

Alberta Chinese Language Consortium

9:55 am, January 16, 2012

Videoconference Meeting: Confucius Institute in Edmonton, Woodcroft Learning Center, Edmonton and CBE Ed Centre 1221-8 Street SW, Calgary (Amended on June 25, 2012)

Chair: Stuart Wachowicz, Director of Confucius Institute in Edmonton

Attendees:

Edmonton: Stuart Wachowicz/Wei Li, Confucius Institute in Edmonton (CIE); Doreen Poon-Phillips /John Yee, Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association (ECBEA); You Fu, Chinese Language Advisor; Magdalena Tundak, Edmonton Catholic Schools; Sigrid Olsen, Alberta Education; Daniel Fried, University of Alberta

Calgary: Elaine Schmidt, Calgary Board of Education (CBE); Micheline Theoret-Fernandez, Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD)

1. Call to order and welcome

Stuart Wachowicz welcomed everyone.

2. Approval of the Minutes from Oct 31, 2011

Corrections to the last minutes:

- in the Attendees, Calgary Catholic School District's initial should be CCSD
- Item # 2, Ms. Micheline's last name should be Theoret-Fernandez
- Page 2, Alberta Education Chinese Language Advisor's report: Beibei is a school district, not a University.
- Page 2, Calgary Catholic School report should read: 2 students from Father Lacombe High School went to China for a week in the fall 2011. Father Lacombe High School provides IB program for Mandarin 10, 20 and 30.

Magdalena Tundak motioned to adopt the minutes as amended, Daniel Fried seconded.

3. Updates

Alberta Education Chinese Language Advisor

- You Fu attended the 6th Confucius Conference in Beijing in December.
- Confucius Institute in Edmonton won the Confucius Institute of the Year Award.
- There will be a China study tour in July in Chungqing, sponsored by Hanban.
- ECBEA is celebrating 30th anniversary with a banquet in February.
- You Fu will help spread information of online HSK and practice test.

- Attended Chinese Speech Competition in Calgary.
- Wei Li suggested Elaine Schmidt to contact University of Calgary to get access to HSK testing centre in Beijing. He can provide help if needed.

Calgary Board of Education

- CBE is actively working on the second elementary bilingual program.

Calgary Catholic School District

No report.

Edmonton Catholic Schools

2 elementary schools have contacted the Confucius Institute in Edmonton for Chinese cultural supports.

Edmonton Public School Board

Norman Sieweke was not in the meeting but provided a handout. Topics are:

- Partnership Work with Confucius Institute in Edmonton
- Chinese Bilingual Cluster Meetings
- Second Language Literacy Series
- Program Alignment Document for Bilingual Programs
- Second Languages Matter PD Day – Feb 17, 2012 – Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton

Red Deer

N/A

Alberta Education

- The superintendent will try to find a candidate to join the study tour in July 8-15.
- Will encourage 15 students to participate in the China summer camp next year.
- Xenia Bubel is back to work from sabbatical.

University of Alberta

- The East Asian Studies Department has established a Chinese course for bilingual graduates.
- The Department has contacted local high schools to introduce the new course.

Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association (ECBEA)

- 5 advertising billboards, instead of 2 have started to increase enrollment.
- ECBEA support a group of potential parents to request for a new bilingual school in the south west.
- ECBEA is joining with the Confucius Institute in Edmonton and Chinese Graduates Association in Alberta to organize the Chinese New Year event in Metropolis with performance and cultural activities.

- There will be Chinese New Year celebration activities at the City Center Mall and West Edmonton Mall.
- The 30th anniversary celebration banquet will be on Feb 25 at Mayfield Inn. Tickets are available.
- 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.
- CBC will be screening the film on Feb 18 (Part 1) and Mar 3 (Part 2).
- The documentary for ECBEA, produced by Omni, will be ready for screening in April.
- ECBEA is planning a tree planting project for the bilingual schools.
- A Catholic School has contacted John Yee for performances in the Chinese New Year. Magdalena Tundak will follow up with the requests.

Confucius Institute in Edmonton

- Concordia High School is applying to be one of the Confucius Classrooms.
- Chinese Writing Contest in December was successful. Some award winners are from Calgary. The award ceremony was well attended.
- CIE is continuing to provide cultural support to Edmonton Public Schools upon requests. Sessions like Modern China and Chinese History will be introduced to the high schools.
- CIE will continue to support ASBALE and will double the number of recipients from 2 to 4.
- CIE will start the Confucius Institute Pingpong Club in February on Mondays.
- CIE will continue to offer evening and Saturday courses in the Winter session.
- CIE will organize the purchase of high school resources in April.
- Delegations from Shandong will be arriving on Feb 4 for the East of the Mountains Water Project. They will be partnered with 5 local high schools. Sigrid Olsen will send representatives to attend the meeting on Feb 6.
- There were 1300 YCT, HSK tests from Spring and Fall. Wei went to individual school to introduce the on-line HSK evaluation tests.
- CIE will try to introduce BCT (Business test) to Grant MacEwan.
- CIE will continue to organize Chinese Bridge for elementary, junior and senior high schools, and will expand it to University level.
- Dr. Zhou Fang from Beijing University will be coming for a Professional Development session, the date is not confirmed. This PD session can be recorded or linked to other teachers in the province through the web. Calgary is interested in the video link.
- CIE will continue to support \$1000 for the ECBEA scholarship.
- CIE will continue to support the YCT summer camp, China trip summer camp, HSK scholarship summer camp. Details will be announced later.

- CIE will support the teaching music globally project, an opportunity for teachers of music or art to study music and art in Liaocheng in the summer. Stuart will email updates for the music and art summer program to the members of the Consortium when it is ready. (Action).
- If the demand is substantial, CIE will look at the logistic to transport library books within the province.
- There will be a gala on Feb 11, performance by the Central China Normal University Art Troupe from Wuhan to celebrate Chinese New Year and CIE award of the year. Contact Wei Li and Brenda Chan for tickets.

4. New Business

- Stuart will talk to ASBALE and make sure the scholarship information will be sent to the schools when it is ready (Action).
- Dr. Zhou Fang's PD session will be in March.
- Stuart will re-draft the PD survey to make it more general and send out again for comments. (Action). Elaine Schmidt motioned to accept the changes of the draft survey, seconded by Micheline Theoret-Fernandez. The survey to be finalized over email by the end of February and distributed in March or April.
- Sigrid Olsen mentioned some funding through ALPDC for small language grant for language PD. The contact people are Dr. Jean Hoel and Ms. Val Olekshy.
- Wei Li, You Fu and Daniel Fried will meet on Jan 25 to discuss Chinese Bridge for U of A, U of C and other post secondary students. (Action).

5. Other Business

N/A

6. Next Meeting: 9:30am on June 4, 2012.

7. Meeting adjourned

Daniel Fried motioned to adjourn meeting at 11:25am; seconded by Doreen Poon-Phillips