

# APA Meeting Agenda

## Wednesday May 31st, 2017 7-9 pm

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### 1. Welcome & Introductions - Lisa Parker

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

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

Val Midmer seconded the motion to adopt the May agenda.

Meredith Palmer seconded the motion to adopt the March minutes.

Motions carried (unanimously passed).

### 3. Principal's Report and Presentation on Math and Growth Mindset - Tracey O'Toole

Tracey shared that the Provincial level math scores in EQAO dropped significantly across the province last year. Due to the lower scores the Ministry of Education developed a renewed math strategy. Every school received money from the Ministry of Education (\$8000) for this new math strategy. Tracey shared, that as the Principal it was her decision on how to spend the funds to have the greatest impact on math at Allenby. 20 % of the funds can go towards math resources. 80 % will go towards professional development. (Workshops are offered through TDSB) Tracey put a call out to teachers about a course offered through Stanford University for an online accredited math course. (The teachers interested in the course had to be teaching math this year.) If the teachers wanted to take the course Tracey would pay for it out of the \$8000.00. (11 staff so far have been taking the course as well as Tracey & Sandra (Vice Principal). Teachers had to commit to completing all of the modules and implementing their learning into their classes. There are 8 modules. Each module takes 2-3 hours to complete. Teachers were to meet after 4 modules for an hour and then again after module 8. It has had an impact in the teaching and learning in those classes and those teachers who have taken the course want to share what they have learned with their colleagues.

**Parent Question:** How do you implement the course if it's not part of the curriculum?

**Answer:** The course does not cover curriculum. The course addresses how Math is taught.

Tracey had parents write 3 things about their feelings on math. Parents then crumpled them up and threw them to someone else. As parents, we often share our own

challenges and feelings about math with our children (more so than any other subject). Example: "I was never good at math." Growth Mindset is critical to math learning. Students' perception of their own success and achievement in math have a strong correlation to success in math learning.

Tracey showed a TED talk called Power of Belief by Eduardo Briceño.

### **Growth Mindset / Fixed Mindset**

Link- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN34FNbOKXc>

Next Steps: Allenby staff will develop norms related to how math should be taught. Every classroom will be doing growth mindset work and setting the stage on how math is taught each year.

**Parent question/comment:** Some teachers are implementing change and others are not. (Some teachers are still using textbook, instead of new strategies). What is the strategy to address this discrepancy?

A: Math and growth mindset is a new initiative that teachers have just started learning about and discussing this year. There will be meetings and workshops in the future about how all staff can implement growth mindset learning strategies into their classrooms.

**Parent question/comment:** Is there a shift in the focus/pressure of EQAO?

A: Allenby did very well on EQAO last year and scores did not drop. The schools focus will be how to move the level 3 students to level 4.

**Parent question/comment:** Is there a benefit to expose kids to the concept of Growth Mindset at an early age?

A: This will be a focus starting in kindergarten. There is a lot of brain research stating that growth mindset can start at an early age.

**Parent question/comment:** Growth Mindset literature from an academic standpoint has been receiving a lot of criticism because the application has become so narrow. What strategies are going to be implemented?

A: We are sharing a small piece of this. We are learning different strategies.

## **4. Treasurer's Report – Sarosh Nanavati**

Sarosh presented the APA financials as at April 30, 2017. In terms of revenue, fundraising is trending towards forecasts. From an expense point of view, there is some under-expenditure in a few areas. Two years ago, the APA had a surplus of \$100,000 dollars. Last year the APA created a budget aimed at lowering the surplus.

By the end of this year, the APA will have a surplus of \$70,000. By the end of the 2017/2018 schoolyear, the APA's surplus will be at \$40,000.

Sarosh put forward a motion to pass the April 2017 financials as presented.

Val Midmer seconded the motion.  
Motion carried (unanimously passed).

#### **5. Proposed Draft Budget for 2017/2018 School year – Sarosh Nanavati**

In terms of revenue, we are expecting to record the same as recent years past (\$70,000). We have budgeted \$100,000 of expenditures bringing the APA's surplus to 40,000 by the end of the 2017/2018 schoolyear.

The 2017/2018 APA Budget is now available to parents on the Allenbyparents.com website and there will be a vote to pass it in September.

**Parent question/ comment:** Has Amilia been beneficial and will the APA continue to use it given it's high cost?

While Amilia is expensive, it has been determined that the benefits outweigh the costs. APA Program Co-ordinators have had their workloads substantially reduced because of Amilia. Rather than having our treasurer handle and deposit cheques and cash, most funds are deposited directly to the APA bank account. And, ease of use for parents has been commented on numerous times. Lastly, the APA wanted to follow suit with the school going cashless.

#### **6. Vote on motion to spend up to \$1,000 on Retirement Party for Mr. Galofaro and Mr. Osborne - Lisa Parker**

Motion: Lisa put forth motion to spend up to \$1,000.00 on retirement party.

Meredith seconded the motion.  
Motion carried (unanimously passed).

#### **7. Vote on motion to spend up to \$1000 on Lion's Den equipment storage solution - Lisa Parker**

The Lion's Den is meant to be a place where the students can go to find productive things to do at recess. It will house balls, building toys, skipping ropes etc. The school has already purchased \$1500 in recess equipment and items have arrived. They are in boxes. The school and the APA would like to share the cost of a storage solution so that recess toys could be easily accessible by students. The solution will

include shelving, hanging areas, containers and bins. The grade 6 students will track the items given out at recess.

Jen Lenk seconded the motion.  
Motion carried (unanimously passed).

## 8. Class Representative Role for 2017/2018 - Lisa Parker

Lisa discussed changes for next year to the class Rep role:

- Teachers have expressed desire to determine volunteer roles in their classroom
- Involve APA reps beyond sending APA communications
- Provide a consistent, clearly communicated role across classes

Next year parents will express interest by responding to a request by the school. Teachers will send out letter for parents to step forward. Teacher will decide who will be the class rep. Parents will only be one class rep per classroom. Class reps are asked not to communicate on behalf of the teachers.

## 9. Committee Updates

**Fundraising:** Saturday is Fun Fair! Food, Rides, and kids having a blast! The APA encourages parents to bring kids out! It is a great community builder. We are in need of more volunteers. Please sign up on signup genius. Ticket Orders will be going home tomorrow. If you do not get tickets please talk to teacher.

**Communications:** We are looking for a director of communications

**Safety:** Big news-Mayor John Tory is joining us for another photo radar blitz with councilor and Toronto police and media between now and the end of June.

There is now no left at all times at Castlefield and Avenue Rd. The photo radar Bill 65 has passed.

The school zone flashers are down this week. It is tracking data. Once it is up and running it will show your speed and track data.

**Health and Well Being:** 2:00-2:15 Rm 305 Mindfulness session in the school every other Monday. (Ask Amber for details)

## School Programs

**Music Committee:** coordinating list of experts to share with our teachers for field trips.