

APA Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

7-9 pm

1. Welcome & Introductions – Current Chair, Lori Miller Pike

Lori, co-chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Adoption of the Agenda and June Minutes – Current Chair, Lori Miller Pike

Motion: Heather Rowland moved to accept the agenda as presented. Lori seconded the motion. All in favour. No objections. Motion passed.

Motion: Heather Rowland moved to accept the June minutes as presented on the website and at the meeting. Lori seconded the motion. All in favour. No objections. Motion passed.

3. Principal's Report – Jennie Ucar

Reorganization at Allenby – Jennie explained that the school is opening a new kindergarten classroom. The posting has been placed. Jennie plans to interview and hire by the end of the week and hopefully the new kindergarten class will be up and running early next week. Grades 1 to 3 also reorganized last week to ensure that there are three straight grade 1s that meet the Ministry cap.

Drama & Dance Teachers – this program will be going 'a la carte' owing to lack of a classroom. The drama and dance teachers will either teach in various classrooms/places throughout the school.

A parent enquired as to who is the new VP. Jennie stated that it was Jane Cooper-Eade. In November, another VP will join the team at Allenby - George Brown Jr. - and then in January we will have a transfer of a permanent nature. Ms. D'Angelo plans to extend her leave.

A parent posed the question as to whether Allenby is eligible for an additional VP. Jennie stated that she does not think that the number of students warrants an additional VP.

A parent asked whether it would be possible to split the recess as there are so many children in the playground during recess. Jennie stated that scheduling this would be near impossible. Jennie stated that she felt the recess seems to be going well as it stands presently. She realized that given that there was construction at the beginning of the year this made recess/lunch a little more challenging, but that situation has now been completed now.

A parent pointed out that the play structure apparatus is allocated to the primary and junior students at certain times, i.e. certain groups of students use the play structure in the morning and in the afternoon.

A parent brought up the issue of the population size of the school and the fact that there are students attending the school that are living out of district. Jennie stated that this has been a concern in the past. The school uses the addresses provided to monitor student's eligibility to be at Allenby.

A parent asked question about class sizes and caps. Jennie responded that 90% of the classes have to be at 20 cap; 10% at the board level can be up to 23. A parent asked when does the number of students become too large for the building and scheduling of classrooms.

Jennie stated that 2 new classrooms are scheduled to be constructed when the all day kindergarten comes to Allenby. Heather asked about the yard capacity and the increase in children. A parent stated that there is suppose to be a discussion within the area around over-crowding. According to a parent, Melanie Dickensen has suggested that there might be an Arc review coming up.

Another parent enquired as to whether portables would be placed in the yard. Jennie stated that she did not think that this included portables, but that construction would happen to the building itself. Jennie reiterated that there are two classes scheduled to be built.

A parent posed a question about cap sizes as there is a 3/4 French immersion class size presently sitting at 26 students. She enquired whether this class be reorganized. Jennie stated that no reorganization would happen at this level.

4. Officer Dale and Parking

Unfortunately Officer Dale was unable to attend the meeting tonight. Catherine Vivash informed the community that Karen Stinz's office has aided in correcting the parking signs around the school to ensure that there is legal parking for parents. Catherine pointed out that there are now new parking/no parking signs posted around the school.

Parents are requested to park west of the school. Police have been ticketing and will continue to ticket. Please do not do 3-point turns near the school, as this is a safety issue for students.

5. Election of the Directors and APA Executive Committee

- a. Chair persons – Lori Pike
- b. Treasurer – Stuart Baltman
- c. Secretary – Yvette Duffy
- d. Director (s) of Communication – Irenke Payne & Tamara Lowe
- e. Director (s) of Fundraising
- f. Director (s) of Public Awareness – Lisa Speigel & Rochelle Fox
- g. Director (s) of School Programs – Paula Ritzker and Shannon Phillips
- h. Director (s) of School Safety Catherine Vivash & Heather Stark

All roles have been acclaimed, except for Directors of Fundraising. Lori stated that there are parents that have approached her wanting to chair the numerous fundraising events – i.e. Big Night Out, Lip Sync, etc. Heather explained that the executive has run in the past without Fundraising Chairs; however, she stated that this is not ideal.

Discussion ensued as to whether a vote was needed for positions that have been acclaimed. Motion was put forward by Heather Rowland.

Motion: Heather Rowland put forth a motion to accept the acclaimed individuals to the APA executive positions as presented. All in favour. No opposed. Motion passed.

**6. Treasurers' Report – Current Treasurer, Stuart Baltman.
Discussion will include voting on the 2011-2012 budget.**

Stuart Baltman explained how the budget is set up. He explained that page 1 presents the revenue generating, pages 2 and 3 presents the expenses. The headings in yellow are the proposed budget. The second column is the draft actuals from last year and column 3 is the year ending budget.

Stuart explained that in the 2010/11 year there was a surplus of \$30796.39, with \$18,000 being revenue generating activities.

He also explained that 2010/11 the expense side was not as large as been predicted in the budget as we did not spend as much as was anticipated resulting in adding to the surplus.

Stuart pointed out the last page, specifically the second column 'Plus Net Income for the Period' of \$30796.39. As of August 31st, 2011, the opening surplus of \$62450.59 added to the 'plus net income' results in a closing surplus of \$93246.98. Stuart also highlighted that of this \$93,246.98, the cash float and \$46,050.00 (of which \$39,300.00 will be spent on technology also up to \$6,750 on rocks) has been allocated. Resulting in a true surplus of \$42,196.98.

Helen Routh spoke about the situation of the rocks in the yard. She summarized what had happened in June. Helen will meet with the TDSB to discuss the rocks that were placed in the yard, specifically she will discuss the size and the number needed to complete the work. Helen will report to the APA on the rocks at the next APA meeting in October.

Jane Greaves pointed out that Mabel Labels' money may not have been accounted for from 2011. Stuart was not aware of any Mabel Labels' outstanding additional funds, but committed to check into this.

A parent also pointed out that 'extraordinary' line item should be removed from the financial statement, as this is a technical accounting term. Stuart agreed that he will make the change.

Motion: Stuart proposed that the 2011 budget be accepted as presented. Rochelle Fox seconded. All in favour. No opposed. Motion passed.

Stuart read a June motion that was proposed as follows:

1. In the Revenue section baseball is to be presented as a net revenue of \$1300.
2. Classroom Grants line item is to be amended to \$16,600.
3. The Teacher's Joint Resource Fund be reduced by \$4,150 and replaced with prior year surplus for classroom grants
4. Grade 6 Grad title be changed to 'Grad Yearbook, Ceremony and Reception'

He highlighted a couple of items that were in the budget. He pointed out that majority of APA revenue comes from parent donations. As of today, we have approximately \$1,000 worth of donations from online donations and \$1,000 from cheques. He pointed out that the projected revenue generation is as follows: Big Night Out as \$11,000; Fun Fair as \$12,000; Pizza Lunch as \$10,000. The overall revenue target is \$61,500 total revenue for the year. On the expense side, the major expenses is Artists in the Classroom which provides \$300 per class for this activity and the

Classroom grants which provides \$400 for each class to provide resources to augment the classroom resources.

A parent asked for clarification on the numbers as Jennie had mentioned reorganization earlier. Discussion ensued that pointed out that all teachers and students benefit from the Artists in the Classroom and the Classroom grants, including the rotary teachers and special education teachers, and the recently added kindergarten classes. Stuart stated that all students are entitled to these funds. Stuart explained that last year a few teachers came forward with regard to purchasing larger products/resources. APA established 'Teacher Joint Resource Fund'. Jennie will oversee this and distribute funds accordingly.

Stuart then explained that total revenues for this year are predicted at \$65,510. Operating expenses are predicted to be \$65,050. Net income from operations will therefore be a loss of \$3542.

A few minutes were allowed to look at the financial statement.

A parent asked about a line item listed under revenues in the amount of \$390.00. Stuart explained that he had placed this line item in as he had assumed that about half of our anticipated parental donation would be donated online and thus the cost for the online donations would potentially be \$390.00 (or 3.9% of what is donated).

Stuart read the motion.

Motion: the budget for 2011/2012 as presented be accepted by the parent association subject to the following amendments:

- 1. In the Revenue section baseball is to be presented as net revenue of \$1300.**
- 2. Classroom Grants line item is to be amended to \$16,600.**
- 3. The Teacher's Joint Resource Fund be reduced by \$4,150 and replaced with prior year surplus for classroom grants**
- 4. Grade 6 Grad title be changed to 'Grad Yearbook, Ceremony and Reception'**

Heather Rowland seconded the motion. All in favour. None opposed. Motion passed.

Stephen Dawang brought up the technology pilot around netbooks. He explained his motion in June where he proposed that the APA spend up to \$5500 on the purchase of 15 additional netbooks. He explained that this amount of money will not be spent as the netbooks were less expensive than predicted in June. Stephen outlined that we had approved the purchasing computers and laptops from last year. He pointed out that there may need to be spend additional funds on additional laptops that was not realized in June.

A parent asked which grades would be targeted for the netbook use.

Jennie explained that the netbooks will be housed on a rolling cart. A teacher would use the books for an extended length of time, such as 30 to 45 days.

A parent enquired as to whether we could purchase more netbooks to supplement the number of netbooks given that the cost of was less expensive than predicted.

Jennie suggested that the teacher's report in March or April as to the success of this pilot.

A parent enquired as to how the \$39,300 allocation for technology is broken down. Stuart read what the motion on technology from the May minutes. Stephen explained the technology strategy that has been going on at Allenby for the last few years. There are 19 to 20 SmartBoards in the classrooms and that the initiative is teacher-driven. There is a mentor-mentee professional learning around the SmartBoard.

A parent asked the question about the implementation of the technology and the learning curve of children. She asked whether we are moving ahead too quickly on the technology front as some children may not be able to keep up. Jennie Ucar explained that

with all new teaching methods there can be challenges, but that as time goes students will adjust.

Stephan Dawang put forward the motion.

Motion: The APA spend up to \$5500 on the purchase of 15 additional netbooks.

Heather Rowland seconded. 43 in favour. 1 Opposed.

7. Field Discussion: Bill Goodwin and David Batori

Lori Miller explained that Bill Goodwin and David Batori will attend another meeting in the future to discuss the field redevelopment. Apologies.

8. Big Night Out:

Lisa Parker invited people to attend the first planning meeting for BNO tomorrow night, September 22nd, at Katy Diamond's house.

9. Committee Updates

School Safety – Catherine Vivash

Catherine explained the Kiss & Ride program. Parents are to drive up to the Kiss & Ride area. Kiss the child. The child or parent/guardian must release the seatbelt. The child is greeted by an Allenby parent volunteer, who will open the car door and escort the child into the yard. Parents/guardians are encouraged to use the Kiss & Ride program. Volunteers are needed.

Lice check will occur on Monday and Tuesday of next week. Volunteers needed.

School Programs: Paula Ritzker and Shannon Phillips

Paula Ritzker explained that the After 4 Program forms were due today. It appears that some forms may not have arrived home. Programs begin the first Monday in October. A parent enquired as to whether programs will be added if there is over-subscription. Lisa

Speigel – who chaired this program last year – explained that it is quite difficult to add programs given the timelines for this section, but that the program can potentially grow during the second section if subscription is up.

Public Awareness – Lisa Speigel & Rochelle Fox

Rochelle Fox attended the All Candidates' Meeting at John Polyani last night. The Liberal candidate - Mike Colle, NDP candidate - Gerti Dervishi, and Green candidate - Josh Rachlis were present. Rocco Rossi was not in attendance. One of the questions posed to the candidates was in relation to fundraising by parents at their local school. Rochelle also explained that other educational issues were discussed as well – such as microwave radiation and the implementation of wireless technology across the TDSB, as well as concerns around the funding formula for education.

A parent explained that she attended the All Candidates' Meeting in the St. Paul's riding. She posed the question about spending on playgrounds to the candidates. The Liberal candidate explained that he would take this issue to the Minister of Education.

10. Open Question Time

A parent asked whether the format for Lip Sync could possibly change for this school year. She posed three options for discussion:

1. Running the event over two nights – as happened in February 2011.
2. Running the event over three nights – as happened in previous school years.
3. Change the format with regard to grade levels to allow certain grades on certain nights.

Discussion ensued and pros and cons for each option were discussed, but no decision was made. It was pointed out that a committee will be struck to run this event and that that

committee welcomes voices. Parents were encouraged to join the Lip Sync committee.

A parent asked about plans to paint the lines in the school yard for the hopscotch and basketball court. Jennie read an email that she had received from Bruce Day, TDSB Grounds Supervisor. It appears that there may be work happening in the yard and that she will discuss this with Bruce Day in the context of the potential yard work and track cleaning. She also pointed out that Bruce Day is looking at what type of grass seed could be used in the yard to ensure better longevity of the grass, as well as determining whether the sprinkler system is in working order.

A parent posed a question about overcrowding in the schools and curriculum night. The parent enquired as to whether the night could be run over two nights versus one night. The gym is hot and overcrowded and the presentation is difficult to hear. Jennie explained that there could be logistical challenges to running the curriculum night over two nights.

This parent also asked about the overcrowding in the gym during concerts, as well. Jennie expressed that it is nice as a community to come together as a whole at times.

A parent asked about developing a better communication system that will allow for more regular and timely communication between teachers and parents. She recommended that teacher's establish a website or other means of communication. Jennie explained that teachers chose how they communicate with parents as a whole. Some teachers send home newsletters, some communicate through the agenda, etc. This parent explained that there is an inequity among classroom teachers with regard to teachers' communicating with parents. Jennie explained that there is an expectation of communication with parents/guardians. Jennie committed to bring this up to the Allenby staff.

A parent pointed out that tomorrow there would be World War One planes flying over the school. A memorial for Billy Barker is being established at Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

Meeting Adjourned