

# APA Meeting Minutes

## Tuesday, October 30, 2012

### 7-9 pm

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

Yvette Duffy asked for everyone to introduce themselves.

Lori Miller Pike thanked Machu Machu for the donation of food and asked for everyone to share in the food.

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

**Motion:** Lori moved to accept the agenda as amended on the APA website to read September and not May 2012 as this was a typo. Andrew Heitelman seconded. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

**Motion:** Lori moved to adopt the September minutes as posted on the APA website. Yvette Duffy seconded. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

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

Jennie Ucar began by explaining the safety alert that went out earlier this week. Parents should receive the email in the next day or two. Jennie explained that on Monday of this week a parent from the Allenby daycare sent an email out about an incident in Forest Hill village on the weekend. This parent sent an email to members of the community and reported the incident to the police. Normally, a school does not send out an alert without consultation with the police. The police to date has not responded to Jennie's requests for more information. Jennie consulted with both the Superintendent and the parent involved. It was decided that Jennie would issue information to the community that focussed street proofing. A description of the person involved in the incident will also be included in Jennie's email.

Jennie requested that parents refrain from calling the main office to pass a message on to a child. Many parents have been calling and requesting that messages be forwarded to students in class. Jennie will place a message in the Allenby this week asking parents to avoid this unless there is an emergency. If your child needs to leave early or go home with someone other than the parents/guardian, please write a note in the child's agenda.

Doug Jones provided an update on the technology at Allenby:

- Smartboards: the newly purchased boards have been delivered;
- iPads: the pilot that was mentioned in the spring is still moving slowly forward;
- HP Notebooks & Mobile Computing Strategy 2.0 (MCS 2.0): Allenby received 30 HP Notebooks as part of a pilot project MCS 2.0. A proposal was put forth in the sprint to use HP Notebooks to explore science and partner with Glen Park PS.

Doug then provided an update on Allenby EQAO Results. Students meeting provincial standard (level 3 & 4) in 2011 – 2012 at Allenby:

Grade 3:

Reading 81% whereas the TDSB average was 65%;

Writing 85% whereas the TDSB average was 77%;

Math 83% whereas the TDSB average was 70%.

Doug pointed out that the Grade 3 Reading & Writing scores do not include the French Immersion students; however, the Grade 3 Mathematics includes all grade 3 students.

Grade 6:

Reading 95% whereas the TDSB average 74%;

Writing 94% whereas the TDSB average is 75%;

Mathematics 86% whereas the TDSB average is 62%.

Doug explained that a team of teachers are meeting to review the results and determine how to move forward. At this point, owing to time constraints Doug did not go into any other detail and promised to do so in the future.

A parent enquired about accessing the report. The parent was directed to the EQAO website. ***Please see the attachment entitled “Allenby PS EQAO 2011 2012 Results” for further results.***

A parent enquired about these results compared to last year.

Doug referred to pages 2 and 3 of the report.

Allenby Grade 3 Results over 5 years:

Reading over five years: in 2007/2008 the reading score was at 87%, decreased to 69% in 2009/2010 and was 81% in 2011/2012.

Writing over five years: in 2007/2008 the writing score was at 84%, decreased to 82% in 2009/2010 and was 85% in 2011/2012.

Math over five years: in 2007/2008 the math score was at 86%, decreased to 92% in 2009/2010 and was 83% in 2011/2012

Allenby Grade 6 Results over 5 years:

Reading over five years: in 2007/2008 the reading score was at 91%, decreased to 90% in 2009/2010 and was 95% in 2011/2012.

Writing over five years: in 2007/2008 the writing score was at 89%, decreased to 91% in 2009/2010 and was 94% in 2011/2012.

Math over five years: in 2007/2008 the math score was at 86%, decreased to 86% in 2009/2010 and was 86% in 2011/2012

Jennie explained that 2% difference in scoring may be indicative of 1 or 2 children only.

A parent enquired whether Allenby's scores can be compare to other schools in the neighbourhood such as John Ross? She also posed the question of how this compares to other school boards. Doug explained that the staff examines the specific results at each school and that other schools are not privy to such information.

A parent enquired as to whether the provincial standard changes. Doug explained that the standards remain the same and are based on the curriculum documents.

Jennie provided an update on facility improvements. She explained that the old windows in the school are being replaced. A preconstruction meeting has taken place. This will cause disruption in some classes. She explained that some classes may be relocated during the process. The entire process may take up to 3 months. There will be construction materials, windows, and dumpsters in the yard and around the school. All will be safe for the students. Replacement of the windows will begin mid-November and continue until January 2013. Classes may experience disruption for a minimum of two days and up to 3 days in some cases. She explained that all windows will be able to open to allow for air flow in the fall and spring.

A parent asked about where trucks are being parked. Jennie explained that the trucks will be parked in the school yard.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report – Stuart Baltman & Andrew Heitelman**

Stuart Baltman sent his regrets for his absence tonight.

Andrew Heitelman presented the month end financial report for September. Andrew explained that the APA accounts on a cash basis and that expenses are recorded when cheques are written. Revenue is recorded when deposits are made to the bank.

Andrew presented that the Net Revenue for September was \$2213.35. The Net Expenses was \$0 for September.

He explained that at the last APA meeting, the parents had voted to segregate \$10K to demonstrate the APA interest in field enhancements. Therefore, the surplus has decreased to approximately \$38K. He explained that this number may increase if the APA raises more funds than projected. He further explained that in September the bulk of the money collected came from Parental Donations totalling \$19764.80, which is close to the budgeted amount. Lori thanked everyone who has contributed.

Andrew explained that Stuart Baltman had done some statistical analysis. It appears that the APA has received donations covering about 300 students or roughly half of the families. Lori Miller explained that there were 545 families and over 800 students at Allenby. According to Andrew, the average donation was \$95.32. The minimum donation was \$25 and the maximum donation was \$500. 214 donations were made. 29 of these donations were done online.

**Motion:** To adopt the September 2012 financial statements as presented. Lori Miller Pike seconded. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

#### **5. Vote for Co-Directors of Community Awareness – Chair, Lori Miller Pike**

Christine Tekker volunteered to take on the role of Co-Director of Community Awareness if elected.

Lori Miller put forth the following:

Motion: to elect Christine Tekker as Co-Director of Community Awareness for the 2012-2013 school year. Shannon Philips seconded. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

Heather Stark resigned as Co-Director of Health & Safety.

Lori Miller put forth the following:

Motion: to elect Heather Stark as Co-Director of Community Awareness for the 2012-2013 school year. Andrew Heitelman seconded. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

## **6. Hush Up Presentation**

Bonnie Joynt introduced Leah, who works with the TDSB to support students who struggle with deafness, or are hard of hearing, or have auditory processing disorders. Bonnie then introduced Fiona Alberti, a teacher at Allenby.

Leah and Fiona explained that they were going to speak about Hush Ups and sound field systems that could be used in the classroom.

Leah explained that a sound field system captures the teacher's voice and brings it above all other noises in the class. She explained that a sound field system is a small microphone system. She often places these systems in the classes for children that have auditory issues.

Fiona explained that she has used a FM system in her class in the past. This new sound field system allows her to use her normal voice and helps to facilitate classroom management as well.

Leah presented a 'Red Cat' sound system that functions on a light source.

A parent expressed concern about the level of the teacher's voice when they need to raise their voice. She was concerned about the volume being too high. Leah explained that the teacher's voice is not amplified beyond a normal range.

A parent enquired about cost of the system.

Bonnie explained that she has been researching sound systems. She discovered that 50% of students at the back of classrooms do not hear instructions.

Bonnie then explained the Hush Ups system. Hush Ups are blue balls that are placed on the legs of the classroom chairs. She explained that these look similar to tennis balls but are not tennis balls. Leah explained that tennis balls when cut/punctured emit a chemical that the Hush Ups do not. She explained that the objective of Hush Ups is to eliminate the noise of the chair moving across the floor. Leah explained that she also places Hush Ups in classrooms for children with auditory issues.

A parent enquired about when a specific child who is assigned a system whether the system follows the child or does it belong to the school or the board. Leah explained that if a device is placed with a child then the device follows the child.

A parent enquired about whether the Hush Ups follow the child. Leah explained that the Hush Ups do not.

A parent enquired cost. Bonnie explained that to outfit the school with Hush Ups is approximately \$8103.00. A parent enquired how bad are the chemicals that are emitted from the tennis balls. Leah explained that the Ministry reports that Hush Ups do not emit chemicals and that she is only allowed to recommend Hush Ups not tennis balls. A parent then expressed concerns about Madame Linka's class and the fact that there are tennis balls on the chairs.

A parent enquired as to what happens if a child with an auditory issue is granted funds for Hush Ups while attending Allenby and all the classrooms are outfitted with such devices, will the funds be awarded to Allenby. Leah explained the process for funding sound field trials. She explained that each child has 3 months using the Hush Ups and/or the auditory sound systems. The child's needs are assessed. She then submits her findings and the grant may or may not be provided.

A parent enquired about whether teachers will want to use the Red Cat technology. Fiona explained that she thinks that teachers will be willing to do so.

Jennie asked for clarification as to how the dollar amount was calculated. Jennie asked for the dollar amount per class. Bonnie explained that the amount per class for 30 chairs to be outfitted with Hush Ups was \$219. Jennie then calculated that there are 32 classrooms at \$219 for a total of \$7,008.

A parent enquired about how often these 'Red Cat' systems change since technology is always changing. Leah explained that with the present system has a 5-year warranty. One could potentially discuss upgrading the system in the future. Leah explained that a student here at Allenby has a sound system.

A parent enquired about the effectiveness of the older systems. Fiona explained that she was happy with the older system and that she would gladly take an older or newer system.

A parent enquired as to whether there could be a demonstration of the system. Fiona invited parents to come to her classroom (i.e. room 211) for a demonstration any time in the coming weeks. Jennie requested that parents sign in the office before proceeding to room 211.

A parent enquired about the cost of a sound system. Bonnie explained that the cost is between \$1100 to 1200 per system.

Bonnie explained that her goal tonight was to generate awareness and to determine whether any parents are interested in exploring this further. Lori directed Bonnie to speak to the technology committee. Lisa suggested that a survey should be done among the teachers at the school.

A parent enquired about whether there are educational studies on these devices. Bonnie explained that she could provide links to some information sites. A parent pointed out that the experts were in the room.

## **7. Parent Survey Synopsis**

Heidi Wilson apologized for not being at the last meeting. Jordana, Shannon Philips and Lisa Parker met to create a survey. The survey spans 5 pages and is broken down into 3 sections: overall satisfaction; allocation of funds; and demographics.

Heidi explained that her time allotted on the agenda is limited and that she is happy to meet with anyone at the end of the night if there are further questions. The survey will be vetted by the Executive and then administered online.

Heidi explained that she presently works for Marketing Probe - a company that conducts market research. She has organized for this company to do a pro-bono survey for the APA. She explained that the company will deliver the aggregated results.

Heidi explained that it will take a few days to create the survey and then about a week to administer.

Lori Miller explained that the Executive will only vet the survey before it goes out to the parents.

Lisa Parker has reached out to Bessborough and discovered that it took four years for the school to identify the needs of the parental association and eventual completion of the field. She explained that the objective of the committee is to review the data and then determine other means to raise money other than going directly to the parents.

Lisa Parker explained that she spoke with a recent chair of Bessborough. Lisa explained that it took four years from start to finish and a cost of \$600K. She explained that the

TDSB maintains the field, permits the field, and receives financial gains from the permits. She explained that the community loves the field.

A parent enquired as to the square footage of the Bessborough field. Lisa could not provide the exact size; however, she felt that the size was similar to Allenby's field.

She explained that the Bessborough field has silica sand around outside to prevent head injuries.

Lori explained the survey will go out and results will be available at the November meeting.

## **8. Lunch Lady Presentation**

Lori explained that there is one pizza lunch a month. A parent brought forward another option – Lunch Lady. Two representatives from Lunch Lady explained the program as follows:

- serves 1100 schools in four provinces
- person responsible for this area: Khatija
- created in a commercial kitchen
- 20 to 25 items on the menu every day that can be delivered to the school
- a dietician and nutritionist on staff
- aware of allergies and offers gluten free, allergy free menu
- provides meals that meet religious dietary restrictions, such as halal
- packaging is recyclable (except for the plastic bag that the lunch is delivered in)

A parent enquired who the target is: the child or the school. The child is the client not the school.

According to the representatives, there is a paper menu that is provided and parents select and the company inputs the order. Schools can also opt for online ordering. The plastic bag is delivered with a label indicating the student's name and lunch contents.

A parent enquired as to how a child gets their lunch. She explained that they would organize by grade or the meal could be delivered directly to the tables. The companies work with the school to determine the best delivery process.

A parent enquired as to the number of staff at the school during lunch. The Lunch Lady representative enquired about the number of lunches at school. It was confirmed that there are two lunches. She explained that one staff is available during the lunch. She also explained that hot food comes in a thermal bag and cold food comes in a plastic bag.

The Lunch Lady representative explained that they could be used either 1 to 5 times per week. She explained that the company is TDSB sanctioned and thus a percentage of sales goes back to the TDSB. She further explained that for each lunch sold 35 cents goes to the TDSB, of which 28 cents go back to the school.

A parent enquired about the boomerang lunches process. She wanted to know how the Lunch Lady encouraged/guaranteed that the packaging was recycled. The representative enquired as to Allenby's level of ecoschool. It was pointed out that it was gold. The Lunch Lady representative explained that the bag can either be returned to the lunch room or it could be sent home with the child.

A parent explained that she used it at the last two schools her children attended and she loved the program. The Lunch Lady representative explained that if one orders online that payment can be made by pay pal or credit card.

A parent asked average cost of the lunch. The menu was explained.

A parent posed the question of how such a program might affect Allenby's pizza day each month. Some discussion ensued.

The Lunch Lady representative explained that there is a minimum of number of children to service – i.e. 20 to 25 lunches per day. She explained that most schools offer the program 2 days a week.

A parent enquired whether there was a maximum number of days that the Lunch Lady will deliver. The representative explained that up to 800 students could be accommodated. She further explained that she presently serves over 300 orders every day. She explained that 5 staff are sent to the schools to deal with these numbers.

Heidi explained that this could be added to the survey to determine parent interest.

A parent enquired about the menu and whether it changes. The Lunch Lady representative explained that the menu changes often with the present menu slotted to change in January.

A parent wanted to know if it would be possible for five day delivery. The representative cautioned that the school should start small. A parent enquired whether the school would need to sign off on such a program. Both the Lunch Lady and Jennie agreed that the school would have to an okay the implementing such a program.

A parent enquired whether the company meet the Ministry standards around healthy food. The Lunch Lady representative explained that the company is 100% compliant with Ministry expectations.

## **9. Co-Curricular Pause**

Christina Tekker provided an update on the co-curricular pause. She explained that there is a TDSB process in place regarding permit and insurance. She explained that she has had a discussion with a parent who would like to see co-curricular run. She explained that co-curricular needs to be parent initiated. She reiterated that Trustee Howard Goodman had stated that a discussion must be had with the teachers about parent initiated sports. She explained that Mr. G. is running intramural sports. She explained that the teachers did run overnight field trip to the Island School. She explained that there may be opportunities for parents who are interested in this that they could connect with other schools in the area.

A parent explained that 18 teachers have committed to attend Big Night Out. She explained that teachers are volunteering their time to donate auction items to Big Night Out. Another parent thanked the teachers at Allenby for their support at the school.

## **10. Committee Updates**

Technology Committee: Lisa Parker

- Smartboards: being installed in various rooms in the school
- 10 iPads: have been delivered to the school. Working out how to create Apple accounts for the iPads.

Fundraising Committee: Lisa Parker

- Big Night Out: Lisa began with the draw for free tickets. The winners were Brian Rund & Lisa Lance.
  - As of November 8<sup>th</sup> there were 120 tickets sold
  - 18 teachers have committed to attend
  - teachers are donating their time as auction items
  - \$40K goods and services donated from local business
  - \$30K in Silent Auction items
  - Live auction at 9:00 pm. The auctioneer is a former Allenby parent who has donated his time.
  - The objective is to sell 300 tickets
  - The theme is mardi gras
  - Food will be catered by Southern Comfort
  - Looking for volunteers
    - need 50 to run the evening
  - Visa will be available, but cheques are better as the processing of the visa takes much time at the end of the night.
- Club Mom Fundraiser: Forms will go home on November 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a discount card for the community. The price for the card is \$30, of which \$10 will be returned to the APA. It is an annual card that will be activated in January 2013.

#### Communications – Tamara Lowe

- The Allenby Directory is being printed and should go home shortly

#### School Programs – Shannon Philips

- Speaker Series – Sara Dimerman, child psychologist and author, is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup>. The focus will be on developing character in children. If interested in attending please RSVP to Shannon as there are pre-workshop worksheets that need to be completed. Child care is available.

#### Health & Safety – Catherine Vivash

- Volunteers Needed for:
  - greening Allenby, i.e. overseeing gardening
  - Kiss & Ride specifically on Tuesday mornings.

Please let Stephen Dawang or Catherine Vivash know if you are interested in volunteering for either of these.

- Parking & Traffic Update: Please note that the no idling signs have been placed around the school. Thanks to Heather Stark for all her hard work on this matter.
- Drop off and Pick Up: Please ensure that you do not park in the Bus or Kindergarten zones. Also, please be considerate of the neighbourhood and the driveways of the residents who live around the school.

Please note that the police will be enforcing the no idling and no parking. A parent requested that class parents be informed through an email. Collette explained that she is willing to send information out to class parents.

A parent explained that the streets are not wide enough.

#### Space Committee: Heather Stark

- All day kindergarten will occur at Allenby in September 2014. There is no official process as to how this is going to happen. Heather explained that there was an informal meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>. 6 Allenby parents and Jennie Ucar attended. Six schools from ward 8 were in attendance. No recommendations were made as to the process going forward. The TDSB is looking for input from parents. An Space Committee was struck at Allenby and there are 18 people who have expressed interest in being on the committee. This committee is comprised of parent representatives from: JK, grade 6, French Immersion, English, daycare and non-daycare. The six Allenby parentes who attended the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting took notes. The Space Committee will review these notes and provide feed back with options and/or questions. The questions will then be presented to Trustee Howard Goodman's office, which in turn will provide additional information to the committee. The Space Committee will then meet to distil the information. The objective of the committee is to have ideas generated for an upcoming meeting in January. If you are interested in learning more, please check out the slides provide on Howard Goodman's website. A link to this site will be provided in the next issue of the Allenbeat. If people are interested in being involved with this committee, please contact Heather Stark. Heather will provide further information from the committee at the November APA meeting.
- A parent enquired as to the potential changes that could occur. Heather explained that the TDSB is suggesting a wide range of solutions, such as boundary changes, bussing changes, program movement, grade configuration, etc. She suggested that all options must be evaluated in Ward 8.
- A parent enquired about the make up the Committee and wondered whether the committee adequately represented all sectors of the Allenby community. Heather pointed out that there are a lot of French Immersion parents on the committee. She explained that she would like to have more English parents involved. She explained that there is a need to elect a couple of people who will act as representatives for Allenby at 3 to 5 meetings in the new year. She explained that there will be a need for speakers and she hopes that there will be speaker representation from all parts of the community. If interested in joining this committee, please contact Heather Stark.
- A parent enquired about whether Allenby was adequately prepared for the meeting on October 16th. Heather explained that Allenby appeared very prepared at this point in time.
- Jennie wanted to clarify that the province has stopped the construction process which was part of the all day kindergarten. She explained that the daycare also needs to be represented as sharing space may be another option. She explained that consensus may not be obtainable in this process. She explained that no decisions have been made to date except that Allenby will remain a dual track school.
- A parent enquired whether this pertains only to Ward 8. Heather Stark explained that she has requested info about schools outside Ward 8.
- A parent wanted to know which schools are within the boundary of Ward 8. The boundaries were explained and Heather reiterated the need to visit Trustee Howard Goodman's website. Rochelle Fox explained that there is a lot to consider on the slides

on Goodman's site. Heather Stark explained that the Ministry did not budget properly and funds do not exist to support all day kindergarten.

- A parent enquired as to whether there can be minutes from the committee. Heather explained that this is a committee that will take a huge time commitment. She cannot commit to responding to everyone's thoughts on the committee.
- Rochelle explained that it will be difficult to keep such minutes. She explained that the slides are available. Rochelle committed to providing an update on what is happening on the committee at each monthly APA meeting. Heather committed to providing a monthly update, and placing information in the Allenbeat.
- A parent asked about boundaries. Will her child have to move schools? Heather explained that there are two ideas: will students be grandfathered or will students be forced to change schools. Heather explained that there is no clarity on this issue at this time. She explained that each decision affects other decisions. Jennie explained that it is just not full day kindergarten that is the issue, as continued increasing enrolment at Allenby is also another issue facing the school.

### **11. Open Question Time**

Bonnie Joint explained that there is a Boot Drive being held during week of November 12<sup>th</sup>. Clean hole free boots will be collected and distributed to a needy school. This school will provide Allenby with a performance in exchange for collected boots.

Announcement by a Parent: Lost & Found being cleared out on Tuesday. Lori thanked the parent volunteers who are doing this. Jennie commented on the wonderful announcements being made by this group of parents.