

APA Meeting Agenda

Wednesday March 29th, 2016 7-9 pm

1. Welcome & Introductions - Lisa Parker
2. Adoption of the March Agenda and January Minutes-Lisa Parker
3. Presentation on Allenby's Library Learning Commons - Alanna Julian
4. Principal's Report - Tracey O'Toole
 - Information on 2017/2018 student enrolment, staff allocations and the process for creating the 2017/2018 staffing model
4. Treasurer's Report – Sarosh Nanavati
5. Vote on motion to spend up to \$1,500 on new signage for Drop Zones and Kindergarten No Parking Zone - Gillian Uy on behalf of the Safety Task Force
6. Committee Updates
 - Fundraising
 - Communications
 - Community Awareness
 - Safety
 - Health and Well Being
 - School Programs
7. Open Question Session

1. Welcome & Introductions - Lisa Parker

2. Adoption of the March Agenda and January Minutes-Lisa Parker

Motion: Lisa put forth the motion to adopt the March 2017 Agenda and January 2016 Minutes as presented.

Gillian seconded the motion
Motion carried (unanimously passed).

3. Presentation on Allenby's Library Learning Commons - Alanna Julian

Alanna Julian-Librarian at Allenby and MAR (Materials and Resource Teacher) presented and showed how students and parents can use Academic Workspace (Also known as AW)

1. To log in go to tdsb.on.ca and search 'Find your School'
2. Log onto <https://aw.tdsb.on.ca> and click 'my home' tab
3. Search the web for 'school name TDSB virtual library'

Students need 9 digit ID number to login ID (student ID, given in Grade 1) when logging in outside the TDSB Network.

AW is full of resources and has a virtual library that can be used for research, there is a read aloud section where students can access audio books and the entire Allenby Library catalogue of books can also be accessed.

AW also provides access to students' GOOGLE drives. Every student has access to a drive. Alanna encourages all students to start saving their work to their GOOGLE drive instead of on their computer at home. They can access the drive from school and at home. Students no longer have to worry about their work going missing. Students can share documents with teachers and other students.

Parents can see what books are available in the library at Allenby by clicking on the Catalogue section in the launch pad.

Just read-READERS CHOICE - is a section geared towards letting children to review books. Helping other children to select books based on reviews from other children. Students can win monthly prizes based on their reviews.

5. Principal's Report - Tracey O'Toole

PLC's

This year there was a big focus on STEM at Allenby and teachers have all been working collaboratively, in their PLCs, to develop cross curricular STEM units. Grades 1 to 6 teachers are integrating the arts, literacy and math. They are doing a unit with their class but they also needed to collaborate with at least one colleague to develop that unit. The kindergarten teachers & ECE's collaborated to develop 6 STEM Centers. Each class gets a new STEM Centre every 2 weeks.

The first week of May is Education Week and the school will be hosting a showcase / open house. This allows teachers and students, and parents to travel through the school to see all of the STEM-related work that is happening at Allenby

Student Enrollment & Class Allocation

Tracey O'Toole shared information on 2017/2018 student enrollment, staff allocations and the process for creating the 2017/2018 staffing.

A teacher allocation sheet was presented on a slide with numbers for all attendees to see.

This year (2016-2017) Allenby was staffed for 784 students and we are over 800 students. The board develops the projected enrollment. Tracey wanted to communicate with the planning department in advance of getting its allocation sheet because once the sheet is developed it is hard to make changes.

This year, sheets were sent home with students to determine the number of students returning for 2017/2018. Tracey put out newsletters to daycares and nurseries in the area with Kindergarten registration dates. Kindergarten registration this year was bumped up to get registration totals earlier. This was to help get a sense of where our numbers will be in the fall.

The numbers are believed to be 821 for the 2017-2018 school year. These numbers are the requirements to build a staffing model. Obtaining the most accurate numbers possible means that Allenby is less likely to have a reorganization of classes in the fall. This is excellent news especially for kindergarten classes. The Board has projected 5 kindergarten classes and 2 SK French Immersion classes. Tracey feels this will be sufficient.

Allenby has a 44 staff total. Tracey shared that she is in the process of trying to finalize the numbers and prep delivery. The teachers that are in the building this year may not necessarily be the teachers in the building next year. Sometimes, they apply for other

positions and etc. Tracey will try to get out what the models are in the next Newsletter or the week after. Tracey needs to get approval from the Superintendent before sharing.

The Pro's of 2017-2018 school year projected numbers:

- Less likely to re-organize.
- Not likely to surplus teachers this year

TDSB-expects one contract teacher to be hired within the elementary system as a whole.

Parent question: Do we ever get to a point where there are too many students for Allenby to handle? What is Allenby's capacity?

Response: Allenby is over capacity. While class sizes haven't necessarily been impacted, the school is affected in other ways; e.g. by having 3 classes in gym at same time. Allenby is creative in using the shared space.

Parent Question: What about John Fisher students and if they relocate students who are in the Allenby catchment area, would that affect Allenby?

Response: Allenby is no longer the homeschool for the students that have gone to John Fisher and therefore would not necessarily be permitted to come back to Allenby. Regardless, there aren't that many students that left Allenby to attend John Fisher.

Parent Question - Is there a "right" time to transition out of French and into English?

Response: TDSB-wide, by Grade 8, 50% of students drop French immersion. There isn't a right time.

What is Empower Reading?

Empower Reading is an Intensive reading program that identifies students who are struggling with early reading. An assessment is given by an Educational Assistant at Allenby who received special training for this program. Students work in small groups, to get through 100 lessons.

Allenby is trying to minimize literacy issues in the higher grades by early intervention in the lower grades.

Construction at Allenby

This summer Allenby is under construction. The Kindergarten playground construction will get started.

Also, the school's boiler will be replaced this summer. The boiler is very old. In the winter months Allenby has had huge fluctuations of temperatures. Classrooms have been very hot or freezing cold. Project is long overdue.

It will impact almost every single space in school. The library and lunchroom and gym and daycare will not be affected. Every radiator or heating system and pipes in school will be replaced.

Throughout May and June 2-3 classes will be displaced to accommodate the project.

The Allenby daycare summer camp will be moved elsewhere this summer. It will be very close location in proximity to Allenby.

The Board is taking safety issues very seriously. An independent third party has been hired to perform safety audits and air quality control tests. Tracey is receiving daily reports as the project progresses.

Staggered Kindergarten Start times

If the kindergarten classes started with the rest of the school, the kindergarten classes would not have recess. Teachers would be over teaching by 30 min. There are not enough teachers to accommodate supervision. Allenby does not have a big enough yard to accommodate all of the students. Tracey feels that Kindergarten will need to remain with staggered start times.

5. Treasurer's Report – Sarosh Nanavati

Motion to pass the February Actuals as presented.

Gillian seconded the motion.

Motion carried (unanimously passed).

Everything is still on track for the forecast of last meeting. APA has done a fair amount of spending this year to bring down surplus.

Spending:

STEM: \$11, 000 spent of the \$18, 000 budget for the year. Another \$5,000 dollar invoice is coming (The school has spent the 18,000 on their budget already)

Enrichment grant: \$11,000 spent of \$17,000 budget

Literacy: Almost \$3,000 spent of \$9,000 budget

Expert in the school is a little over \$6000 spent of the \$16,000 budget

Sarosh reported that we have Fun Fair coming up and that usually raises \$20,000 - \$25,000.

6. Vote- Gillian Uy (On behalf of the Safety Task Force)

Drop Zones and Kindergarten No Parking Zone - Gillian Uy on behalf of the Safety Task Force

Gillian shared that Allenby is in need of new signage for DROP Zones. The signs on the Castlefield side have fallen down (Lawn signs, mesh signs, etc.) We need a visual reminder to drive safer. We will not print a new sign for the St. Clements side until we know that the DROP Zone is successful on that side.

Motion: Gillian Uy brought forth motion to spend up to \$1,000 on new signage for the Drop Zones.

Jen Lenk seconded the motion.

Motion carried (unanimously passed).

The new Drop Zones are going really well and easing congestion.

The school is purchasing a large banner to hang on Avenue road. Partially designed by Grade 5 students to remind drivers about speeding. Tomorrow at 10 am there will be 4 police officers out radar-ing cars along with student helpers. This is to remind drivers why it is important to respect the speed limit on Avenue Road.

7. Committee Updates

A. Fundraising

Lip sync was very successful. Great participation. Raised a lot of money, the exact numbers are not available yet. Zodiak Camps sponsored and helped offset some of the costs of the event. The committee is in need of new members for next year.

Rad Tagz- We have sold more than 50 percent of what we have to sell. There are 90 left to sell. We will set up at fun fair and have a new tag.

Fun Fair- Planning underway. Saturday, June 3rd, 2017 is the event date. There is a big need for sponsors and volunteers.

Parent question: Parent would like to volunteer with their kids. Would like positions that are kid friendly to be identified prior to signing up.

B. Communications-Nothing to Report

C. Community Awareness-Nothing to report

D. Safety

David Heath shared-online maps apps now re-direct traffic the intersection of Castlefield and Avenue Road. (Waze and Google Maps)

E. Health and Well Being

Wednesday, April 19th is the next lice check.

1st week of May is mental health and wellbeing week. 6 parents have volunteered to help. Looking for more parent volunteers who are qualified to help with Mindfulness Mondays.

Health & Well Being Committee is in the process of organizing a Spring Cleaning Clothing drive -looking for donations of clothes. Children's Spring Clothing Drive which supports New Circle. New Circle is an organization that supports new comers to Toronto.

Tracey wanted to share that she has ordered name badges for all staff that identify teachers & peer helpers on the yard. They will wear this on their vests. This helps students identify who they are talking to outside.

F. School Programs

Baseball / Tball registration has begun and on Amelia until late April. The programs run 6 weeks starting in May for \$25.00. Parents are encouraged to sign up to volunteer when signing up kids.

After 4 is underway-enrollment is lower this term. Babysitting, boxing, and ukulele have been cancelled. Not enough enrollment. Please encourage others to enroll.

Parent Question: Parent asked if a bit more notice could be given about programs offered.

Tracey is asking all parents to pay for field trips if you have not paid to school cash online. A lot of parents have not paid and it will affect the school's budget.

Parents would like an option to say the student is not going on the field trip. (If the child is going to be away). They are receiving reminders to pay, but didn't participate in the trip.

8. Open Questions

No Questions were asked at end of meeting.