

ALLENBY PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Oct 29, 2014

MINUTES

Held: Allenby Jr. Public School Library

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm with the following agenda:

1. Welcome & Introductions – Chair Paula Riczker
2. Adoption of the Agenda and September Minutes – Paula Riczker
3. Principal's Report – Frances Themeliopoulos
4. Treasurer's Report - Scott Larin-
5. Discussion and Motion – donation of % of Pizza Lunch proceeds to community breakfast program
6. Schoolyard Enhancement Project Update
7. Committee Updates
8. Open Question Session

1. Welcome & Introductions – Chair Paula Riczker

Paula Riczker welcomes everyone. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

2. Adoption of the Agenda– Chair Paula Riczker

Paula Riczker moved that the amended October 2014 Agenda which was different from what was posted on the APA website, be accepted.

Colette Kim seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED. (Unanimously passed)

Adoption of the September 2014 Minutes – Chair Paula Riczker

Paula Riczker moved to adopt the Sept 2014 APA meeting minutes, as posted on the APA website, be accepted. Gillian Uy seconded.

MOTION CARRIED. (Unanimously passed)

3. Principal's Report – Frances Themeliopoulos

- There have been 4 fire drills (one with fire department in attendance) and one lock down drill to date
- Terry Fox Walk/Run took place on Oct 3 despite having to reroute at last minute due to sidewalk issues both on St. Clements and Castlefield
- Walk/Bike/Scooter to school for International Walk to School day took place on October 8th
- Eco schools kick off Oct 27th; need a parent/guardian volunteer representative in order to maintain the Gold status
- Had a meeting with TDSB equity team, one of the members have already presented to the parent community; they are willing to come back to do another presentation to the Allenby community at large; need guidance from APA for possible dates; equity team speaks about LGBT rights and equities as a whole; can do age appropriate presentation for students, teachers and parent communities
- Sports update: **TEAMS CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ALLENBY:**

- Grade 6 girls softball conference finalists
- Grade 6 boys softball conference finalists
- Grade 6 boys touch football conference champions
- Grade 5 boys touch football conference finalists
- Many personal best for the cross country team
- Peer helper largest team yet, 75 Grade 6 students trained by Mme. Linka; the kids are loving this experience;
- Grade 5 “Lost and Founders” has been launched. They collect items left in the yard and take them to the Lost and Found. Students are making announcements to remind everyone to visit the Lost and Found.
- Pizza Lunch for FDK starting Oct 31st!
- Progress Reports on Nov 11th; parent teacher conference on Nov 13/14th
- French immersion information even on Wed Nov 26th for JK parents with kids going into SK; only for parents in the Allenby catchment
- Brault & Bouthillier a company that provides French and English resources can come and show their resources; company was seen at a conference and stood out from others because they have educational material for French immersion
- Island school planning is complete and starting in Nov 2014; this year; this outdoor educational experience for Grade 5/6 every other year
- Our first group of ECE (Ryerson) and U of T teacher candidates have completed their placements and we are welcoming a new group of students;
- Not able to provide information about the Lite Raise installation because waiting for TDSB support for wiring, loss of wifi and multiple other issues; For every problem Allenby must log an individual ticket for each device: Question from APA parent: What can we do to move this forward; Answer: Can write letter to principal to pass onto the TDSB person.

4. Treasurer’s Report - Scott Larin – see APA website for report (www.allenbyparents.com)

- Actuals for Sept and the budget for 2014-2015 were presented
- Actuals Sept: total revenues \$8,381, expenses \$9,412 with net \$-1,083 with total closing surplus \$76,290
- Spoke about some of Oct actuals but the numbers were not presented
- Budget 2014-2015: now includes \$100,000 target for Schoolyard Enhancements from 3 main sources: i.) \$71,700 from target donations; ii.) APA budget \$9000 (8000\$ for schoolyard and \$1000 for expenses) and iii.) \$20,000 net profit from Soiree; this does not change the regular operating budget; Planned APA surplus will be \$33,544
- Scott Larin moved to accept the September 2014 APA Financial statement; Stuart Baltman 2nd the motion.
 - MOTION CARRIED (Unanimously passed)

5. Discussion and Motion – donation of % of Pizza Lunch proceeds to community breakfast program (Erin Christian):

- Lindsay Sukornyk, Liz Berholz and Erin Christian are the pizza lunch coordinators for the year
- Idea brought to them by Cate Spidle asking if we can donate some funds from our pizza lunch to a breakfast program to expand our social equity outreach

- Liz researched possible types of the programs that are available to donate to; as well as look at whether other schools in our area have a similar programs in place
- Two programs were brought forward:
 - **Breakfast for Learning**- is a national charity (the first and one of the leading charities dedicated to child nutrition) They fund school nutrition programs that are universally acceptable; The charity's "Good Works Index (as of June 30th 2014) was 90 cents per 1 dollar raised goes directly to the charity programs; They do fund local Toronto charities, though they do not generally take requests as to where donated funds should be directed. The funds will go to the greatest needs communities across school boards in Canada.
 - **Toronto Foundation of Student Success (TFSS)**- an independent charity that raises funds and provides programs for children with the TDSB. They provide food, medical care and emergency funds and after school programs for children in need. Since TFSS is focused only on TDSB, it has the resources to find the schools most in-need in our city. Their Development Officer, Elaine Rosenberg also informed us that funds donated to TFSS can be directed to a specific program of our choosing. We can request that funds go toward Student Nutrition Programs or we can choose to direct it to after school programs for children in need. If donate to Student Nutrition Programs, 100% of the funds are received, whereas all other programs funded incur a 6% administration fee.
- Of the two charities, we feel donating to the TFSS would allow us to have a greater local impact.
- In regards to what other schools in our area currently do, we have found last year that JRR gave \$1,500 to Lord Dufferin and Maurice Cody gave \$3,500 to less privileged schools and students. Though we were not able to confirm whether this was direct to one school or through a charity.
- If we use 5% of our budget number it is 1000 to 1100\$; it is 10-12% of net profits
- We recognize that this year is a big fundraising year for Allenby and everyone is working very hard to achieve these funding goals; however we feel that this addition to the Pizza Lunch program is a worthy one
- We would like to open up for discussion, whether the APA feels we can support this:
 - Comment from APA parent: Allenby parents did not know that the Pizza Lunch money was going to this charity so wonder if we should wait and inform Allenby parents and include it as part of the program next year.
 - Comment from APA parent: Stated that we need to maintain our flexibility as a charity so we can do what we want to do and perhaps we wait, inform parents and vote on it next month
 - Comment from APA parent: That they were uncomfortable with the ad hoc nature of charitable donations made by the APA without some process; does not disagree with this idea but stressed the children need to understand this initiative
- How can this get the message to the children? This was just brought to the pizza lunch coordinators after school started and therefore could not get it advertised at the beginning with the forms; would have to inform the kids somehow about the importance of this message
- Can we do an assembly about child poverty and hunger or educate in some other way

- Question from APA parent: Could we do a toonie drive as a onetime event and then make it an official part of the program next year?
- In the past we donated % of our funds to other charities; there have been many instances we have donated to other schools in need; there has been a precedent with the APA making donations to schools in need
 - Question from APA parent: Can we organize someone to come from TFSS to discuss their program
- Erin Christian tabled the motion that \$1000 from pizza lunch revenue in 2014-2015 to be donated to TFSS student nutritional programs, Theresa Ebden seconded the tabled motion.
- Motion will be communicated in the APA newsletter
- If motion is not passed at the November APA meeting, the APA will discuss with Cate Spidle other options to raise money such as a toonie drive

6. Schoolyard Enhancement Project Update (Gillian Uy and Shannon Phillips):

- Meeting Oct 24th – timeline has moved up and we need to let TDSB know what improvements we want in the tendering documents by Dec 12th 2014; once written it is difficult to back out or change what we have committed to; as we are putting these improvements forward, we must have \$ in the bank for these improvements; therefore we need to have donations in ASAP so we can maximize our improvements; donations are coming in slowly and therefore we need a big push; only 12 to 15 donations from individuals; we are continuing asking corporations to ask for donations; need family donations to start coming in
- Tender documents will go out in the New Year; John Wanless did not send out tender until April 2014; they received only one bid which was too high and refused this bid; this has delayed their turf one whole year; TDSB has learned from this experience and therefore wants things to be done earlier
- Turf set to be installed in the summer 2015
- Soiree for the schoolyard for Jan 29th 2015 ; save the date was sent out to children's backpack
- Spoken with Cate Spidle about getting students involved and using the Spirit Day in November for student fundraiser such as a toonie; Cate approved that spirit day
- Will ask about extending the date to end of December 2014 however think this is unlikely
- Information about the new deadline will be sent to the APA parents through the APA newsletter tomorrow and through the class parents next week
- We are just over \$30,000 of our fundraising goal
- Still working on corporate sponsors and on grants
- Deadline for the grant Live Green is due on Nov 3rd, 2014; if we get this grant it will be for greening improvements and will not be part of Phase 1
- If we do not raise all the money the APA will need to meet to remove some items from Phase 1; will approach logically
- Possible door to door campaign; another tweet and possibly a phone campaign to help with donations
- Cate Spidle approved soliciting donations from teacher and staff and possibly going out Friday or next Monday

- Section 37 funds we are approved for however we have no idea when these are being received; will not be available for Phase 1
- Paula asked if we can reach out to the counsellor on Dec 1st and can we ask her if she can push the section 37 funds forward or if there are future developments can we be kept in mind

7. Committee Updates by Current Directors

Community Awareness Update (Krista Chaytor):

- New trustee Jennifer Arp for Ward 16
- French as second language advisory committee have moved up French immersion registration it is Nov3 to Dec 5th, 2014

Communications Update (Theresa Ebden):

- Twitter is live and increasing our followers
- Directory update: everyone must complete consent form to put parent information on the APA directory; class parent has obtained this information; there are many discrepancies and do not want to ask for another consent form to make changes; we all feel it implies up to date information is needed; new parents still need to sign consent form; they have received all the lists from the class parents
- APA newsletter now using Mailchimp so APA newsletter has a new look
- Asked Paula if she can add to her update the need for donations by Dec 12, 2014
- Paula stated that someone approached her that to be on the class list she had to be on the directory, no this is not true; parents can opt out of the directory and can be in the class list

School Programs Update (Luisa Peel and Dawn Morris):

- Speaker series first speaker last week on bullying and it was a success
- After 4 up and running; next session in Jan
- Hot lunch is going well and kinks are being worked out; LunchMom wants feedback and trying to make changes, increase # of servers which has helped; pilot of hot lunch in Jan is on hold for now

Director of Health & Safety (Robin Halpern and Christina Lord):

- Traffic problem- rejected a cross walk that was submitted
- Submitted a letter to the police to study Castlefield and Avenue to look at the traffic; going to study the flow of traffic, pedestrian/children traffic; they have responded
- Also there is daycare between ST. Clements/Castlefield on Avenue they have put in request for barriers to be put up on East side of Avenue Road
- Continue to promote walking and if cannot walk use kiss n' ride
- Need more volunteers for kiss n' ride!! It is fun please let people know: 8:40 to 9:00 commitment; One parent volunteered during the meeting.

Fundraising (Gillian Uy and Shannon Phillips):

- Shop and support need to be put on the agenda next meeting
- Calendar for giving will be up on the website

8. Open Question Session Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Next APA Meeting: November 26th, 2014 at 7pm in Allenby Jr. P.S. Library