

**Allenby Parents Association Meeting**  
**May 25, 2016**  
**Held: Allenby Jr. Public School Library**

1. Welcome & Introductions – Paula Riczker
2. Adoption of the May 2016 Agenda – Paula Riczker
3. Adoption of the April 2016 Minutes– Paula Riczker
4. Principal’s Report – Tracey O’Toole
5. Treasurer’s Report – Scott Larin
6. Schoolyard Enhancement Project Update – Gillian Uy and Shannon Phillips
7. Charitable Giving proposal plan for 2016/17 – Amber Christie
8. Committee Updates (10 min)
9. Open Question Session

**1. Welcome and Introductions:** Paula Riczker welcomes everyone.

**2. Adoption of the May 2016 Agenda-** Paula Riczker  
Motion to adopt the APA agenda posted on website  
Gillian Uy seconded the motion  
Motion carried (unanimously passed)

**3. Adoption of the April 2016 Minutes** - Chair Paula Riczker moved to adopt the April 2016 APA meeting minutes, as posted on the APA website, be accepted  
Scott Larin seconded the motion  
Motion Carried (unanimously passed)

**4. Principal's Report (Tracey O’Toole):**

- Parent input forms are in; placement meetings will be held June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ; teaching assignments are already given; there are some movement of teachers to other schools; we had surplus teachers and some have received positions at outside schools; we have two postings for Allenby and Tracey has hired for one position and this teacher is joining the school in Sept 2016; still possibility of some teacher movement; parents will be notified on their report card with the room number and with a list of teachers with their assignment; Tracey will put out something about the new teachers coming and leaving Allenby before the classroom assignments are given; Report cards go out June 28 and the last day of school is June 29<sup>th</sup>;
- June 29<sup>th</sup> there are two Playdays and softball game; also students will be able to go to their new classroom; also we will sing the grade 6 past the mural with the Allenby song and distribute popsicles afterwards
- last week spent time with Spec Ed team talking about transitions for Special Ed students; will follow-up in June with parents to let them know what supports are in place for these students; new JK parents are coming on June 6<sup>th</sup> AM at 8:45 to discuss how to prepare kids for JK
- a couple of grade 6 parents came to Tracey O’Toole to discuss how to support kids as they transition to grade 7; Tracey O’Toole is going to pick a morning to have something with the kids to help them be successful in middle school; they will go to Glenview June 2<sup>nd</sup> to visit the school
- EQAO for grade 3 and 6 kids; some kids using assisted technology for some Spec Ed kids
- Question? What is the set number of class trips for each classroom?

Answer: There are no set number of field trips. There have been some unconventional field trips booked. Feedback from parents is that they do not like extra experts in the classroom that replace a field trip so we are limiting experts in the classroom to two per year. Field trips are up to teachers.

Question? Can you comment on mindfulness programming for the school?

Answer: This year we have a parent volunteer who came in once a week to do yoga; also have Mindfulness Monday happening next year, so every Monday AM can do Mindfulness in the first 30 minute time period; specialty teachers will be going into classrooms to do Mindfulness so 1 in 3 weeks will be led by another teacher;

Question? Can we have a mental health speaker who talks about mindfulness to inform parents?

Answer? Maybe incorporate before a parent meeting

## **5. Treasurer's Report – Scott Larin**

Scott moved to accept the financials as of April 2016 as reported on the APA web site

Gillian Uy seconded the motion

Motion passed (unanimously)

- Revenue of \$22,000; expenses of \$62,000 with net earnings of \$-41,000;

**Revenue:** \$65,612 forecasted; \$21,926 actual

**Expenses:** \$104,279 forecasted; \$62,831 actual (minus \$17,979 for Schoolyard FUNd)

Surplus at \$81,201; APA only surplus is \$63,000

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

- Meeting today with the board regarding the kindergarten space with a TDSB designer to come in September to meet with a group interested in participating in this project and the Principal and Vice-principal; will not have to pay for the designer; took information from Tracey and the teachers to incorporate into the design; we can then direct the remainder of the Schoolyard FUNd budget from phase 1 (\$18,000) to this playground project

- met with Earl Beatty school and shared information on the process of planning and fundraising for the Allenby schoolyard; shared what worked well and the experiences the Schoolyard FUNd raising team

## **7. Discussion of APA Charitable partnering & giving- Amber Christie**

- Allenby has a strong history of charitable giving

- one of the initiatives is to put additional structure around charitable giving

- APA put out a budget survey; two questions about charitable giving and to what extent we should be involved; based on the survey results we thought we could put some guiding principles around charitable giving and form a subcommittee

- Allenby raised over \$10,000 for charity;

- From the Allenby survey, 75% supported in kind donations (clothing, book drive); most respondents did not support direct donation to charity or sister school; they want to choose where their money goes to specifically

- charitable giving subcommittee will ensure there are teachable moments and ensure students are involved and understand why they are giving; embedding with the TDSB character traits

- will space out events so maximum once per month;

- will have a preset charitable giving calendar

- the subcommittee will decide on the charities that are supported so please join if you have one that you want us to be supporting.

## **8. Committee Updates:**

*a. Community Awareness Update (Krista Chaytor): no update*

*b. Communication Update (Theresa Ebden):*

- Teacher lunch on June 16<sup>th</sup>, catered staff appreciation lunch
- June 23 is the volunteer breakfast

*c. School Program Update (Dawn Morris):*

- baseball has started
- after 4 is almost complete; working on next year's after 4

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

- Veronica Takes gave update on the Friday Mindfulness Program on a volunteer process; ran smoothly until Jan to May 2016; every Friday at lunch did a variety of activities focusing on wellbeing; it was well received; accessed by all students grade 1 to 6; had 240 participants; some returned more than once; also a wall across from the office that was updated about Mindfulness; kids learning how to self-regulate and self sooth
- someone asked if this could be done as an After 4 program; Veronica was happy to do After-4 if that is what the school wanted.

*e. Fundraising (Gillian Uy and Shannon Phillips):*

- Fun Fair June 4<sup>th</sup> 2016; need sign up for the FunFair not even 50% signed up for volunteer shifts
- can we put in the Principal's message
- will be in the newsletter this week

**9. Open Questions:**

Meeting adjourned at 9:04

Next APA meeting Wednesday June 22, 2016; will be at 7 pm in Allenby Jr. PS Library