

Allenby Parents Association Meeting
June 22, 2016
Held: Allenby Jr. Public School Library

1. Welcome & Introductions –Paula Riczker
2. Adoption of the Agenda and May Minutes-Paula Riczker
3. Principal’s Report – Tracey O’Toole
4. Budget Survey results
5. Treasurer’s Report & motion for 2016/17 APA Budget (to be voted on September 2016)
6. Motion to spend \$700 for Allenby Spirit wear t-shirts for 2016/17 JK students
7. Schoolyard Enhancement Kindergarten Project Update- Gillian Uy & Shannon Phillips
8. School programs update: 2016/17 Hot lunch program & Aleph Champ Hebrew school
9. Other Committee Updates
10. Open Question Session

1. Welcome & Introductions –Paula Riczker

2. Adoption of the June Agenda and May Minutes-Paula Riczker
Paula put forth the motion to adopt the June APA Agenda as posted on the APA website.
Gillian Uy seconded the motion.
Motion carried (unanimously passed)

Paula put forth a motion to adopt the May APA Minutes as posted on the APA website.
Gillian Uy seconded the motion.
Motion carried (unanimously passed)

3. Principal’s Report – Tracey O’Toole

Tracey shared the following:

- The Volunteer Breakfast is June 23rd from 8:15 am to 9 pm in the library.
- Tracey presented a talk on transitioning to middle school for the Grade 6 parents and students.
- Students will be given their classroom assignments on Tuesday June 28th along with their report cards.
- On Wednesday June 29th the Primary Grade Play Day will be happening in the morning. There will be an annual softball game between students and teachers in the afternoon. Students will also have the chance to visit their new classroom, where most teachers will be available in those classrooms (even those coming back from leave). At 3:10 all students will go out, the K-5’s will circle the track and sing the grade 6’s out of the school.
- Students are doing “All About Me” folders so that next years’ teachers can get to know their students before September.
- Letters have been going home to HSP families so that support can start to happen immediately in September.
- The APA and the school have jointly funded a Grade 6 mural as a gift to Allenby. This years’ mural will be hung outside the gym in the atrium. The French immersion classes have done a mural that will be hung in the hallway attaching the new wing.

- There is a security camera at the main doors and a buzzer system that will allow the office to “buzz” people in. The school and the daycare have been working to install the same systems at the St. Clements doors and at the Daycare door. This will be installed and ready for use by September.

4. APA Budget Survey Results

Lisa Parker presented the results of the survey that had been completed by the Allenby community in May 2016. Earlier in the 2015/2016 schoolyear, Tracey O’Toole shared the school’s Key Priorities for the coming years. The APA Executive determined that supporting these Key Priorities would enhance the educational experience of our students, however the Executive wanted to ensure that the majority of parents would support this approach to spending. The survey is appended to these minutes.

5. Treasurer’s Report & motion for 2016/17 APA Budget (to be voted on September 2016)

May 2016 Financials

Scott Larin put forward a motion to accept the May Financials as presented at the meeting.

Shannon Phillips seconded, motion passed (unanimously)

Revenue

Proposed Budget for 2016/2017

Scott Larin informed the group that the proposed 2016/2017 APA Budget would be presented at this APA meeting and then voted on at the September 2016 meeting. The following amendments were discussed:

- BNO should be separated out from Schoolyard.
- Lunch Program will have no revenue in 2016/2017.
- Artists in the Classroom and Scientist in the School should now be called “Experts in the School” to reflect that teachers will have the flexibility to choose which experts they would like to invite into their classroom.
- Number of classrooms and number of graduates for 2016/2017 should be confirmed
- Teacher Appreciation Lunch expense line should be \$1,200.

Scott tabled the budget with changes as reflected in our discussion.

6. Motion to spend \$700 for Allenby Spirit wear t-shirts for 2016/17 JK students.

Lisa explained that the APA would like to be able to welcome the newest members of the school community by providing them with an Allenby T-shirt. The cost per shirt is \$7 and there will be approximately 100 kindergarten students.

Lisa put forward the motion to spend up to \$700 on Allenby T-shirts for the kindergarten students. Margaret Yeung seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

7. Schoolyard Enhancement Kindergarten Project Update- Gillian Uy & Shannon Phillips

Gillian Uy noted that a meeting regarding the kindergarten playground would be held on August 30th at 2:30 at the school. She inquired about parental interest in serving as an APA representative on the project. She also shared that some fundraising might be required to complete the kindergarten yard renovation, but the cost of the project was not yet known and some funds had been unused from Phase One of the Schoolyard Project.

8. School programs update: 2016/17 Hot lunch program & Aleph Champ Hebrew school

Hot Lunch Program Update

It was shared that the results of the APA Hot Lunch Survey concluded that Rose Reisman Catering was most preferred by parents (48% for Rose Reisman, 35% for Lunch Mom and 15% for Real Food for Real Kids). Parents requested that this program be rolled out to kindergarten students as soon as possible. Tracey agreed to the request and it was determined that the Rose Reisman Hot Lunch Program would be offered to Kindergarten students starting in September 2016.

Aleph Champ Hebrew School

Paula Riczker shared that the APA had decided to allow the Hebrew School currently operating out of Allenby to use 2 of the APA 16 After 4 spots for their Hebrew School program. As such, the Hebrew School would be operating under the After 4 umbrella. It was noted that to continue as an After 4 program, the Hebrew School would have to be accessible to everyone and that registration would have to occur on a first come first serve basis.

Parents questioned why the Hebrew School had to be rolled into After 4 and why it couldn't access additional classrooms. Tracey explained that for caretaking reasons, she was trying to minimize the number of classes that are being used at the end of the school day, before 6pm and could therefore not allow permits outside of the After 4 program. Given the demand for the program, the After 4 Committee had determined that it was feasible to replace two lesser demanded programs with the Hebrew School program.

Another parent cautioned that the Hebrew School should not become the only After 4 classes provided by the APA. It was strongly communicated that the APA would not consider giving the Hebrew School additional classrooms and that should the Hebrew School require more space, they would have to find it outside of the school.

Lastly, a parent offered that should other language programs be demanded, the TDSB provides a few offerings at John Ross Robertson.

9. Other Committee Updates

Communications – Tamara Sztainbok noted that the APA would be moving to another website hosting provider over the summer. Paula Riczker thanked Tamara for her many years of help with the APA website and APA communications. Tamara's child will be moving on the middle school.

Fundraising – Net proceeds from Fun Fair topped \$30,000. Gillian and Shannon thanked the Fun Fair committee and all of the volunteers who made the day possible.

Community Awareness – Krista shared some information about a recent Globe and Mail article. The article stated that the TDSB will not support the installation of air conditioning in any of their schools. Tracey noted that all classrooms are now equipped with fans.

School Programs – Hot lunch and Hebrew School were covered as their own Agenda items. Paula thanked Dawn Morris, APA School Program Executive, for her time and effort in this role. Dawn's daughter will be moving onto middle school in the fall.

10. Open Question Session

Q: Can the APA provide financial assistance for students to participate in pizza lunch, After 4, spirit wear programs etc?

A: (Lisa and Paula) The APA does provide assistance for all events and programs it runs. Members of the APA are not told who requires assistance and it is managed discreetly through Jamie in the office. It was suggested that all APA order forms etc that are sent home should include mention of the APA's ability and willingness to provide assistance. Paula agreed that this practice could certainly start to happen in the 2016/2017 school year.

Q: It was observed that the students must eat lunch in their boots and snowpants in the lunchroom in the winter. Can this process change to have students getting ready for outside after their lunch has been eaten?

A: (Tracey O'Toole) Eating lunch in classrooms is not feasible as the number of lunch supervisors is minimal and there would not be enough supervision on all floors of the school. Students cannot go back to their classes to get ready for recess after lunch, because, again, there just isn't enough supervision to safely manage this process.



Allenby Parents' Association Budget Survey

May 2016

Background and Overview of Survey

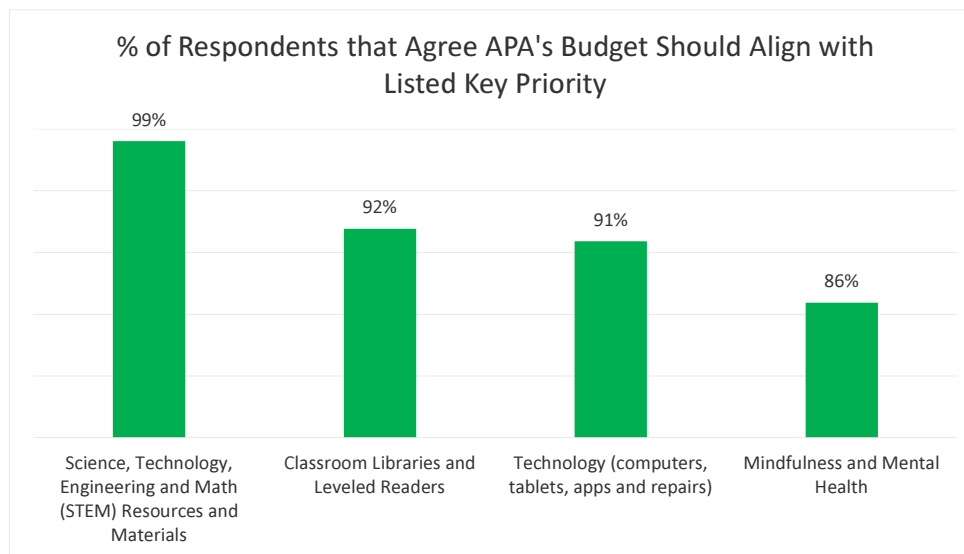
Earlier in the school year, the Principal of Allenby, Tracey O'Toole, shared the school budget with the Allenby Parents' Association. The APA Executive was therefore presented with the opportunity to align its budget with the school's budget.

Through the APA Budget Survey, we hoped to obtain parent input and ideas for the APA's annual budget, specifically related to the concept of aligning the APA budget with the school's budget and we also hoped to collect some feedback on general APA issues.

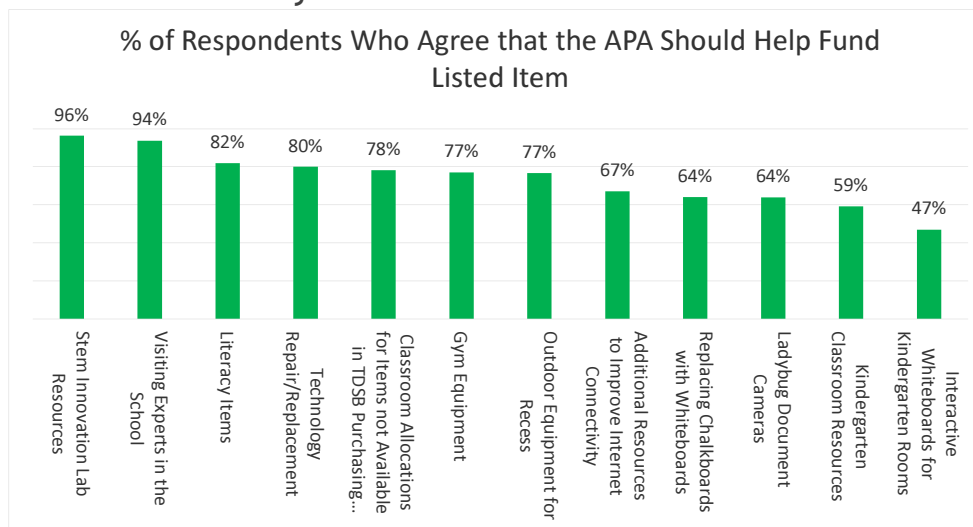
The survey was delivered electronically, via Survey Monkey, with a survey link sent out to parents through Class Representatives. Parents were given 2 weeks to respond. We received a total of 204 responses, of which 186 were complete responses.

This document presents a high level overview of the data that was collected through the survey. We will be using this data to form the APA's 2016/2017 budget as well as for budget planning over the next few years. The survey included some open ended questions and respondents took the time to provide many thoughtful suggestions and comments. We will be addressing these suggestions/comments over time, through both the development of the budget and through a Q & A document.

- ▶ Earlier in the 2015/2016 schoolyear, Tracey O’Toole shared the school’s Key Priorities for the coming years. The APA Executive determined that supporting these Key Priorities would enhance the educational experience of our students, however the Executive wanted to ensure that the majority of parents would support this approach to spending.
- ▶ An overwhelming majority of respondents agreed that the APA’s budget should align with the Key Priorities. Therefore, the APA will commit to focus spending on the Key Priorities over the next 1-3 years.

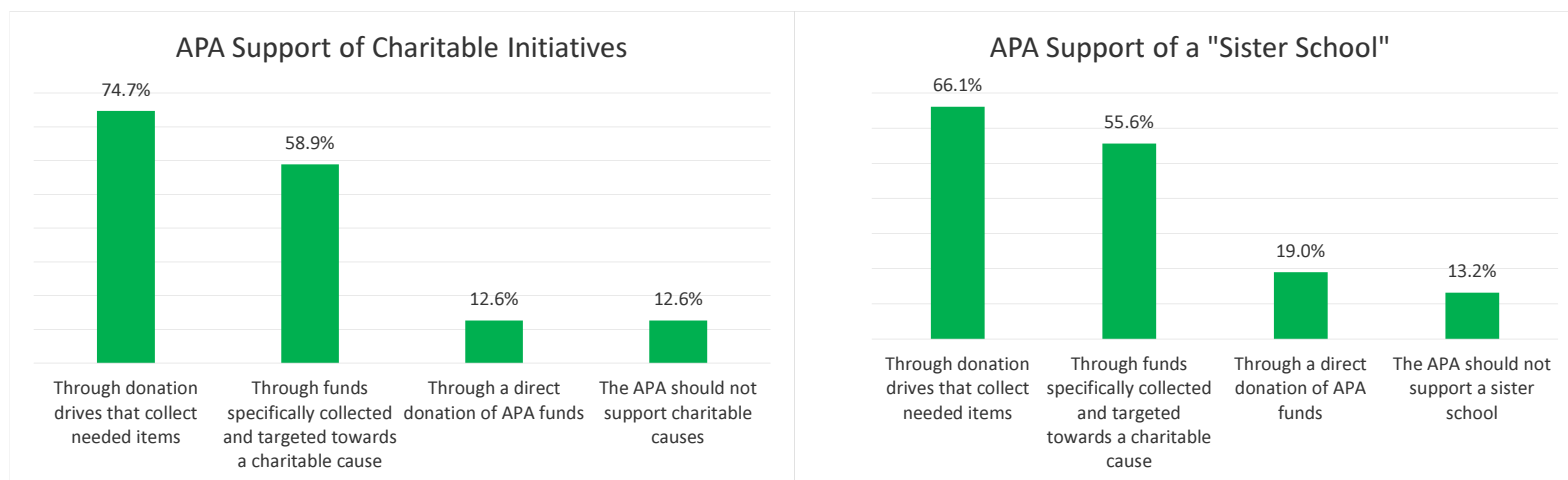


- ▶ Through feedback from Allenby teaching staff and a collaborative meeting with school administration, a list of potential spending areas was developed.
- ▶ While a majority of parents agreed that most spending areas could be addressed through the APA budget, some areas were ranked higher than others. Given this feedback, the APA's budget will attempt to address all areas over the next 1-3 years.

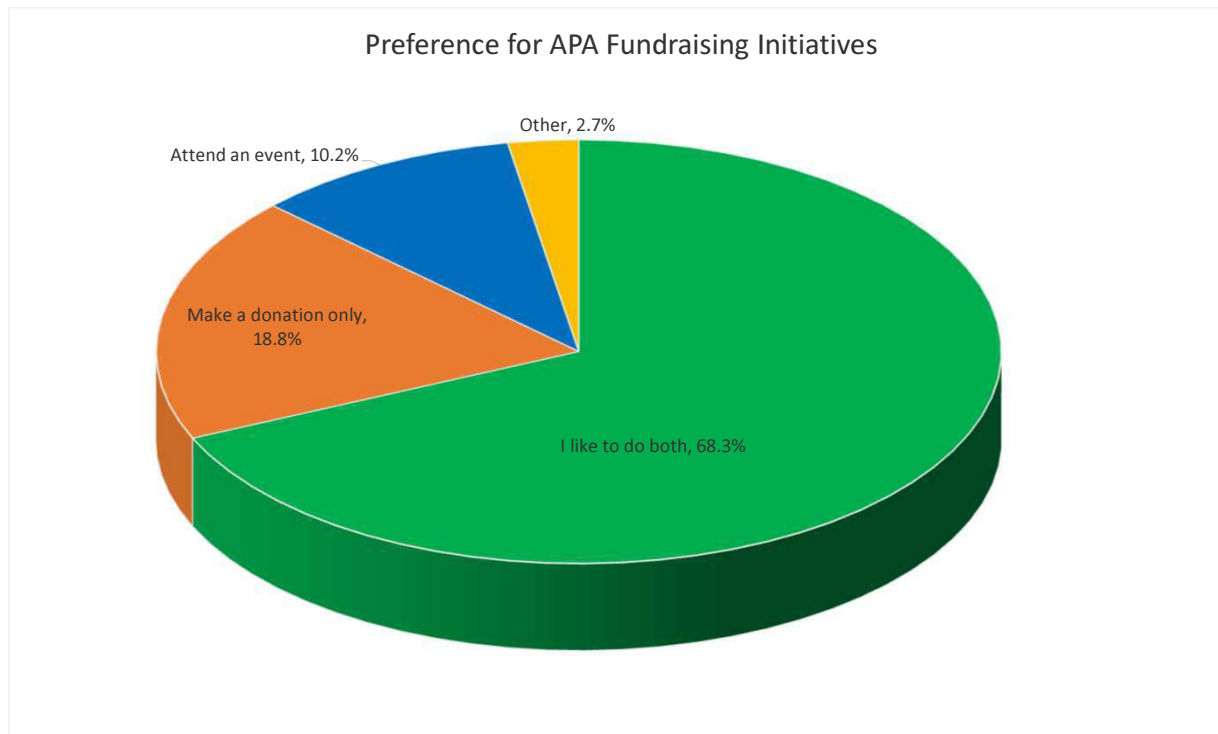


- ▶ It is noted that the ad-hoc comments related to this question included additional ideas for spending. Music and the Arts, Indoor Physical School Improvements, Field Trips, Literacy and Technology were mentioned most often.
- ▶ In addition to providing input into the APA budget, any parent can present a motion for spending through the school year and all motions are voted on by APA meeting participants.

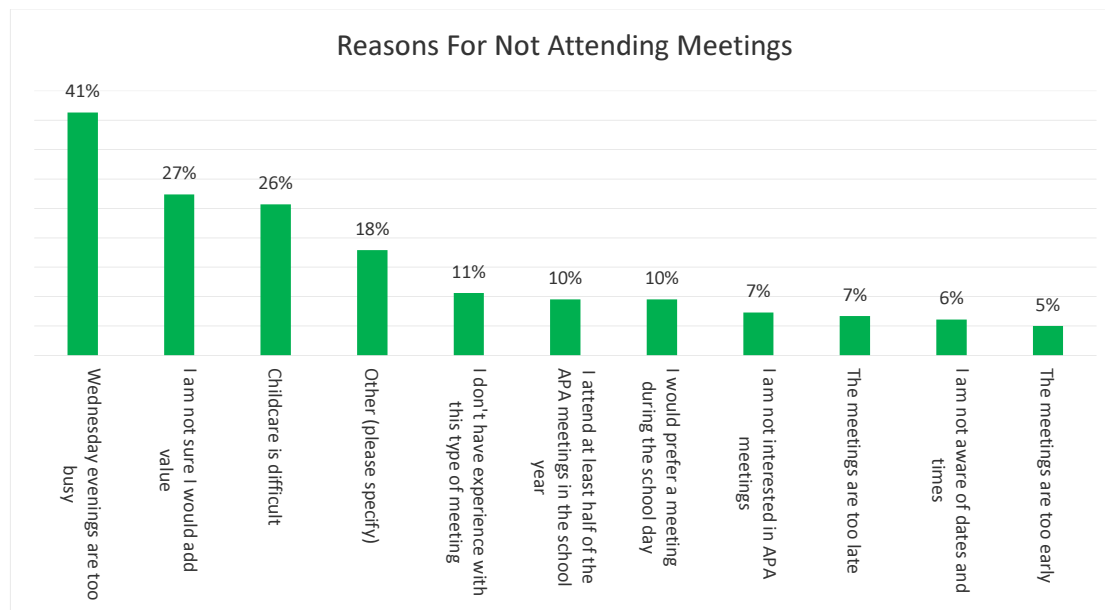
- ▶ Questions 4 and 5 on the survey addressed APA Charitable Giving Initiatives. A majority of respondents believe that the APA should be involved with charitable giving to other charities and to a sister school. Given the results of the survey, the APA will continue to spearhead charitable giving initiatives and parents and families will be given the choice to participate in these initiatives. Funds for third party charitable organizations will not be allocated directly in the APA's budget. Allenby students will be involved as much as possible to encourage empathy and understanding, thereby enhancing their experiential learning.



- ▶ In terms of fundraising, the APA will continue offering fabulous events, a convenient pizza lunch program and engaging after school activities. We will also continue to encourage participation in our September Donation Drive and Class Basket initiatives.



- ▶ Evenings are busy, however there is not a better time to hold APA meetings. The APA Executive has been brainstorming ideas to increase meeting attendance and participation. In the 2016/2017 school year we will likely reduce the number of meetings from monthly to bi-monthly. We are also planning to pilot an on-line meeting format, where meeting participants can “attend” meetings from home or participate by joining us in the Allenby Library.
- ▶ Everyone has something to offer. Giving your time to our school and our students is rewarding and strengthens our community. We hope that you will consider joining at least one meeting in the 2016/2017 school year!



Conclusions and Thank You

- ▶ The APA Executive is committed to enhancing the educational experience of all Allenby students. The results of this survey have validated our preferred approach of collaboratively funding the school's Key Initiatives to achieve our mission.
- ▶ Respondents highly value STEM, Literacy, Technology, Visiting Experts, Equipment for Fitness and Outdoor Activity, Music and the Arts, Unique Field Trips and Improvements to the Indoor Physical Space of our School. The APA Executive will attempt to create a 1 to 3 year budget plan that addresses these items.
- ▶ The APA will continue to lead Charitable Giving Initiatives through opt-in collections of funds or needed items.
- ▶ The APA Executive would like to thank all respondents for their time and effort in participating in our survey. Our students and our school are fortunate to have an incredibly generous parent-body and community. It is our hope that we can effectively use this generosity to benefit the learning and experiences of our students.