

**Allenby Parents Association Meeting**  
**September 28, 2016**  
**Held: Allenby Jr. Public School Library**

1. Welcome & Introductions –Lisa Parker
2. Adoption of Agenda and June Minutes–Lisa Parker
3. Principal’s Report – Tracey O’Toole
  - Special Education at Allenby (Grade 3 Gifted Testing, HSP Programming Changes)
  - EQAO Results
4. Treasurer’s Report - Scott Larin
  - Vote on the APA 2016/2017 Budget
5. APA Voting Process
  - Proposed New Process for Voting on Spending Motions Less than \$5,000
6. Election of 2016/2017 Executive Council
7. Kindergarten Yard Enhancement – Gillian Uy
8. Committee Updates
  - Fundraising
  - Health and Wellness
  - Safety
  - Community Awareness
  - School Programs
  - Communications
9. Open Question Session

• **Welcome & Introductions –Lisa Parker**

• **Adoption of September 2016 Agenda and June Minutes–Lisa Parker**

*Motion: Lisa put forth the motion to adopt the June 2016 Minutes as presented.*

Theresa seconded the motion.

Motion carried (unanimously passed).

*Motion: Lisa put forth the motion to adopt the September 2016 Agenda as presented.*

Theresa seconded the motion.

Motion carried (unanimously passed).

• **Principal’s Report – Tracey O’Toole**

Tracey shared the following:

Thrilled to see the turn out to the first APA meeting of the year. Parents play a vital role in our children’s education. Hoping the high parent turn out continues for the year.

- Special Education at Allenby:

- The special education team at Allenby includes:
  - **Ms. Julian** - Teacher Librarian (Oversees Special Education) –offers drop in classes to students for extra support.
  - **Ms. Anderson & Ms. Sharma** – Home School Program (HSP) teachers. Programming based at the students “home school” to support students who are struggling in literacy or math. Ms. Anderson and Ms. Sharma provide resource support to students. They will apply that resource support either by withdrawing students from their regular classroom into a small group or supporting in the classroom or a combination thereof.
  - **Ms. Glass** - Educational Assistant – Works in the afternoons and she does one of the most intensive reading programs in the TDSB called Empower Behavior. Very intensive program with 110 lessons that support students in Grade 2 and sometimes grade 3 that have not developed decoding skills. Works with 5 students at a time and services about 30 students through that program.
  - **Ms. Nyman** – Full Time Educational Assistant- Fluent in French to help students enrolled in French Immersion
  - **Mme. Pryor**- Delivers Digital literacy and Media literacy. Also, provides resource support to support French Immersion Students.
  - **Mrs. H**- Special Needs Assistants- Supports many students throughout the school with behaviour, autism etc.
- At the beginning of the year Tracey met with the Special Education Team many times to identify students that have been recognized as needing support in previous years. Diagnostic assessments are taken for students that are identified as needing one. Every teacher is given an opportunity to meet with the team about any student that they want to bring forward. Students change and needs change.
- IEP-Individual Education Plan
  - Parents are always informed before this program begins with a child
  - A written document that outlines what your child needs to be successful.
  - It will outline what the expectations are for your child and what grade level they are working at.
- **Gifted Testing**
  - Gifted has been changed in 2016. Gifted screening is done in grade 3. Parents of grade 3 students are sent a letter asking if they would like their child to participate in Gifted Testing.

The screening is three 10 minute IQ tests.

- **EQAO TESTING** (Grade 3 & 6)-Tells us some information about student achievement but not everything.
  - Allenby scored higher than the scores at the board & provincial level in both Math and Reading
  - It was noted that math scores have dropped significantly at Board & Provincial level Allenby scored significantly higher than the Provincial level
  - Scores will be mailed to parents

- **Scott Larin - Treasurer's Report**

The proposed 2016/2017 APA Budget was presented at June 2016 APA meeting and was voted on at this meeting. (The budget was handed out to all attendees)

*Motion: Scott put forward the motion to accept the proposed 2016/2017 APA budget as present.*

Paula seconded the motion.

Motion carried (unanimously passed).

Scott presented the APA actuals for the year ending August 31, 2016

Revenue for year ending August 31<sup>st</sup> 2016: \$83, 000

Expense for year ending August 31, 2016: \$85, 000

Closing Surplus \$120, 000

*Motion: Scott put forward the motion to accept the APA actuals for the year ending August 31, 2016.*

Sarosh Seconded the motion.

Motion carried (unanimously passed).

### **Amelia**

Amelia is new online payment system that will be used to accept payments for all APA programs, fundraisers etc.

The Amelia payment system will save the APA on bank charges and cheque processing.

- **APA Voting Process-Lisa Parker (slides attached)**

Lisa proposed a new process for voting on spending motions less than \$5000.00 as previously it was less than a \$1000.00. This change is brought forward because our meeting frequency has changed to every 60 days instead of 30 days. If the motion is for a spending amount under \$5000.00, it can be tabled and

voted on at the same meeting. No vote is needed on this change to the process because it is not a spending motion. New spending motions will go through APA REPS the week before to give parents an opportunity to bring forward questions or concerns. If parents have any concerns about a motion, we can decide postpone the vote and gather more information before voting at the next meeting.

- **APA nominations -Lisa**

All executives voted in individually

APA Treasurer - Sarosh Nanavati

APA Secretary - Valerie Midmer & Serin Benadiba

APA Director of Fundraising - Meredith Palmer & Jennifer Lenk

APA Director of Communications - Theresa Ebden

APA Director of Community Awareness - Krista Chaytor

APA Director of Health and Wellness - Amber Christie & Louise McCrindle

APA Director of Safety - Lindsay Goldberg

APA Director of School Programs - Lindsay Goldberg

APA Vice Chair - Gillian Uy

APA Chair - Lisa Parker

- **Kindergarten school yard-phase 2 UPDATE- Gillian Uy**

- TDSB is on board
- Meeting next week with designer
- Goal is to have installed in summer 2017-ready for September next year (Installation to start in spring)
- To create an outdoor classroom instead of kindergarten play space.

## **8. Committee Updates**

- **Fundraising-Meredith Palmer / Jennifer Lenk** - November 4th is Big Night Out. Tickets will be available in the next little while. There will be a silent auction, music. This is a parent night only. A great way to meet parents at Allenby and have fun. Fundraising is looking for donations for the silent auction
- **Communications- Theresa Ebden**
  - Directory-Please make sure if your information has changed to update your information on the

directory.

- Class lists are coming soon
- Please sign up for the newsletter-you need to sign up
- Follow the APA on twitter( AllenbyPS #APAMEETING)

- **Community Awareness- Krista Chaytor**

- Our Ward 8 Rep, Stephanie Chong, attended a Ward 8 Meeting recently. The meeting discussed the ways in which parents can navigate the TDSB in terms of communication. If you have a concern let Bev and Tracey know. Reach out to school first before going to the Superintendent (Vicky Branko).

- **Health & Wellness- Amber Christie & Louise McCrindle**

Two sub committees (Next Week's Newsletter)

- Healthy Environment-eco-initiatives & charitable giving & Caring Community
- Thriving kids-
  - Lice Check- Next one in January and one in spring
  - Mindfulness-Mindful Monday's & Guest Speakers
  - Nutrition and Physical Health Initiative

\*Call outs in Newsletter next week

- **Safety - David Heath**

- The focus is pedestrian experience and traffic safety.
- Working very closely with school office and with Health & Wellness Committee.
- It is very dangerous to cross at Castfield and Avenue Road and making this crossing safer will be a main priority for this year.
- David is looking for sub-committee members and to email him if interested.
- Please call the attendance verification line if your child is going to be absent. You can call the attendance line in advance. They can put it in system.
- If you do see something dangerous on way to school -take photos and record data to send to police
- Kiss and Ride- is in desperate need of volunteers one day a week. The program won't run unless we have volunteers.
- A parent was concerned that the cross walk is no longer visible at Roselawn and Castlefield

- **School Programs- Lindsay Goldberg**

- After 4 registration, will start next week and sign up will be through Amelia
- Spirit Day (Orange Shirt Day) & Pizza Lunch on Friday

**9. Open Question Session**

Q: Will Grade 5 and 6 kids have an Itinerant Music Program?

A: Working to develop a program that will work for students given a lack of space.

# Voting on APA Spending Motions that are less than \$5,000 and greater than \$5,000

## Current Process

- ▶ Spending motions that are less than \$1,000 can be placed on the APA agenda, tabled at the meeting and voted on at that same meeting.
- ▶ Spending motions that are greater than \$1,000 are placed on the APA agenda, tabled at the meeting, placed on the following month's agenda and then voted on at that meeting.

## Proposed Process

- ▶ Spending motions that are less than \$5,000 can be announced in the newsletter the week before the meeting, communicated to parents through APA reps, placed on the APA agenda, tabled at the meeting and voted on at that same meeting.
- ▶ Spending motions that are greater than \$5,000 are placed on the APA agenda, tabled at the meeting, placed on the agenda for the next meeting and then voted on at that meeting.

# Purpose of Proposed Voting Changes

The APA has agreed to trial a bi-monthly meeting schedule. Given that we will be meeting less frequently than in the past, some spending items will take at least 2 months to be approved. We feel that increasing the “spending limit” for a “one meeting vote” will help alleviate spending inefficiencies from a reduced meeting schedule.

Additionally, the \$1,000 limit is an arbitrary number that was developed many years ago. The size of our school has grown and inflation has impacted costs. We are often finding ourselves in situations where we are just over the \$1,000 mark and are therefore required to wait for the next meeting to vote on a particular spending motion.

If at any time there is a perceived issue with a motion for spending, and the APA feels like additional information or research on cost/benefit is required, the voting process will be slowed down to ensure responsible spending.