

ALLENBY PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Jan 28, 2015

MINUTES

Held: Allenby Jr. Public School Library

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

1. Welcome & Introductions – Paula Riczker
2. Adoption of the Agenda and December Minutes – Paula Riczker
3. Principal's Report – Cate Spidle
4. Treasurer's Report - Scott Larin-
5. Schoolyard Motion
6. Trustee – Jennifer Arp
7. Schoolyard Update
8. Committee Updates
9. Open Question Session

1. Welcome & Introductions

Paula Riczker welcomes everyone. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves. A quorum was reached.

2. Adoption of the January 2015 agenda - Chair Paula Riczker

Paula Riczker moved that the amended January 2015 Agenda, which was different from what was posted on the APA website, be accepted.

Gillian Uy seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED. (Unanimously passed)

Adoption of the December 2014 Minutes – Chair Paula Riczker

Paula Riczker moved to adopt the December 2014 APA meeting minutes, as posted on the APA website, be accepted.

Shannon Phillips seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously passed)

3. Principal's Report- Cate Spidle

1. Mrs. Dobkin-Kurtz worked with a visiting artist with some classes the first week back and this has continued throughout January.
2. Head Lice checks were well organized with low incidence results.
3. Madame Rosta and have brought Mindfulness to Allenby for staff and students each Friday. The FDK classes are also starting to incorporate Mindfulness through Yoga.

4. Hockey continues to keep M. Osborne, parent drivers and our hockey team busy.
5. Constable Janet Stather, our Community Liaison Safety Officer for the Toronto Police Services, came to Allenby the week of January 12th to speak to students at the school. She was very impressed with the students' interest in the discussions and the teachers' eagerness to support the content of the presentations throughout the rest of the year.
6. Choir, both junior and primary, are diligently practicing each week for their Music Night scheduled for May 13th.
7. Our SHOWCASE # 2 was another fun evening with happy faces on the students and the audience. Thank you to the volunteer parents, Jeremy Lenk and Mike Cacciavillani, who assisted the technician and staff with the new sound system. Also to all of the families who helped to stack the chairs after the performance as it really saves our caretaking staff time.
8. Mr. Hussain's class has been working with a French Immersion class at John Ross Robertson PS researching the value and use of the French language in Toronto. The students would take turns walking to each other's school to have time together. Components of the research involved interviewing businesses and government agencies that provide services in French. A Powerpoint presentation was given by the students this morning at JRR.
9. Soiree for the School Yard is almost upon us and many staff members are planning to attend. Thank you to the APA for graciously inviting staff to participate in this fun social event.

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

- Scott Larin presented the Actuals for December 2014 and the budget for the 2014-15 as posted on the APA website; please see APA website for details
- Total revenues (Dec 2014) \$ 112,000; additional donations to the Schoolyard FUND (these funds are segregated)
- Total expenses (Dec 2014) \$29,000
- Net income of \$83,000 up to Dec 2014
- The closing surplus at the end of December 2014 of \$160,261 (includes Schoolyard FUND); planned surplus at end of December 2014 was \$91, 843 (without Schoolyard FUND)
- Received \$15,000 back tax return from government

- Scott Larin moved to accept the December 2014 APA Financial statement;
Sarah Ferguson, 2nd the motion.
MOTION CARRIED (Unanimously passed)
- Technology by school and the APA; Lisa Parker and Scott Larin are involved in the technology plan for this year; delays related to TDSB setting up technology; did a technology drive in the newsletter and received the routers and from a parent (Jeremy Lenk) some additional routers which will take care of the coverage for the entire school; Cate Spidle stated we need to ensure we are allowed to use them but we can definitely use them for the iPADS; also received flat screen monitors and 50 headphones to use in the school

5. Schoolyard Motion –

- Gillian Uy moved to approve the spending of any and all funds raised specifically for Phase 1 of the Allenby Junior Public School's schoolyard enhancement project (i.e. the schoolyard "segregated" funds) on expenditures relating to Phase 1 of the Allenby Junior Public School's schoolyard project. Cumulative expenditures not to exceed \$117, 000 as per the "low estimate" as presented in the November 2014 meeting.
2nd the motion Paula Riczker
MOTION CARRIED (Unanimously passed)
- Withdraw the 2nd motion that was tabled from December 2014; will revisit this in the Spring 2015 for the budget next year for phase 2

6. Trustee – Jennifer Arp

- Must have all 13 directives provided by the Minister of Education implemented by Feb 16th, 2015
- List of schools that are under 65% capacity will be closed
- Ward forum on Tuesday Feb 3, 2015 at Joyce Public School 6 to 8 pm (Dufferin and Lawrence); will be technology demonstration at the school; everyone welcome

7. Schoolyard Update

- Over \$80,000 raised without Soiree tickets sales
- Confident that we will meet our goal of over \$100,000 with the funds from the Soiree
- Tendering documents are on time and hope we will get a fair bid; unsure about the timing of the bids

8. Committee Updates

Community Awareness Update (Krista Chaytor):

- The Margaret Wilson report on the TDSB; overall it is an interesting report; cannot comment on if it is fair
- Most relevant points are: 1. School closure; 2. Trustees losing their constituency assistance
- Losing their assistant will impact our school and parents because will be very difficult to get access to the trustees in a timely fashion
- Question by parent: can a trustee have a volunteer assistant; unlikely because there is political information that they would have access to

Communications Update (Theresa Ebden):

- Twitter handle is a great way to get updates on APA and the Allenby community

School Programs Update (Luisa Peel and Dawn Morris):

- After 4 is going well; many people registered late this session
- 2 youth psychiatrists are coming to speak to the Allenby community on March 10, 2015 to discuss anxiety in children
- Rochelle Fox put in baseball permit however it was rejected because permits closed as of June 2015 because of work on the field; Is there any way to work around this? Shorter season such as a 4 week season or another field

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

- Update given by Paula Riczker; Paula met with new city councillor Ms. Christin Carmichael-Greb during school pick up time to show how dangerous it is at pickup
- We asked for some restrictions such as: 1. Limit traffic going straight through on Castlefield across Avenue road during drop off and pick up hours; 2. One way streets (St. Clements and Castlefield) during school hours but do not think we will get this restriction; 3. Ask for another crossing guard to help make it safer on the streets so that more kids would walk and get cars off the road; and 4. Asked for more parking enforcement during drop off and pick up to enforce the traffic rules
- Parent asked question asked? Why would they not do one way street during school hours; need to have the neighborhood agree to this restriction; Forest Hill has one way at their school so we need to look this done because other schools do have this

Fundraising (Gillian Uy and Shannon Phillips):

- Lip Synch Feb 26/27th ; fun night and teachers will do surprise performance
- In the spring will start hearing about the Fun Fair
- Have not confirmed the date of the Fun Fair; the issue is that the field is not available in June 2015 because they are limiting permits starting in June 2015 so work on the field can begin; we need to coordinate with other schools in the area to ensure Fun Fairs in May do not significantly overlap; will give update on the final date ASAP; also need volunteers for this event

9. Open Questions

- Many questions about the French Immersion program and the limited spots at Allenby

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Next APA Meeting: To be determined in Feb 25, 2015; will be at 7 pm in Allenby Jr. P.S. Library