
- The ECBEA reps noted that according to their stats, there should be 1906 students in the Chinese Bilingual program rather than 1836 student reported.

### **Alberta Education**

- Dr. Xinxin Fang gave an update for the Alberta Education.
- U of Alberta Museums organized the World of Splash Ink exhibition and educational programs for students. Alberta Education subsidized \$10 per students to participate in this interactive program. There are 28 time slots of the program and each session can take up to 35 students.

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

- ECBEA has been busy with the Chinese Night Market, Heritage Day, School Award Ceremony, Chinese New Year events at WEM and City Centre Mall,
- ECBEA has meeting with the new superintendent last month
- One of the marketing strategies is to try to improve retention rate of students from elementary to junior high and from junior high to senior high.

### **University of Alberta – Joe Wu**

- Budget is still a problem, which affect the second language teacher training.
- Guangxi delegations visited Edmonton and Calgary Chinese bilingual schools and French immersion schools.

- CIDA program will be out of China at the end of the year

### **Confucius Institute in Edmonton – Stuart Wachowicz, Dr. Wei Li**

- CIE organized the HSK and YCT tests in the spring and will support MacEwen University to start the Business Chinese Test (BCT).
- CIE became a member of the Chamber of Commerce in Edmonton in July.
- CIE supported a Chinese Mandarin class for parents in Dovercourt School.
- There are 3 new applications for the Confucius Classrooms.
- 3 students will represent Edmonton to participate in the International Chinese Bridge Competition in Beijing from October 20 to November 4.
- Upon requests, CIE can assist the Confucius Classrooms to apply for visiting teachers to help out Chinese language and culture in the schools starting next school year.
- CIE has a redesigned website and newsletter.
- Input and ideas are welcome for “Why to Learn Chinese”.
- A Lethbridge school will complete the application form for Confucius Classroom by next week.

## **5. New Business**

### **Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (ACAT) Questionnaire**

- It was suggested to correlate curriculum to CFER, HSK.
- Need standardized measure of proficiency.
- Need meeting forum or continuing support from the Language Consortium.
- Stuart Wachowicz will draft the response for the questionnaire. Feedbacks is welcome from the consortium members.

### **Professional Development Session**

- Dr. ZHOU Fang will have a seminar on Chinese Language Resources and Chinese Language Teaching on Oct 24. Video of the seminar will be posted in the CIE website. (Action)
- Information for Dr. ZHOU Fang’s seminar to be sent to Lilien, Melody and Norman (Action).

### **Strategy for Math Support for Chinese Bilingual Education**

- Stuart Wachowicz presented a draft proposal entitled “Discussions on the Future and Needed Supports for Teaching Mathematics in Chinese Bilingual Programs in Alberta”. Details see notes attached.
- Three committee meeting dates for discussion as per the draft were proposed: Jan 20, Feb 24 & Mar 10.
- Lilien Perera Perez will gather data from the Calgary and share with Edmonton and will confirm the dates later.

### **Strategy to grow Chinese Language and Culture enrollment across the province**

- CIE is planning to make a 3-4 minutes promotional video.

- A half day symposium a year from now for the Role of Chinese in Alberta is proposed with partnership with the China Institute and East Asian Studies at the U of A.

**6. Other Business**

- A conference hosted by Edmonton ALPHA (Association for Learning & Preserving the History of WWII in Asia) will take place at CIE on Nov 23. The title of the conference is “Why History Matters: The Need for Learning about the Past so that we can Avoid a Catastrophic Future.”
- Lilien Perera Perez has questions about the MOU for Confucius Classroom. Dr. Fang suggested that Sheila McLeod should contact the Vancouver Consul General. Stuart Wachowicz also added that the CIE is able to assist in establishment of a Confucius Classroom, subsequent to a request from the district involved, and a protocol for such requests is in development.

**7. Next Meeting:** Monday, March 17, 2014, 9:30 am at CIE

**8. Meeting adjourned**

Heather-Jane Au motioned to adjourn meeting at 12:00pm; seconded by Lilien Perera Perez.