

# APA Meeting Minutes

## Wednesday, March 28th, 2012

### 7-9 pm

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

- Lori Miller Pike, co-chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Steven Dawang to introduce the teachers.

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

**Motion:** Lori moved to accept the agenda as presented. Andrew Heitelman seconded the motion. All in favour. No objections. Motion passed.

**Motion:** Lori moved to accept the minutes as presented. It was unclear which individual seconded the motion. All in favour. No objections. Motion passed.

#### 3. Technology Showcase – Teachers and Stephen Dawang

- Steven Dawang explained the purpose of the night:
  1. To see results and to understand how the technology is being used
  2. To demonstrate how the technology is being used so that we can gauge whether to spend additional funds on technology in the future.
- Mr. Jones thanked the teachers in attendance and explained that these are these teachers are the technology leaders in the school. Present teachers included: Mr Hussain; Ms. Sherman; Ms Duncan, Mr Roberts, Ms Alberti, and Mr Osbourne.
- Mr. Hussain began by calling on Ms. Sherman to present how she is using the iPad in the HSP class.
  - Ms Sherman – demonstrated the use of the iPad for video, recording, and apps for Math and literacy. A parent enquired as to whether the fact that there are only two in the HSP classroom and whether this number was enough. Ms. Sherman explained that she only has 12 students and given that there is no access to wireless in her classroom, two has been working well. Another parent posed the question as to whether the students are more engaged. Ms. Sherman stated that definitely students are more engaged.

- Mr. Hussain then called on Mr. Avy Oaknine of Apple Education (who is also an Allenby Parent) to provide further information about the iPad use in education.
  - Mr. Avy Oaknine explained that the way iPads are being deployed across schools is without access to wireless. He explained that there is access to tons of experiences without having to go to the internet. He also explained Dr. David Booth from OISE is working with Nippissing University to develop quantitative data around literacy and numeracy.
- Ms. Sherman explained that a credit card is necessary to create an iTunes account to pick up free apps. She explained that this issue would need to be discussed if more iPads were deployed.
- Mr. Hussain then introduced Adam (a current student of his) around how the Smart Board has affected his learning.
  - Adam explained that the board is interactive and engaging. He explained that the Smart Board is also being used to connect to the internet and further demonstrate ideas discussed in class.
- Mr. Hussain then called on Ms Duncan to explain how she is using the Smart Board.
  - She explained that the Smart Board is a fabulous tool in her classroom. It's interactive and empowering. She explained that she uses it to introduce ideas, consolidate ideas, and improve student engagement. She then demonstrated some of the Smart Board activities that she uses throughout the year. A parent enquired as to whether Ms. Duncan created these resources. She stated that she did.
- Mr. Hussain then called on Mr. Roberts.
  - Mr. Roberts then demonstrated a geography lesson using an interactive map. He proceeded to demonstrate the Smart Response Clickers and how these are used as an assessment tool. A parent enquired how often the clickers are used in the classroom. Mr. Roberts explained that these are new to the school; however, he and a few other teachers are using them and stated that as teachers and students become more familiar with the technology that they will be used more often. A parent posed the question as to how much time it takes to plan a lesson. Mr. Roberts explained that it takes a lot of time to create a Smart Board lesson from scratch. He also explained that there are lots of materials already available in the Smart Gallery for Teachers.
- Mr. Hussain then introduced Ms. Alberti.
  - Ms Alberti demonstrated a math lesson using interactive coins on the Smart Board.

- Mr Osbourne then demonstrated how he uses visuals on the Smart Board to assist his teaching. A parent enquired whether students have a difficult time moving from using the technology to using more traditional forms of teaching. Mr. Osbourne stated that he feels the visuals compliment that can be included in his lessons using the Smart Board only enhances his teaching.
- Mr. Hussein then demonstrated how he uses the document camera in his classroom. He used an example of capturing a student's work from a notebook and placing it on the Smart Board. Mr. Jones also demonstrated how the camera may be used to magnify reading materials to share with the class.
- A parent asked how the net books are being used presently. Mr. Hussain explained that the netbooks are presently with being used with in the grade 5/6 classroom. Mr. Hussein explained that he started a new project called "Global Partnerships" where technology was a must to participate. He further explained that the students were communicating with children around the world. Mr. Jones explained that the netbooks have also been used on other projects throughout the school. A parent asked how often are the netbooks are being used. Mr. Hussein explained that there is more demand than availability. Jennie Ucar explained that there are at least four staff that would really appreciate having access but do not at this time owing to lack of resources. A parent enquired as to whether netbooks or iPads would be better. The teachers explained that the netbooks allows access to assistive technology purchased by TDSB whereas the iPad does not provide this. A parent enquired as to netbooks versus laptops. The teachers explained that the netbooks do not have memory storage and students must save their data to usb.
- Mr. Avy Oaknine offered to run a pilot at Allenby using the Apple iPads, and mentioned Apple TV as well. He explained that a 10 pack of iPads is presently priced at \$399 each.

### **3. Principal's Report- Jennie Ucar**

- Ms. Sherman began by explaining that Earth Rangers will be attending Allenby to speak to the students to raise awareness about endangered species. The potential date is May 24<sup>th</sup>. This is a free assembly for all students; however, the school will solicit donations to help with the protection of an endangered Canadian animal. The school would like to raise \$1000 to support this initiative.
- Dress Code – Jennie Ucar explained that she would like to begin the dialogue around what clothing is appropriate. She outlined what is

appropriate attire for school. She explained the following will be enforced at Allenby as part of the school dress code:

- a. Shorts/Skirts: if standing the shorts/skirts need to be at the end of the fingers when standing
- b. Tank Tops: the width of the shoulder straps have to be two fingers wide
- c. T-Shirts/Blouses/Tops: the shirts must be long enough to cover the entire torso.

A parent enquired what will be the consequences if a child comes to school without the appropriate dress code. Jennie explained that the student will be spoken to and potentially the parent will be contacted.

Another parent enquired as to what the rule is for swim class? Jennie will confirm whether a one or two piece should be worn.

- Staffing Process – Jennie explained that presently there is some reorganization at the board level and thus the staffing process has been delayed until April 11<sup>th</sup>. On this date staffing allocation will be released to the school. The schools will have three weeks to complete and return their model. Once the staffing model is sent to the superintendent then it will be shared with the Allenby parents. She explained that last year that parents were involved in the staffing process. Lori reiterated that last year there were 6 parents involved in the staffing process (3 from English and 3 from French). A parent explained that there was discussion last year about split classes and the lack of flexibility. Jennie explained that there is little flexibility in the model. Lori called for parents to work on the staffing model.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report – Stuart Baltman**

- Lori explained that Stuart Baltman was unable to attend and sent his regrets. She explained that Stuart had forwarded her a copy of the treasurer's report via email and that she had had a copy of the report on her phone; however, her phone was out of battery power. She committed to include the report in the minutes. See below for details.

#### **Financial Statements:**

- For the 6 months ending February 29, 2012, the APA earned net revenues of \$75,146.84 on a CASH BASIS. This is lower than last

month primarily due to expenses for After 4 that came through in February.

- During the same period the APA incurred CASH expenses of \$68577.66, realizing a cash net income of \$6,569.18.
- For the fiscal year, there is a projected net loss of \$50,251.75. This is a POSITIVE variance to plan of \$15,490.25 which is primarily attributed to unplanned revenues generated from Big Night Out and After 4.
- Our projected surplus at year end is projected to be \$42,995.23. This is down from \$51,282.05 last month due to the addition of spending of \$8,000 to the budget for curtains.
- \$8,000 has been added to the budget for curtains as approved at February's APA meeting.

### **Lip Sync:**

- All expenses for Lip Sync may not have been submitted. As at March 4<sup>th</sup>, Lip Sync had revenues of \$3,675 and expenses of approximately \$500. Therefore, the projected profit appears to be in line with the budget of \$3,000.

### **Technology:**

- There was no change in this from last month.
- With the exception of one (1) PC for a Smart Board and four (4) Apple MacBook computers, all approved items have been purchased.
- To date, after taking in to account the 50% HST recovery, \$41,696.24 has been spent against the \$44,800 approved budget.
- \$3,103.76 is still available from the APA budget.
- Based on our previous estimates, the outstanding items to be purchased are expected to cost \$7,015.98 (this includes HST). The total is comprised of \$1,370.5 for the PC and \$5645.48 for the 4 MacBooks (prices include HST).
- Accordingly, there will be shortfall of \$3,912.22 once the outstanding items are purchased.
- It is the understanding of the APA from discussions in September and October that Allenby Public School would be absorbing this shortfall.

## **Enrichment Grants (commonly referred to as Classroom Grants):**

- To date, just over \$6,000 has been submitted from the budget of \$16,600.
- An announcement went out reminding the teachers to submit by April 15th.

## **5. Committee Updates**

### **Communications and Spirit- Tamara Lowe/Irenke Payne**

- Irenke explained that there was nothing new to report with regard to communications and spirit.

### **Health and Safety- Heather Stark/Catherine Vivash**

- Kiss & Ride: Catherine explained that this program is looking for volunteers to run/coordinate the program, as well as general volunteers to assist with the daily drop off program.

### **School Programs- Paula Riczker/ Shannon Phillips**

- APA School Programs – Paula explained that baseball registration is closed. It begins May 7<sup>th</sup> and runs to June 27<sup>th</sup>. Parents who registered should hear in April about teams.
- After4 – most classes are full and there has been great registration. Some issues have arisen around dismissal. Dismissal is at 4:45 pm. Please be respectful and arrive for pick up on time.

### **Fundraising – Fun Fair Chairs: Lisa Parker/Paula Riczker**

- Fun Fair – Paula explained that the planning for the fair is coming along well. The date of the fair is June 9<sup>th</sup>. The committee is presently looking for volunteers to help on the day of the event.
- A parent enquired as to whether the committee is still planning to permit to close part of St. Clements. Paula explained that this might not be necessary. Discussion ensued as to whether this was a good or bad idea. Consensus was that the street probably should not be used and another letter should be sent to follow up that the street closure would not be necessary to the houses on the affected part of the street.
- Speaker Series – Paula explained that a representative from Connected Parenting will be present at Allenby on April 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss effective parenting. The session will run from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and free for Allenby parents.
- Paula also explained that Alex Russell, a psychologist who has published *Drop the Worry Ball*, has offered to speak to Allenby parents in late May for free. Paula will look into this further and report more information at the next APA meeting.

### **Community Awareness – Lisa Spiegel/Rochelle Fox**

- Staffing Process – Rochelle explained that the meeting has been delayed until April 4<sup>th</sup>. She explained that details about next year’s grants/funding will be provided at end of next week. Ministry funding may change the staff report.
- TDSB Advertising Policy – Rocelle explained that the TDSB is presently reviewing its advertising policy and what can or cannot be advertised in TDSB schools. An online survey has been set up by the TDSB requesting feedback on the advertising policy. Please take a moment to complete the survey at <http://tdsb.on.ca/advertisingsurvey>
- Class Sizes – Ministry has committed to keep the caps in the primary grades and has reiterated that by 2014 there will be full day kindergarten for all Ontario students.

## 6. Open Questions

- A parent enquired about whether there is a plan to deal with the playground. Lori explained that there is a group of Allenby parents in conjunction with the TDSB who are looking at the issues facing the yard/playground. She explained that a TDSB planner is involved and that the group had met prior to the February APA meeting. Jennie Ucar explained that the architect is looking at options. The Allenby parents were going to develop a survey to send out to parents around options. This parent enquired as to timelines. Jennie explained that there might have to be fundraising necessary and the planning process will take some time.
- Lori also explained that there was survey of parents at an APA meeting a few years back, but that there would probably have to be another one.
- A parent enquired as to during the budgeting process whether the APA would be in a position to discuss funds necessary for the playground. Lori explained that presently there is no plan for the playground and thus funds cannot be allocated to it.
- Jennie further explained that at this last playground/yard meeting there were general principals as well as some specifics around the necessary funds. She explained that the board is offering design and construction support, but no capital funding support. Lori committed to follow up with the playground/yard group and then report back at the April APA meeting.