

Alberta Chinese Language Consortium
9:45 am, Oct 31, 2011

Videoconference Meeting: Confucius Institute in Edmonton, Woodcroft Learning Center, Edmonton and Manning Centre, Calgary

Chair: Stuart Wachowicz, Director of Confucius Institute in Edmonton

Attendees:

Edmonton: Stuart Wachowicz/Wei Li, Confucius Institute in Edmonton (CIE); Wei Wong /John Yee, Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association (ECBEA); Norman Sieweke, Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education (IISLE); You Fu, Chinese Language Advisor; Joe Wu, U of A; Magdalena Tundak, Edmonton Catholic Schools; Sigrid Olsen, Alberta Education; Sandy Cai, Red Deer Public School;

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.

Elaine Schmidt added "Performance task update for 2-5" under New Business.

2. Approval of the Minutes from May 3, 2011

Elaine Schmidt moved to approve the minutes, Micheline Theoret-Fernandez seconded. Carried. Norman Sieweke suggested that handouts in the forms of attachments should be attached to the minutes when emailing out to members.

3. Old Business arising from the minutes

Archiving of Consortia information

CIE had completed scanning 2 binders of Consortia information that Norman provided. CIE will finish scanning materials from Elaine Schmidt. Joe Wu will resend materials to Wei. Once finished scanning everything, the materials will be posted in the CIE website under "Alberta Chinese Language Consortium"

CIE provision of services to ECS

As requested by the Chinese Language Advisor at the last meeting, CIE has contacted a couple of Catholic schools and will provide cultural support for 3-4 ECS this year.

Follow-up to ACAT Discussion and letter

A letter addressed to ACAT Secretariat was written on May 5/11. Sigrid Olsen will do a follow-up with Christina Bexte. (Action)

4. Updates

Alberta Education Chinese Language Advisor

- Hanban is organizing a teacher training in Tianjin for a week in November. All expenses except for sub costs are covered by Hanban. In the future, You Fu will send information regarding teacher training to the teachers and the school boards. (Action)

- Consul Zhang visited a few school districts to introduce scholarship opportunity for grade 12 students.
- In September, a visiting teacher sponsored by Hanban has started a 2-year term of teaching Mandarin and Chinese culture studies at Notre Dame High School in Red Deer.
- A delegation from Beibei (Chongqing) will be visiting from Nov 4-15.
- CIE will provide cultural support to Red Deer Catholic School on Nov 15-16 during the international week.
- You Fu visited Calgary School Board and bilingual schools.

Calgary Board of Education

- The second elementary bilingual program has started.
- The third Chinese Language Program has started in Ernest Manning High School.
- Elaine Schmidt suggested any questions and concerns from the parents about the bilingual program should be directed to herself and the School Board.

Calgary Catholic School

- 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.

Edmonton Catholic Schools

Edmonton Catholic does not have Chinese program since the suspension 2 years ago due to the lack of enrollment. ECS will work with CIE to increase cultural support. CIE is in the process of contacting Mother Teresa and Ben Calf Robe.

Edmonton Public School Board

Norman Sieweke gave updates on IISLE. There is a “Can Do Statement” full day training session on Oct 7. Sandy Cai asked Norman to share the “Can Do Statement” with other School Board. (Action)

Red Deer

- The Chinese program is growing but not as much as Edmonton and Calgary.
- Students have to write two exams in May, the AP exam and HSK. It is suggested that other than the Grade 12 students, others can take the HSK in October instead.

Alberta Education

- Delegations from Beibei University visited 3 School Boards.
- Nov 14-18's International Education week information is posted in the website.
- Sigrid Olsen will send updated info to all. (Action)

- Sigrid Olsen will send a request to Christina Bexte to do a research on the growth rate in language versus the growth rate in population. (Action)

University of Alberta

- The number of students taking Chinese Second Language as minor is still limited due to the lack of suitable courses.
- Supported by the CIE, the Chair of Elementary Education and Joe Wu visited Liaocheng University in the summer and made initial contact with the Dean of schools. There is a possibility that Liaocheng University will offer a music and art training program for U of A teachers.
- Dr. Kathy Robinson from U of A is designing a course: Teaching Music Globally: China and South Africa for June and July 2012. She will be visiting Liaocheng in December to set up.
- Joe Wu's department is committed to work with Liaocheng University.
- It was suggested that U of A should offer a Chinese program in college with transferable credits and collaborate with Red Deer College and Mount Royal. It might help increase the enrollment.
- Joe Wu will discuss with the Faculty of Art and Education the possibility of offering a tour for students from Red Deer to promote the program. (Action)
- East Asian Studies is offering Chinese 407 for the bilingual students.
- CIE to contact Dr. Daniel Fried from East Asian Studies to promote the Chinese courses to Red Deer and other school districts. (Action)

Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association (ECBEA)

- ECBEA is celebrating the 30th anniversary over the next 2 years.
- ECBEA will be participating in the Chinese New Year in City Centre Mall again and the Winter Festival, (Metropolis), at the Churchill Square in mid January and Family day at Enterprise Square.
- One of the environmental projects is to propose planting trees at all the bilingual schools.
- The 30th anniversary banquet will be in Feb/March, still looking for venue.
- ECBEA is working with EPSB for opening a new bilingual school in the SW sector of the city.
- There is 88% retention of students in the Chinese bilingual program.
- The documentary of the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual program will be aired on OMNI TV sometime in 2012.
- The screening of "Lost Year" will be at U of A China Institute on Thursday Nov 3rd.
- Wei Wong thanked CIE for sponsoring scholarship.
- ECBEA will sponsor the next Chinese Teacher Association activity.

Confucius Institute in Edmonton

- Stuart Wachowicz presented the Confucius Institute update.
- Stuart will send an updated ASBALE application form to all consortium members. (Action)

- CIE will update website for camp and scholarship opportunity. (Action)
- Wei Li will send Elaine Schmidt the information about summer camp and scholarship. (Action)
- More information will be posted in regards to Dr. Kathy Robinson's music course in Liaocheng in June and July 2012.
- CIE will look at establishing a Tea House in Edmonton in partnership with Liaocheng University and the City of Edmonton.
- CIE will offer the Liaocheng University summer camp again in the coming year.

5. New Business

- For the performance task update, Norman will make assessment material available to all.
- CIE is finalizing the budget 2012. CIE can make a request if there is a project to support.
- CIE might bring teachers from China again for Professional Development.
- Stuart will make a draft questionnaire to circulate among members of the consortium for ideas of PD day topics. (Action)
- The two Calgary teachers that won the ASBALE awards were asked to share their experiences with other teachers in Alberta.
- CIE cannot pay fund for salary, but can make application to Hanban to provide resource and teacher support.

6. Other Business

- Stuart to email a copy of 2011 Session Course to Elaine. (Action)
- A sub-committee is needed to look at ways of how Chinese could be promoted provincially.
- Stuart will book Alberta Bridge for dialing string for the next meeting. (Action)

7. Next Meeting: Monday, Jan 16, 2012, 9:30am

8. Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.

Minutes amended on Jan 16, 2012

