

Allenby Parents Association Meeting
Sept 28, 2015
Held: Allenby Jr. Public School Library

1. Welcome & Introductions -Paula Riczker
2. Adoption of the September 2015 Agenda
3. Adoption of the June 2015 Minutes-Paula Riczker
4. Principal's Report - Tracey O'Toole
Information on Special Education (IEP, Gifted testing, Supports available at Allenby, Private Assessments)
5. Treasurer's Report - Scott Larin
Vote on the APA 2015/16 Budget
6. Motion to spend up to \$1000 for a Sound Technician to support the Audio System used for Showcases, dress rehearsals etc
7. Schoolyard Enhancement Project Update- Gillian Uy & Shannon Phillips
8. Election of 2015/16 Executive Council
9. Committee Updates
10. Open Question Session

1. Welcome and Introductions: Paula Riczker welcomes everyone. Everyone in attendance introduces themselves. A quorum was reached (n = 55)

2. Adoption of the amended September 2015 Agenda- Paula Riczker-
Scot Larin seconded the motion
Motion Carried (unanimously passed)

3. Adoption of the June 2015 Minutes - Chair Paula Riczker moved to adopt the June 2015 APA meeting minutes, as posted on the APA website, be accepted
Scot Larin seconded the motion
Motion Carried (unanimously passed)

4. Principal's Report:

- Tracey O'Toole introduced herself and let the APA members know that her door is always open; if there is a concern with your child first connect with the student's teacher
- new character certificate; the teachers are looking for students showing good character; if they identify a child they give them a certificate which they bring to the office; their picture is taken and they fill out a ballot which goes into a draw for a toy from Toytown; we will do a draw for primary and junior each week; this initiative gives positive feedback on good character right away
- Terry Fox run is going to be changed; still doing on Friday but will be in the schoolyard, a change in response to job action
- what is the impact of the Job Action; not affecting the student's directly but there will likely not be a curriculum night b/c it is part of the job action; updating class website and newsletter is strike action
- x-country is on but class trips are part of the job action and therefore will not occur
- CUPE- life guards, caretakers, assistants, ECE etc all part of job action
- little impact from Wynne Wednesday
- Principal is not given any advanced notice of job action
- read the paper to get updates
- Paula Riczker states TDSB website has updates

Special Education in the TDSB:

- Supporting students:
- 1. Review the OSR (Ontario Student Record) and diagnostic assessment of every student; review all of them to identify any referrals outstanding, determine if they have had assessments
- 2. Develop IEP (individual education plan) modified or accommodated; IEP
- 3. What is the level of support? After diagnostic and IEP done then must determine what other supports needed; most intensive is HSP (homeschool program) = 50% of day in numeracy and literacy support ; we have 2 HSP supports and one educational assistant; Resource support is in the classroom ie. Educational assistant, could be withdrawal and work in small class setting; regular classroom getting support within the classroom ie computer or break assignment into parts; ISP (intensive support) – none at Allenby ; how do you get this support can be informal if we have the room but if have limited space need a formal evaluation
- 4. Formal identification and placement through IPRC- formal identification ensures that they get the support as they move on into high school

IEP:

- Most of the accommodations are good teaching principles
- Will benefit all student's in the class
- She may be calling to state the IEP will be planned within 30 days but they are working documents and is changed all the time; some may not need an IEP but will not start an IEP if it is not needed

AT Allenby:

- HSP, resource withdrawal or in class support, indirect support, ESL, SNA (special needs assessment)

"Labels", gifted and private assessments:

- If you give an assessment to the office and then it will go into the OSR but these can be pulled at anytime;
- The specific assessment but not the label will be used to help the children;
- Give to office because many teacher's will teach your child; then special education teachers can read and help the teacher in the classroom
- Gifted testing is changing next year in 2016; has found that the bulk of student's found to be gifted come from same area of city; all student's will be screened because the process has not been equitable; Gifted can mean many different things: the idea of a gifted program is not an enrichment program, it is for students who the regular classroom does not meet their needs; the location of gifted programs will be changed and will be spread out across the city

Allenby Budget from Mrs. O'Toole:

- Asked the staff at Allenby what their top priorities are and how we can improve things such as facilities: Staff did survey online and developed key priorities on facilities and then developed key priorities on the budget
 - i. technology – \$20, 000 ; teacher's need professional development to support them with use of the new technology
 - ii. Classroom libraries – \$ 15, 000 need more French immersion books; kindergarten need level libraries to ensure progression of reading; need books that appeal to boys
 - iii. STEM, Inquiry- \$ 5, 000 – cross curricular education
 - iv. Mental Health - \$2, 000 – the plan has not yet been developed
- Want to the school and APA budgets to align with the key priorities of the school
- dropped office supplies by \$3000 this year
- Budget projected on enrolment is based on # students; we have 799 students down 48 students from projected.

5. Treasurer's Report: Scott Larin- see APA website for report (www.allenbyparents.com) Scott Larin presented the actuals for 2014 - 2015 and the budget for the 2015-16 as posted on the APA website;
Gillian Uy seconded the motion
Motion passed (unanimously passed)

2014-2015 actuals: took in \$112,000 in revenues; expense \$68,000 for net income of \$45,000; surplus \$122,000

2015-2016 budget:

Revenue: 3 big programs: 1. Parent contribution \$16,000; 2. Funfair \$18,000; 3. Big night out (Soiree) \$18,000; 4. Pizza lunch \$8000; 5. Lip Synch \$3,500; hot lunch program \$ 2,000

Expenses: 3 programs are all classroom based: 1. \$400 for non-consumables to enrich the classroom; 2. Artist in the classroom \$300; 3. Scientist in the classroom – APA pays for one visit;
Expenses \$97,000 for a net loss at \$25,000; closing surplus at \$97,000 project surplus with segregated schoolyard FUNd would be \$69,000

Question: Is accelerated reader being paid for? Key priority is getting books home: Mr. Osborne wants to use it but wants it to be used in all the classroom; need this year to build the buy-in by all teachers and professional development and then will likely be more successful by the teacher's; Is a key priority by the school as part of the literacy priority
Question: Why can we not start now with the accelerated reader? We could do it but want to be aligned with the school key priorities; could even be introduced later in this school year; will check on pro-rating for ½ the school year for the license.

Question: What is accelerator reader? It is a reading comprehension program; not available in French so Mr. Osborne writes the comprehension tests for French books.

Question: What is the plan for the APA surplus? Why do we have it and do we want to spend it? Answer: want to spend the surplus on important initiatives; some schools with small population run a smaller surplus and some run a huge surplus; We also always discuss the surplus and we are mindful of this and do not want it to run too large; technology project was started with the surplus; support what teachers want as well

Question: Statement from parent that we are a charitable organization; allows us to give tax receipts ex. Parent contribution and allows us to do tax receipts to business's who donate to us; also allows us to get a rebate on our GST/HST and save about \$8-10,000 each year

6. Schoolyard Enhancement Project Update: Gillian Uy & Shannon Phillips

- Field open 1st day of school!
- Thanking administration for all their support
- Line painting on Oct 1st 2015 during the day
- There will be donor recognition signs for donors; for high donors there will be plaques on stones on the "Hill of Thanks"; hopefully have grand opening of the field in near future
- Think we will have some surplus and will be held for further projects such as the kindergarten schoolyard
- Zip line will be fixed as a priority stated Mrs. O'Toole
- Met with a landscape designer to look at the kindergarten playground; the TDSB will cover new fencing because of the great work by the parent body at Allenby

7. Motion to spend up to \$1000 for a Sound Technician: to support the Audio System used for showcases, dress rehearsals, graduation ceremony- Scott Larn - come from Groove Moves to run these events

Paula Riczker seconded the motion

Motion passed ; 1 abstention

- discussed about mentoring kids to learn this skill to help run the events

8. Election of 2015/16 Executive Council:

Chair: Paula Riczker paulariczker@me.com

Vice- Chair: Lisa Parker lisa_m_parker@yahoo.ca

Secretary: Sarah Ferguson sarah.ferguson@uhn.ca

Paul McCracken paul.g.mccracken@gmail.com

Treasurer Scott Larin scott.larin@me.com

Directors

Communications: Theres Ebden ebden@rogers.com

Community Awareness: Krista Chaytor KCHAYTOR@weirfoulds.com

Fundraising: Shannon Phillips shanphillips@rogers.com

Gillian Uy gmuy@icloud.com

School Programs: Dawn Morris dawnbmorris@gmail.com

Health and Safety: David Heath davidheath@rogers.com

9. Committee Updates:

a. Community Awareness Update (Krista Chaytor):

- some positions for volunteers: 1. French 2nd language advisory committee; 2. Ward 8 rep

b. Communication Update (Theresa Ebden):

- newsletter comes out weekly; please sign up; go to Allenbyparents.com;

- directory will be updated

- class parents also organized through communications

c. School Programs Update (Dawn Morris):

- today received all the After 4 Programs or go on the Allenby website allenbyparents.com

- Hot Lunch program is up and running menu is lunchmom.com

d. Director of Health and Safety (David Heath):

- introduced himself; already started a committee to look at traffic problem in his neighbourhood

- asked about getting a co-volunteer

- also set up a meeting with the APA, nursery school and City counsellor Christin Carmichael Greb

- need Kiss n' ride volunteers

- need lice check volunteers

- Are there anymore Slow Down Signs Kids at Play: there is a website to get new signs

e. Fundraising (Gillian Uy and Shannon Phillips):

- Pizza lunch, Funfair, Lip Synch, Big Night Out (Soiree)- adult event TBD

- need Big Night Out volunteer- need new leadership

10. Open Questions:

Meeting adjourned at 9:08

Next APA meeting Wednesday October 28, 2015; will be at 7 pm in Allenby Jr. PS Library