

APA Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

7-9 pm

1. Welcome & Introductions – Current Chair, Lori Miller Pike

Lori Miller Pike, co-chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited everybody to introduce themselves.

2. Adoption of the Agenda and June Minutes – Current Chair, Lori Miller Pike

Motion: Lori moved to accept the agenda as presented. Paula Riczker seconded the motion. All in favour. No objections. Motion passed.

Motion: Lori moved to accept the minutes as presented. Yvette Duffy seconded the motion. All in favour. No objections. Motion passed.

3. Principal's Report – Jennie Ucar

Jennie provided an update on technology, facilities, and EQAO, as follows:

Technology: Jennie announced that the netbooks on a cart have arrived at Allenby. At present there are two carts of netbooks in the school: one that the APA purchased and one that the Family of Schools (FOS) lends to schools in our family for six-week periods. One set is presently with Mr. Hussain and the other has been placed with Madame Payne. Presently the teachers are orienting students to using the netbooks. Madame Payne is beginning to set up a blog for her class.

Facilities: Jennie explains that the curtains have been removed from most of the rooms in the building and have been replaced with blinds. Presently, she is investigating replacement of the windows. She also informed the parents that brick work on the chimney and over a doorway that may present some logistical issues regarding students entering and exiting the building.

EQAO: Jennie requested to have time on the November agenda to present the EQAO results. Grade 3 Reading results increased by 10 points with more students obtaining level 3 and 4. Grade 3 Writing results are similar to last year. Grade 3 Math results indicated that 86% of students obtained level 3 and 4. Grade 6 Reading results indicated that 97% of students obtained level 3 and 4. Grade 6 Writing 94% of students obtained level 3 and 4. Grade 6 Math results indicated that 88% of students obtained level 3 and 4.

4. Treasurer's Report – Stuart Baltman

Stuart explained that the APA does not use accrued accounting as the variable nature of our revenue/expenses makes calculating accruals difficult and of nominal value. Stuart further indicated that he reviews the financial statements monthly with the intent of flagging any potential risks to the budget and undertook to notify the APA accordingly.

As of September 30, 2011, the financial statements indicate net revenues of -\$965.21. This is attributable mainly to expenses being booked against After 4 along with the absence of After 4 revenues; this negative net revenue situation is an anomaly that will likely not be seen going forward. Overall, net income for the month ended September 30th was -\$7,914.27. This is primarily attributable to \$6,899.11 spent on “net books” as part of the approved technology initiative.

Stuart also noted that the budget now includes the addition of \$5,500 for computer resources that were voted on and approved at the September meeting.

Motion: Stuart moved to accept the financial statements as of September 30th, 2011 as presented.

Lisa Spiegel seconded. All in favour. None opposed. Motion carried.

A parent enquired as to what the revenue has been on the donations.

Stuart spoke about Parent Contributions to date representing 325 children or 223 families for a total to date of \$19,022.95. The maximum donation amount was \$400 and a minimum donation was \$10. The average was \$85.30. The mode was \$50. He also pointed out that 19 donations were made electronically. Stuart noted that of the families who donated online they often topped up their donation to cover the 3.9%. Average per child that donated was \$58.53.

A parent enquired as to whether any tracking of why parents are not donating.

Another parent enquired as to how many parents in the past have donated.

A parent enquired as to whether a communication could go to the parent community as the percentage of parents who donate. Discussion ensued as why people chose to donate and why others do not.

Stuart Baltman thanked Andrew Heitelman for his contribution of collecting and documenting the donated cheques.

5. Big Night Out – Co-Chairs Katy Diamond/Lisa Parker

Lisa Parker informed that Big Night Out is occurring on November 10th, from 7:30 to 11:00 pm. She stated that the committee's goal is to sell 250 tickets. At present, only 50 tickets have been sold. Lisa stressed the need to sell tickets. The committee has generated over \$25,000 in donations from local businesses. A BNO Event Preview booklet was released today. This booklet outlines the silent auction items. The booklet was announced in the AllenBeat and posted on the Allenby Parents' Association website. Lisa highlighted some of the items in the event preview package. Lisa also requested volunteers for the evening. Five Peas in a Pod will provide child care on the evening of the event. A hot dinner will also be supplied for the children as well.

Madame Mefendereski thanked the APA for inviting the teachers to the event and for supplying free tickets. She enquired as to whether teachers would be requested to donate their time/themselves as they have done in the past. Discussion ensued. Lisa committed to inviting teachers to donate their time/themselves as auction items.

The BNO committee had advertised an 'early bird' draw for one free ticket for individuals who purchased tickets prior to today. Lisa drew for the winner of the Big Night Out early bird tickets. The winner was David Fingert.

6. Community Awareness Update – Lisa Speigel/Rochelle Fox

Lisa Speigel explained that space has been an on-going issue here at Allenby. Lisa and Rochelle met with Jennie earlier this week. She and Rochelle will meet with Allenby's Trustee Howard Goodman in either November or December to present the issues here at Allenby owing to lack of space – i.e. toll on the facilities, etc.

A discussion ensued about the space and the full day kindergarten. Jennie explained that the school will be renovated to add two additional rooms. A parent explained that he had spoke to Melanie Dickenson, the assistant to Howard Goodman, and she stated that the funding has not been made available to date.

A parent explained that over \$400 million are being allocated by the Ministry to support full day kindergarten. Parents can view this information on the Ministry of Education website.

A parent read an email from Howard Goodman that stated that internal discussions have started with regard to full day kindergarten (as this is not just an Allenby issues as all elementary schools in the area are facing similar challenges). Howard Goodman pointed out that full day kindergarten would increase school numbers by 9%.

A parent who represents our school on the French as a Second Language committee explained that there is pressure as well from the French immersion community. There has been discussion of catchment areas, and designation of schools as French only schools. The next meeting for this committee is scheduled for November 22nd.

Construction on Avenue Road Update: Rochelle Fox read an email from Karen Stinz administrative assistant as follows:

By the end of this week or early next week (weather dependent), the following will occur:

- From Eglinton to Elwood, all lanes being re-paved and opened
- From Elwood to Roselawn: Work continuing in front of the high school until April, 2012
- From Roselawn to Hillhurst: all lanes to be re-paved and open
- From Hillhurst to Glencarin: work continuing until end of November
- From Glencarin to Caribou: all lanes being re-paved and re-opened

7. Speaker Discussion – Shannon Phillips/Paula Riczker

Paula Riczker explained that the APA had requested a 'Parent Reaching Out Grant' and were awarded a \$1000. The APA applied again this year and the APA has been awarded another \$1000.

Paula Riczker invited parents to share their topics of interest around parenting and seminars to offer.

Shannon Phillips explained that she and Paula had begun to research some topics that were of interested last year when parents were polled at an APA meeting. They presented the following as ideas for potential seminars:

1. Presenter: Steve Chapple on the topic of Internet Safety. Chappel committed to a 90-minute parent presentation in the evening and a 60-minute student presentation. The topics that will be covered are user accounts, security, cyber bullying,

file sharing, and online safety. Chapple also committed to providing 25 parent handbooks. Assuming that both the APA and Allenby agree to both presentations the total cost would be \$495. This price can be negotiated if Allenby is not interested and he only presents to the parental community and provides 25 handbooks only. Each additional parental book is \$5.

A parent explained that their child informed her that Officer Marcy visited the school last week and discussed online bullying and internet safety.

Jennie explained that the Toronto Police Services provides an educational program and that all students, except grade 3, worked with Officer Marcey.

2. Presenter: Chris Volum on the topic of Facebook 101. Volum originates from the Halton District School Board. Volum will speak to both parents and a 50-minute presentation to students to discuss social networking for a total cost of \$895 plus HST. If Volum speaks solely to parents the cost is \$595 plus HST.
3. Parenting Seminar: could possibly offer a third session with regard to parenting with Jennifer Kolari Allison Shafer or other parent speakers. There may have to charge for this session as the grant is only for \$1000.

Lori suggested that a message might want to go out to parents in next week's newsletter requesting feedback with regard topics of interest.

8. Other Community Updates

Stephen Dawang explained that in the spring last year and early this year APA parents voted on various motions that totalled \$44,800 to be spent on technology.

Stephen informed the parents that Jennie has purchased 13 laptops for approximately \$10,000. The APA had originally agreed to

purchase laptops to support the SmartBoards that the APA have purchased over the last two years for the school; however, the original laptops that were quoted and approved by the APA could not support the SmartBoards.

A parent asked what the issue was with the laptops that were proposed for purchase. Jennie explained that the laptops that were proposed were not powerful enough to support the Smart technologies. The laptops purchased were approximately \$1200 each versus the proposed \$600 each.

Stephen explained that the netbooks that have been purchased came in significantly under budget. Therefore, he wanted to apply the money originally allotted to the netbooks to the laptops. The issue is how can this funding gap be filled.

Stephen Dawang proposed the following motion:

Motion: The APA combine the approved technology spending from June and September into one sum (\$44,800) to be spent on the approved devices as necessary, the total not to exceed the combined amount of the June and September approved motions.

Collette Kim seconded. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

Stephen Dawang presented the netbooks that the APA have purchased to date and the cart purchased by Allenby. Teachers will be able to access the units for 4 to 6 weeks.

Two tablets – iPads – have been ordered for use with the HSP class. There are a total of 17 Smartboards in the school.

A parent enquired about the security measures for the electronic devices. Jennie explained that the school is purchasing 'lock and dock' devices for the laptops that work with the Smartboard to ensure security.

A parent suggested a replacement plan be put in place by the parents.

Helen Routh explained that in 2005 the APA financed rocks in the yard to stop erosion. This past summer the TDSB replaced the damage that was caused by their trucks. In March, Helen communicated with the TDSB and the TDSB committed to pay for a certain number of rocks; however, the APA would need to pay for 15 rocks. In June, the TDSB informed Helen that the number of rocks necessary was increased to 20. Therefore, the APA would need to pay for a further 5 rocks.

Jennie explained that she spoke to Chris at the TDSB. Chris has committed to cover a large portion of the rocks. Lori thanked the TDSB for paying for three-quarters of the remaining necessary rocks.

At present, the APA has not paid for the 15 stones to date. Allenby has paid for the stones to date; however, the APA has committed to provide the funds up to \$6750.

Helen Routh tabled a motion to be voted on November 30th meeting:

Motion: Move that 5 rocks, at a cost of \$2,250, or 5 x \$450, be funded by the APA to complete the overall erosion project at Allenby.

9. Open Question Time

A parent enquired about the APA placing astroturf in the field.

A parent raised an issue on behalf of another parent that birthday celebrations at school not be in the form of treats. This issue will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.