

APA Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 27, 2012

7-9 pm

1. Welcome & Introductions – Chair, Lori Miller Pike

Lori welcomed everyone to the APA meeting and outlined how the APA meetings run. She explained that minutes from previous meetings are posted on the APA website. She explained that this is the venue where concerns, opinions, etc. can be voiced. She explained that at the end of the meeting there is an Open Question Time allowing individuals to voice their opinions or concerns regarding items that were not on the agenda. She explained that Howard Goodman and Melanie Dickenson will attend tonight's meeting at 8:00 pm.

Lori asked for everyone to introduce themselves. She thanked Marigold & Onions for the donation of food and asked for everyone to share in the food.

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

Motion: Lori moved to accept the agenda as posted on the APA website. Stuart Baltman seconded. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

Motion: Lori moved to adopt the June minutes as posted on the APA website. Andrew Heitelman seconded. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

3. General Election:

Lori explained that the APA Executive consists of elected members from the Allenby parental community. Nominations for the executive positions were made by September 14th. She explained that names were put forward for most of the positions, but that there were multiple positions that did not have nominations. The election of the APA executive ensued:

Stuart Baltman put forth the following motion:

Motion: to elect Lori Miller Pike as Chair of the Allenby Parents Association. Heather Stark seconded. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

Lori Miller Pike put forth the following motion:

Motion: to elect Stuart Baltman and Andrew Heitelman as Co-Treasurers of the Allenby Parents Association. Collette Kim seconded. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

Lori Miller Pike put forth the following motion:

Motion: to elect Yvette Duffy as Secretary of the Allenby Parents Association. Stuart Baltman seconded. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

Lori Miller Pike put forth the following motion:

Motion: to elect Tamara Lowe as Communications Director of the Allenby Parents Association. Lisa Spiegel seconded. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

Lori Miller Pike put forth the following motion:

Motion: to elect Heather Stark and Catherine Vivash as Directors of Health and Safety of the Allenby Parents Association. Collette Kim seconded. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

Lori explained Shannon Philips and Rochelle Fox were both nominated as Directors of School Programs. She explained that Rochelle Fox has decided to step down and enquired whether any person present would want to share this role with Shannon Philips. Lori then asked Shannon to explain the role of the School Programs Director. Shannon explained that as a Co-Chair in this role in the past she has been responsible for the Speakers Series, the After4 program and baseball.

Lori Miller Pike put forth the following motion:

Motion: to elect Shannon Philips as Director of School Programs of the Allenby Parents Association. Paula Riczker seconded. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

Lori explained that Lisa Spiegel was nominated as Director of Community Awareness. She explained that Lisa Spiegel has decided to step down from this position. Lori asked Lisa to explain what this position entails.

Lisa provided examples of what she has done in the past as the Director of the Community Awareness. For example, she has been responsible to liaise with Howard Goodman's office, i.e. Ward 8's Trustee, ensured that Allenby parents were adequately represented on various educational committees. Discussion ensued as to what the role entails. Lori explained that if someone was interested in this position that this person should communicate their interest, and then a nomination would be made and a vote eventually held.

Lori Miller Pike put forth the following motion:

Motion: to elect Lisa Parker and Paula Riczker as Fundraising Directors of the Allenby Parents Association. Stuart Baltman seconded. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

Therefore, the APA Executive is comprised of:

Chair: Lori Miller Pike

Treasurers: Stuart Baltman & Andrew Heitelman

Secretary: Yvette Duffy

Communication Director: Tamara Lowe

Health & Safety Directors: Heather Stark & Catherine Vivash

School Programs Director: Shannon Philips

Fundraising Directors: Lisa Parker & Paula Riczker

The following position remains open:

Community Awareness Director

4. Principal's Report: Jennie Ucar

Jennie explained the following:

EQAO: Allenby received the latest EQAO results and the students performed really well. She explained that she will present the results in more detail at the October APA meeting.

TDSB Notebook Cart: Allenby will be receiving a computer cart with 30 Notebooks from the board. Therefore, there will be a rolling computer lab in the school. The cart will be available to the entire school and will be signed out by teachers for their classes.

Reorganization in grades 4/5/6: The grades 4, 5, and 6 English classes were reorganized in September.

Caring & Safe Schools Committee: This committee – comprised of students, staff and parents – has met. The committee plans to get

involved with the gender based violence team at the TDSB.

A parent enquired about the locked gate on Castlefield and whether it will be re-opened. Mr. Jones explained that the gate was locked owing to an incident that recently occurred when a child left the yard through the unlocked gate. Mr. Jones explained that the only way the gate can be unlocked is if parent volunteers come forward to ensure that students do not leave the yard. The priority of the school is to ensure student safety.

A parent enquired about recent break-ins at Allenby. Jennie explained that two break-ins have occurred, i.e. one near the end of August and one in September. She explained that nothing was damaged or stolen and she was not officially informed. She assumed it was an act by teenagers. She is working on getting better communication about the events.

A parent enquired about full day kindergarten. She wanted to know when this will occur at Allenby and what will the impact be. Jennie explained that this is scheduled for September 2014. She explained that there maybe community consultations to address concerns about space later this year. It was pointed out that Howard Goodman will be attending the meeting later and he could be presented with this question.

A parent enquired about the lock down that occurred last week. Mr. Jones explained that all schools must practice 2 lockdowns and 6 fire drills per year. He explained that this is mandatory. He explained that the lockdown drill coincidentally occurred on the day that the gas leak occurred on Castlefield. He explained that the students were held at the end of the day owing to the gas leak situation and the fact that police and fire trucks were on Castlefield. Dismissal was held off only until all was clear around the gas leak. Jennie then explained that the teachers and students were all warned about the scheduled lockdown practice in advance. A parent expressed that her child was uncomfortable and expressed concern about the event. Jennie explained that the idea of a lockdown is scary, but teachers and students were aware that it was a drill. The parent explained that she was not aware that it was a drill. Lori then explained that parents were emailed about the gas leak last week. Lori also explained that if you are not on the email list that you can register on the website.

A parent enquired about recess supervision and the number of students in the yard. She enquired as to how many teachers/adults need to be on the

playground during recess. Jennie explained that there must be two adults to each class. She explained that staff are assigned recess duty and the required number of adults to student ratio is met daily. The parent suggested that the teachers congregate in one area and are not dispersed throughout the yard.

A parent wanted to know how information is dispersed to new families at Allenby. She explained that she was not aware of the rainy day procedure for her child's class. Jennie explained that teachers have procedures and that the parent should confirm what the procedure is with the teacher.

4. Treasurer's Report – Stuart Baltman, Presentation and VOTE on 2012-2013 Budget

Stuart welcomed Andrew Heitelman as Co-Treasurer. He explained his role as Treasurer is to prepare the annual budget, conduct the accounting for the APA and other sundry tasks including applying for G.S.T. and preparing tax returns.

Stuart explained that today he would be addressing two items:

- Year End Report – fiscal year end August 31st
- Budget

He noted that he will explain the budget and the programs associated with this. He explained that the APA financials are posted a week in advance of the APA meetings on the website.

Stuart explained at as of August 31st, the APA had Net Revenues of \$102,272.93. Stuart explained that this is *Net Revenues before expenses*. The Expenses for the year ending August 31st were \$115,943.41, generating a net loss of \$13,669.48

He explained that the APA budget for last year anticipated a \$93k loss. He explained that actual *Net Loss* of only \$13k was the result of better than expected fundraising activities last year. Programs such as Big Night Out, Fun Fair, and After4 performed better than projected. The APA also spent less than expected. For example, computer/technology resource spending was approximately \$22,000 less than anticipated; however, the technology spending has been approved and will be carried forward and paid for during this school year. Also, some teachers did not spend their full classroom grants. Additionally some programs came in below budget. All in all, the 2011/2012 school year was a very

Comment [DB1]: Not sure what this is.

successful year for the APA owing to the better than expected fundraising that occurred. Stuart enquired as to whether there were any questions about the APA financials. No questions were posed.

Stuart presented the following motion:

Motion: To adopt the August 31st 2012 financial statements as presented. Jennifer Johnston seconded. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

Stuart explained that in June 2012 he presented the proposed APA 2012/2013 budget. This budget is available on the APA website. He explained that the budget may be amended at any time. He explained that a motion for spending on items \$1000 or more is presented at one meeting and voted on at the following meeting. He further explained that motions for less than \$1,000 may be tabled and voted on at any APA meeting (i.e. the one month advanced notice is not required).

Comment [DB2]: This is not correct. The Parent body must vote on ALL expenditures. Under \$1k can be tabled and voted on in the same meeting while expenditures \$1k or more must be tabled at one meeting and voted on at the next.

He explained that the APA 2012/2013 budget financials include a few items have been carried forward. Specifically \$22,500 for computer resources and \$2,250 for field enhancements. In addition, \$4,069 for the “Teacher’s Joint Resource Fund”.

He explained that the net revenue projection for this year is \$64,055.00. He explained that the budget is very conservative. He also explained that some years there have been fundraising activities that have resulted in fundraising superseding expectations; however, these cannot be counted on each year.

Stuart proposed net expenses for this year as \$95,479 , generating a net income of \$31,424 and a cash surplus of \$48,153.00 at year end.. Stuart explained some of the line items, such as Artists in the Classroom, Classroom Grants, and Scientists in the School. He also drew attention to Computer Resources and he explained that last May the APA voted on items that the APA committed to purchase. These items have not been expensed to date and accordingly have been included in the 2012/13 budget

He explained the Teacher Joint Resource Fund. This fund is comprised of funds that were not spent by teachers under the Classroom funding in the previous year. This fund is administered by Jennie Ucar. Teachers put forward ideas for resource purchases and Jennie will determine how

the money is spent. During the 2011/2012 school year, there was a surplus of \$4069 from Classroom Grants. Therefore, this \$4069 was transferred to the budget in the Teacher Joint Resource Fund.

Stuart proposed a budgeted net loss of \$31,424.00. He explained that he was comfortable with this in that the APA already has a current surplus (aka cash holdings) of \$79k. He explained that based on historical activity there is a high level of confidence that fundraising will meet the proposed revenues outlined in the budget.

Stuart presented the following motion:

Motion: To adopt the proposed budget as presented with a net revenue of \$64,055.00, net expense of \$95,479.00 with a net loss of \$31,424.00. Lori Miller Pike seconded. All in favour. No objections. Motion carried.

5. Vote on motion to reserve \$10,000 of APA funds for playground and/or field improvements.

Stuart Baltman explained that there have been discussions in the past about the state of the field/yard and lack of grass. He explained that this has been an ongoing issue for the APA. He explained that a motion was put forth in June 2012 requesting a commitment from the APA to set aside \$10,000.00 of APA funds for future use for field enhancements. Lori explained that a Field/Yard Committee had been established to investigate options for the Allenby school yard. She explained that this committee had met with a TDSB master planner and had begun to look at the options for the yard. She explained that in order to move forward the TDSB specified two caveats as follows: \$10,000 be earmarked as a commitment for potential yard enhancements and that the committee poll the parents to determine parental commitment to yard enhancements. She explained that there is no further information at this point. A parent enquired about timelines. Timelines are unknown. A parent enquired whether the \$10,000.00 are allocated in the 2012/2013 APA budget. Stuart explained that this is not a budget line. This money is earmarked only and will not be spent. Stuart explained that a motion was put forth at the June 2012 APA meeting to segregate \$10,000.00 and that the parents present today need to vote on this issue. Andrew Heitelman explained that the process can be amended at any time.

A parent explained the situation in the yard and her unhappiness with the lack of grass, and the amount dust and mud present in the yard.

A parent enquired about the board's responsibility to maintain the yard as a usable space for children. Jennie explained that Allenby is on a schedule for re-sodding. The TDSB will replace the sod at certain times. She explained that the sod is put down, but given the number of children on the field this new sod is destroyed very quickly. She explained that if the parents want an option other than the scheduled maintenance, the board requires the parents to demonstrate their commitment. A parent explained that this has been an ongoing issue. She explained that she supports the \$10,000.00 being segregated. A parent enquired about what the TDSB will contribute to the project. Jennie explained that the TDSB will commit to provide the labour costs only.

A parent stated that she had attended the June APA meeting and that it had been stated at that meeting that a parental poll was to be done enquiring about thoughts on the yard/field. Lori stated that the poll was suppose to be done by the Field Committee, but that it has not been to date.

Another parent explained that he is in favour of doing something with the field such as artificial turf, but he is not in favour of segregating \$10,000.00 of the APA funds. He explained that as a parental committee we should raise the \$10,000.00 outside the APA budgeted items. He explained that if parents were serious about the yard, then they should come together and make a financial commitment. Another parent enquired what this would do to the TDSB commitment. Jennie reiterated that the TDSB required the \$10,000 financial commitment and that the parents be polled to determine commitment.

Another parent explained that she feels that the \$10,000.00 should be earmarked. Another parent explained that the APA should be spending money on supporting extra-curricular activities given the political situation.

Another parent enquired what would happen if the money is not earmarked. A parent explained that if the money is not earmarked then the TDSB will not move forward on the field. Another parent explained that if the money is not earmarked, then the process will have to begin all over again.

Further discussion ensued. Stuart explained that there are two options. One is to segregate \$10,000.00 from general funds. The second is to vote down motion and undertake a process to raise \$10000.00 separately

to begin process with the board.

Yvette Duffy read the motion from the June 2012 minutes as:

Motion: Move to reserve \$10,000 of APA funds for playground and/or field improvements. Bonnie Joint seconded. 44 In Favour. 3 Opposed. 1 Abstained. Motion carried.

6. Committee Updates:

Communications:

Nothing to report at this time.

Fundraising: Lisa Parker

Big Night Out (BNO): Scheduled for November 8th. The theme is Mardi Gras. The BNO committee is looking for donations for the silent auction.

Parent Donation Drive: Forms went out a few weeks ago. These donations cover about 20% of budgeted items.

Lip Sync: Scheduled for February 20th & 21st, 2013. Lisa is looking for a chair for the Lip Sync Committee. If interested please contact Lisa Parker or Paula Riczker.

Fun Fair: Scheduled for June 1st, 2013.

Pizza Lunch: Begins tomorrow, i.e. Friday, September 28th. Lisa asked that parents remind their children of the number of slices that they have paid for to ensure that there is enough pizza for all children who have paid. She mentioned that there is a need for volunteers at 11 am in lunch room to help distribute the pizza.

Allenby Clothing: There will not be a big Allenby Clothing Drive; however, if you wish to purchase Allenby Clothing you can do so by going to the APA website and ordering online.

Health and Safety: Heather Stark

Safe & Caring Schools Committee: This committee works on student character education through planning with staff and administration. It is looking for committee members and is seeking representatives from all grade levels. Any parent interested in joining this committee should contact Heather Stark.

Ecoschools: This committee is also looking for volunteers.

Environmental Awareness Coordinator: The coordinator for this program has resigned as her children no longer attend Allenby. Therefore, there is a need for a coordinator who loves to garden/plant and is willing to work to “green” the school.

Attendance Verification: Individual parents volunteer Monday to Friday to take and make morning phone calls when students are absent. If you are interested in volunteering for an hour in the morning, please contact Heather Stark.

Kiss & Ride: This is a program to ensure safe arrival of all students to Allenby. This program is designed for children in grades 1 through 6. Parents drive westbound on Castlefield and stop in the designated areas. A parent volunteer opens the door of your vehicle, greets your child and accompanies your child into the yard. The Kiss & Ride program needs volunteers for Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:40 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.. This program cuts down on the number of cars parked on both Castlefield and St. Clements.

Traffic and Parking Safety: There is a need for a Coordinator for this program. The objective this committee is to help with parking and traffic concerns on Castlefield and St. Clements.

Lice Check Volunteer: There is a need for volunteers to escort students from class to the lice check stations.

If you are interested in any of the above Health & Safety Committee positions, please contact Heather Stark.

School Programs: Shannon

After 4: Forms for this program went home today. Registration is on a first come first serve basis. Forms will be accepted until October 5th.

Speakers Series: This program invites presenters to the school to speak to parents. It is overseen by the APA in coordination with the school. More information about this will be coming in the near future.

Baseball: The APA oversees a spring baseball league. More news on this will be forthcoming in the spring.

Technology Committee – Lisa Parker

The technology committee meets with teachers to determine technological needs. It coordinates motions to present to the APA. The committee is looking for a volunteer to support this committee. If interested, please contact Lisa Parker.

Community Awareness – Lisa Spiegel

Lisa Spiegel suggested that she allow Howard Goodman, Ward 8 Trustee, to present information to the parental body during the Open Question Time as he has important information to share about Bill 115, as well as Full Day Kindergarten and potential space issues at Allenby.

8. Open Question Time

Howard Goodman, Ward 8 Trustee, thanked the APA and Jennie Ucar for allowing him the opportunity to discuss two very important issues facing the Allenby community, i.e. Bill 115 and Full Day Kindergarten.

Bill 115:

Howard explained that this bill is bizarre legislation. He explained that there is good reason for the discontent of teachers and support staff. He explained that the Ministry keeps revising the interpretation of the bill. He explained that the head of OECTA is upset about the bill. Howard stated that on Monday of this week the government apparently suggested that the right to strike has not been taken away from teachers; however, he stipulated that this is hearsay.

He explained the following:

The working day of the teacher is ill-defined. Clearly they work more than the instructional day. He explained that one of the things that teachers do if they chose to is run co-curricular activities. A parent asked for an explanation of co-curricular. He explained that co-curricular means anything outside the classroom. He explained that supervision of co-curricular activities is an independent decision made by teachers. He explained that teachers this year are unhappy about Bill 115. He explained that this year some teachers have opted not to supervise co-curricular activities. He explained that this is the teachers' right. He explained that in no case are the teachers to blame. He explained that he understands that parents are upset. He then referred to an email that he sent out last night. He explained that his hope is that parents do not get angry with the teachers. He explained that he hopes that parents express your understanding of the teacher

situation directly to the teachers. He requested that parents let teachers know that you value them. The goal is to preserve the relations in the school as best you can.

A parent enquired whether there is an anticipated end date to not supervising co-curricular activities and whether there is an anticipated action that will be encouraged by the union for the teachers to take. Howard stated that he did not know the answers to these questions. He explained that the student trustees are presenting a plan tomorrow. Students will be seeking help from parents to run co-curricular.

A parent enquired about whether there is impact at other schools. She enquired about curriculum and whether there is an impact during the school day. Jennie Ucar responded that teachers are working hard on curriculum related matters and that contractually they must complete this work. She explained that teachers can choose to supervise co-curricular activities.

Howard Goodman then requested that parents keep in mind that Principals and Vice-Principals are working even harder right now to maintain relations with the community given that they have the added confusion created by Bill 115. Howard Goodman thanked Principal Ucar and Vice-Principal Jones for their dedication given the challenges they are working under. He explained that parents are expecting the Principals and Vice-Principals to run the co-curricular activities. He cautioned that this may not be possible for these individuals to do.

A parent asked what parents can do to keep programs going. Howard Goodman explained that there is a liability issue with parents organizing and running co-curricular. He explained that it is unlikely that Principals would support parents being involved owing to the liability issues. Howard requested that parents really consider the teacher response prior to agreeing to run any co-curricular. He strongly cautioned that teachers should be approached to ensure that no animosity is created between parents and teachers. He explained that Bill 115 undermines the rights of teachers and the only option teachers have is to withdraw voluntary services.

Howard then explained that if a parent wants to run co-curricular activities, this will be a parent run initiative. The parent would need to do the following: apply for a permit for the program at the TDSB, and apply for insurance. A parent enquired whether parents could organize an activity, such as Cross Country. Howard reiterated that the parent will need to get the permit and

insurance. He explained that liability rests on the permit holder. A parent asked for clarification regarding the parents who organize and want to participate in a 'meet' such as Cross Country. Howard Goodman explained that this process has not been finalized by the board.

Another parent enquired as to how one goes about getting insurance. Howard explained that the permit office will direct the parent on this.

A parent enquired about what this will do to the relationships between the teachers and the parents. She enquired whether this would be akin to 'scabbing'. Howard Goodman encouraged parents to take the first step and begin to speak to the teachers. He explained that one should not set out to run co-curricular activities until they have spoken to the teachers as he feels that the most important thing in the school is the relationships of the school community.

Howard then spoke to Space Issues at Allenby and the implementation of All Day Kindergarten:

He explained that there are 6 schools in the neighbourhood coping with all day kindergarten that will occur in September 2014 in this area: North Prep, Allenby, Wanless, John Ross, Armour Heights, and Ledbury. Howard stressed that the conversation around this issue needs to take place with all interested parties at the same time.

Therefore, an informational meeting will occur on October 16th in the evening. Howard Goodman is requesting that 6 parents from each school participate in these discussions. He requests a balance of representatives from the community, i.e. a distribution among representatives from English and French, across the grades, as well as geographical.

A parent enquired whether these space issues will affect daycare space here at Allenby. Howard stressed that a parent who has a child(ren) in the daycare is welcome to attend as one of the 6 representatives.

A parent enquired whether the Ministry will be represented at the meeting. Howard stated no there would not be a Ministry representative at the October 16th meeting.

Howard also announced that there is a Ward 4 meeting on October 15th.

Lori Miller Pike and Lisa Speigel pointed out that there were a number of people who expressed interest in sitting on the Space Issue Committee last year. These people will be contacted by Lisa Speigel. Lisa asked mentioned that if parents are interested in this committee and would like to represent Allenby on October 16th that these individuals should contact her.

Meeting Adjourned.