

APA Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 25th, 2012

7-9 pm

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

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

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

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

Motion: Lori moved to accept the minutes as presented. Stuart Baltman seconded the motion. All in favour. No objections. Motion passed.

3. Principal's Report – Jennie Ucar

Jennie introduced Doug Jones, the new Vice Principal. Doug Jones indicated that he comes from Rockford PS. In the past, he worked as a literacy coach with SW FOS 22 schools.

Jennie mentioned last week's email regarding the Boomerang Lunch policy. Parents are asked to send litterless lunches with your child(ren). All food items and containers that came from home will be sent back with each child. There is a 'slop bin' in the lunch room for students to empty unfinished tetra packages into.

Allenby is a pilot school for Math Olympics in our family of schools. Teams of 4 students from grades 4 & 5 work together to solve math problems, with an emphasis on group problem solving skills. Two of Allenby students received special mention for their work at the finals.

A parent mentioned World of Math Day, where any student can sign up to compete in an online math competition. Check out World of Math day at: <http://www.worldmathday.com/>. The training for the

competition begins February 1st and the finals are held on the 7th of March. There is also a World of Spelling Day. And this year there is also a World of Science day.

Jennie mentioned a Literacy initiative called 'Lit Quiz'. This is for students who are avid readers, and have a lot of knowledge about children's literature. She explained that students who participate will be asked questions about lots of books. This year the event is being held at John Ross and is open to grades 5 & 6 students. Two teams of 4 students from Allenby will compete in this initiative on Feb 8th.

Allenby staff and administration have organized a literacy day Allenby on February 29th. Dez Sergeant, storyteller and artist, has been invited to attend Allenby on this day. There will be an assembly in the gym for all students. After the assembly, Sergeant will work with students from grades 3 & 4 and 5 & 6. In the afternoon, kindergarten students will also receive exposure as well.

All grades 1 and 2 students are invited with their parents to attend a literacy evening on the 29th. Sergeant will run two workshops on story writing. The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m.

Lori explained that a decision was made by the APA to attempt to support the younger grades. Babysitting will be provided by the APA for siblings who are not in grades 1 and 2.

Invitations will go out to grades 1 and 2 parents/guardians at the beginning of February.

Lori inquired about the various clubs that are advertised on the APA website that do not appear to be running presently at Allenby. Jennie explained that a few of the clubs may not be running owing to lack of demand or lack of available mentorship.

Madame Mirfendereski explained that some of the clubs – such as the Boys' Club and the Girls' Club – may not be directly linked to

curriculum and thus teachers may have committed to mentor other clubs that are directly linked to curriculum.

Action: Remove the Boys' Book Club and the Girls Club from the APA website. Jennie will check the APA website and review the clubs listed there. She will forward any additions and/or deletions to Paula Riczker.

4. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer, Stuart Baltman. Discussion will include voting on the December Income Statement.

Stuart explained that he has added a 'forecast' line to the budget. Stuart added a note to the budget at the bottom indicating an increase of \$2250 for the field enhancement (i.e. the rocks) that was approved at the November APA meeting.

Stuart explained that the APA Net Revenue for the period ending December 31st, 2012 was \$96989.24. The total Expenses to December 31st, 2012 were \$51154.73. The Net income for the same period was \$45834.51. Therefore, the surplus that has yet to be allocated is approximately \$50,000.00.

A parent asked whether the surplus mentioned is forecasted or actual. Stuart explained that this is forecasted.

Motion: Stuart Baltman proposed to accept the December 31st, 2011, financial statements. Lori Miller seconded the motion. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

5. Proposal for APA expenditure on new curtains for gym (Yvette Duffy)

Yvette Duffy requested that the APA spend some of its surplus on replacing the stage curtains in the gymnasium. Yvette presented two quotes that were provided by the TDSB approved suppliers that were obtained by Jennie Ucar. The approved suppliers and their respective quotes were: 1. Cleanol Services Inc - \$7566.48 and 2. Art Venetian Blind Ltd - \$7740.50.

A discussion ensued about approximate cost of the curtains and the need for the curtains to be fire retardant and meet specific TDSB standards. The fact that only the companies 'approved' by the TDSB were eligible to compete for the project. Installation of the curtains is not included in the quote and thus a discussion ensued as to what

such a cost would be. Jennie Ucar committed that the school will cover the installation cost of the curtains.

The following motion was put forward by Yvette Duffy:

Motion: To spend up to \$8,000 to cover the cost to replace the stage curtains in the gymnasium.

6. Committee Updates

Communications – Director & Spirit Ideas

Tamara Lowe explained that the directory is presently being printed and will be sent home early next week.

Thank you to Peter Wismath who assisted with helping with the directory.

Irenke Payne explained that Family Game Night for kindergarten is scheduled for February 9th, 2012. All kindergarten students and parents/guardians are invited to attend the event. During this time, older siblings are welcomed to enjoy a movie in the library.

Health & Safety – Outdoor Design Committee

Catherine Vivash presented the following updates:

February 6th and 7th – The Lice Squad will be at Allenby to do a lice check. Volunteers are required to assist with moving the students from class to the lice check area. Volunteers will not be required to check for lice. If you are available, please contact Catherine.

Kiss & Ride – There is a need for a new coordinator for this program for next year. If you are interested, please contact Catherine. To ensure student safety, Catherine also requested that parents please respect the Kiss & Ride program and the signs posted around the school.

Outdoor Playground – The TDSB has been assigned a planner to assist with developing a master plan for Allenby's playground. Lori

Miller thanked Superintendent Jeff Hainbuch and Jennie Ucar for working to assist in tabling the playground issue.

Jennie Ucar mentioned that TDSB policy is that dogs are not permitted on school property at all times.

A parent enquired about washrooms and working order in the school. Jennie Ucar explained the number of washrooms in the school and that there had been an issue recently with one set of washrooms; however, this issue is now resolved. She committed to investigate that all washrooms are in working order.

Another parent explained that there are ants in the girl's change room. Jennie Ucar explained that she will look into this.

Another parent raised a concern about the bridge on the play structure being too slippery. Jennie Ucar committed to investigate this. She also explained that if it is icy, the play structure has been out of bounds to students.

Another parent enquired as to whether tetrapacks can be recycled at Allenby. Doug Jones explained that all liquids can be poured out in the buckets in the lunchroom. Another parent asked why can't a student leave the tetra pack at school. Doug explained that 'Boomerang Lunch' means all items that come from home that are not consumed are returned home.

School Programs: Need for a Baseball Convenor and Next APA Speaker

Paula Ritczer is looking for a person to support with baseball this year. Any interested parents please contact Paula Ritczer.

Shannon Phillips spoke about the APA Speaker's Series. She explained that another speaker on parenting is potentially either April 13th or 14th. APA received a \$1,000 grant from the Ministry's Parents Reaching Out program. The first session on internet bullying cost \$540 of this grant. For this speaker in the April are quoted at \$750.

A parent enquired about the range of topics. Shannon provided a list of topics that were wide-ranging and included improving self-esteem, confidence, parenting, saying no, etc. A parent requested who the presenter would be. Another parent suggested the author of *Raising a Child Without Raising Your Voice*.

Motion: The APA to cover up to \$500 to supplement the Parent's Reaching Out grant for the APA Speaker Series. Stuart Baltman seconded. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

Community Awareness: General Update

Rochelle Fox explained that there was a meeting in December about potential PARC. Eighteen parents have expressed an interest in.

The message for the moment is that there is no new news on this subject.

Fundraising: Lip Sync Update and Fun Fair!

Fun Fair: Lori Miller explained that the APA is seeking a chair for the Fun Fair. Lori also explained that there is a scheduled PA day on June 1st and this may or may influence when the Fun Fair will be held.

Lip Sync: The dates are Thursday, February 23rd and 24th. Try outs are January 30th. The rehearsals are February 13th and 14th. Donna Robinson asked the parents to come forward to help out with the mystery act. A parent asked whether the teachers could perform the mystery act on both nights. It was pointed out that the teachers may or not be available on these dates.

The APA thanked Donna Robinson for the posters that have been put up in the school. Some parents suggested that they have not received the Lip Sync sign up forms. It was explained that these are online and available in hardcopy in the main office. Another parent explained that neither her nor her child were aware of the deadlines.

Jennie Ucar will make an announcement tomorrow morning about Lip Sync auditions to students and staff.

Technology: Update

Steven Dawang met with Doug Jones and Jennie Ucar last week. Steven suggested that the Technology Committed is considering purchasing five more smartboards, two tablets, placing a monitor in the main hallway on the first floor to publish announcements and student work, two digital cameras to capture images, and another mobile unit with up to 15 tablets. This committee is also considering a technology night to showcase what is happening with technology in the classroom. Parents welcomed this idea. Jennie Ucar suggested that April might be a good month to do this.

A parent requested that proposals be put forward regarding what the technology will be used for and how the technology has been used in past. Another parent agreed and stated that the technology night should come before the proposal to spend more money.

Jennie Ucar suggested that maybe the technology night should be in March versus April to allow for the motion to be put forth at the March meeting.

A parent inquired about the computers on the mobile cart and who has access to this unit. Jennie Ucar explained that only two teachers have used the roving cart and other teachers have signed up to use them for other points in the year.

Another parent enquired as how the Smartboards are distributed among the French and English teachers. Steven Dawang explained that they are distributed to teachers who are willing to use them. He also pointed out that a list of which teachers have Smartboards was printed in either the September or October APA minutes.

Steven Dawang will send out the list of classrooms that have Smartboard in the next Allenbeat.

7. Open Question Time

No questions were posed.

Meeting adjourned.