

ALLENBY PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

November 25, 2013

MINUTES

Held: Allenby Jr. Public School Library

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm with the following agenda:

1. Welcome & Introductions – Vice-Chair Lisa Spiegel
2. Adoption of the Agenda - – Vice-Chair Lisa Spiegel
3. Adoption of October 2013 APA Meeting Minutes – Vice-Chair Lisa Spiegel
4. Principal's Report – Cate Spidle
5. Treasurer's Report – Scott Larin
6. Committee Updates
7. Open Question Session

1. **Welcome & Introductions – Vice-Chair Lisa Spiegel**
Lisa Spiegel welcomes everyone. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.
2. **Adoption of the Agenda– Vice-Chair Lisa Spiegel**
Lisa Spiegel moved that the Agenda as posted on the APA website be accepted.
Lori Miller Pike seconded the motion.
MOTION CARRIED. (Unanimously passed)
3. **Adoption of the October 2013 Minutes – Vice-Chair Lisa Spiegel**
Lisa Spiegel moved that the minutes from October 2013 APA meeting as posted on the APA website be accepted.
Robin Halpern seconded the motion.
MOTION CARRIED. (Unanimously passed)
4. **Principal's Report – Cate Spidle**

Cate Spidle reported on the amazing student trips to places such as Sainte-Marie-Among-the-Hurons, McMichael Gallery, and Young Peoples Theatre. These trips continue to keep students engaged and learning about how the classroom relates to the community.

Cate also thanked Lisa Parker and her tireless committee for a going beyond expectations with Big Night Out. She also thanked the APA for continuing to fund the Scientists in the School programme. Students, staff and volunteers always look forward to this experience.

The Remembrance Day assembly was a very moving presentation by several classes and a guest from the Canadian Armed Forces, LCdr Cynthia Smith.

Cate advised that there was a meeting regarding the construction on November 22, 2013 with TDSB personnel and the architect. The following points came out of the meeting:

- The Ministry and City approval process has been completed and the final approval should be received at the December 11, 2013 board meeting. This may result in some interior work being started over the December break. More interior work will be completed over the March Break.
- There will be a fenced hoarded area on school property that will not encroach on the field for construction vehicles. There should not be any vehicles arriving or leaving during drop off times (8:15 – 9:15 AM), over the lunch period (11:30 AM to 1:00PM), and dismissal times (3:15 – 4 PM). Signs will be posted.
- A pedestrian gate will be created in the fencing on St. Clements to the east of the current service gate (which will be used for hoarded area).
- Windows will be blocked off and insulated for affected rooms to muffle sounds, and silk screening will be used to keep dust and debris minimized.
- The staff parking lot will not be extended in any manner.
- A staff committee met with the architect to determine locations for future Smart Board connections and some specific FDK needs (coat hooks, cubbies).

Cate showed a drawing of the addition and answered questions from parents in attendance. The following information was conveyed by Cate in response to parent questions:

- Once the hoarding for the construction goes up we will determine whether children will enter and exit the school through the St Clements Ave entrances.
- The roof of the addition will be available as an outdoor classroom.
- Next school year (2014-2015) parents will be asked not to wait for students on the upper level of the east entrance to the school.
- The TDSB does not think that there is a safety issue regarding the proximity of the concrete hockey pad to the addition's entrance.
- If 20 families who are registered for Full Day Kindergarten want before and after school care then one of the Full Day Kindergarten rooms will be opened up for before and afterschool care for those Full Day Kindergarten students. This is Ministry mandated as part of the Full Day Kindergarten program. Parents/guardians pay a fee for this before and after school care.

Parents in attendance asked whether the daycare would be opening up more before and after school spots for school aged children in Grades 1 to 6. Parents were informed that the daycare received approval in August to add 15 more spots for school aged children. No one in attendance was able to advise whether there is currently a waiting list for daycare or whether more spots for children in Grades 1 to 6 would be opened up. Parents who are interested should inquire with the Daycare.

Based on the discussion about the proximity of the hockey rink to the addition some discussion ensued among the parents about what could or should be done regarding the hockey pad. Questions were raised such as: whether its location is safe or is the rink the tripping hazard? Will the TDSB fund a replacement rink in a different location with different materials for the sides (e.g. not concrete). It was determined that this issue merits further discussion at a later meeting date.

5. Treasurer Report – Scott Larin

Scott Larin discussed the October 2013 results. There is a significant technology spend that the APA already approved that still needs to be spent. The reasons are : (i) the notebooks are on back order, and (ii) the Smartboards still need to be purchased because the TDSB needs a new vendor for the smaller Smartboards (which are the ones we wish to purchase). As a result, the \$36,000 technology spend voted on last year has not yet been spent. Therefore, when one looks at the existing APA cash balance of approximately \$162,900 one should deduct \$36,000.

The October 2013 Income Statement shows \$62,900 in revenues with a net profit of \$57,200. Significant revenue contributors are: (i) After 4 (\$34,700); (ii) Pizza Lunch (\$22,300); and parent donations (\$15,400). The average donation to the APA's Annual Donation Campaign is the same as last year but the number of contributors is down from last year. We have forecasted to raise \$20,000 for the Annual Donation Campaign, and Scott is hopeful that we will reach that goal with additional donations coming in during the year.

The draft November 2013 results suggest that the fall After 4 program will net \$4,400 and that Big Night Out will net \$18,200.

Finally, with student programs starting up, Scott noted that Class Enrichment Grants have started to come; of note, some teachers have pooled their Enrichment Grants together to purchase iPad Minis for their classes to share (the school will pay for the hard cases for the iPads and the iPads will stay with the classrooms (not the teachers)). Also Sports has purchased new floor hockey googles. Nine teachers have already used their Scientists in the Schools grants.

Scott Larin moved that the September – October 2013 financial statements as presented be accepted.

Lori Miller Pike seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED. (Unanimously passed)

6. Committee Updates

a. Communication Update – Lori Miller Pike

The class lists have been sent to the class parents for distribution. The School Directory will be provided electronically.

b. Safety Update - Robin Halpern

Robin Halpern advised that the TDSB has promoted an Active Student Transportation Charter that promotes walking to school from both environmental and student health perspectives. We would like to increase the number of students who walk to Allenby, and if parents must drive their children then they are asked to use the Kiss and Ride for morning drop off. The Kiss and Ride can be found on the Castlefield side of the school. As part of Walking Wednesdays there is an award for Junior students (smelly sneaker) and for the Primary grades there will be a wacky walker award. To encourage those who drive to use the Kiss and Ride, there will be a prize of Movie Tickets (look for details to be announced). The APA is looking into purchasing a banner for Kiss and Ride to announce it more visibly along the St. Clements fence to encourage drivers to not

park on St. Clements. Robin is also looking into the feasibility of expanding Walking Wednesday for the kindergarten classes.

One parent asked whether we could encourage students to bike and get bike racks. Cate Spidle stated that until we have the construction completed we are not sure where it would be feasible to put bike racks, and she was not sure about TDSB funding for bike racks. Cate indicated that she would like to get a bike safety officer to come to the school first to speak to the students about safe biking before moving forward with any biking campaign. In response to a parent's question, Cate will ask whether bike racks can be included in Allenby's field rehabilitation wish list.

c. School Programs- Shannon Phillips

After 4 Registration for Winter will be done before the Holiday Break. The APA Speakers Series will include Paul Davis speaking on on-line social networking safety in April 2014. Mr. Davis will be booked during the day for Grades 4 to 6 classes, and will do a presentation to parents in the evening. Shannon hopes to book one more speaker during the January/ February 2014 period.

d. Community Awareness – Shannon Phillips

The TDSB approved, on November 13, 2013, basic artificial turf for Allenby's field for 2015-16 (would be installed in the summer of 2016). The Field Committee is trying to see about coordination of the turf installation with the build. The Field Committee is meeting with the turf specialist in the TDSB, our Trustee Howard Goodman, and Cate Spidle on December 5. Talk continues about a potential partnership between the TDSB and NTSC for the turf installation/ and permitting of the fields to NTSC. The TDSB controls the decision about whether a school field will be permitted to an outside organization such as NTSC.

e. Fundraising – Lisa Spiegel

Currently, the APA does not have a Director of Fundraising, and is looking for one. Lisa Spiegel thanked Lisa Parker for her past work chairing fundraising for the APA. The APA is also looking for people to chair Lip Sync (February 20-21) and Fun Fair (June). Please speak with Paula Riczker if you are interested. At the January 2014 APA meeting, ideas will be presented about how the APA advertises sponsors. Lori Miller Pike will be leading that initiative. Finally, everyone was encouraged to participate in the APA's Helping Hands fundraiser to raise money to donate to relief efforts in the Philippines.

7. Open Question Session:

In the context of discussing implementation of Full Day Kindergarten, a parent asked what has the APA funded in the past for new classrooms. Lisa Spiegel indicated that the APA has traditionally funded \$500 for equipment for each new classroom at Allenby. The parents could vote to include funds of a particular amount in the APA budget for the 2014-2015 school year for the new classrooms but that money could not be approved until the 2014-2015 budget was voted on at the September 2014 APA meeting. If the APA wanted to make funds available for the new

classrooms before the 2014-2015 school year, then a motion could be made at an APA meeting during this school year.

A follow up question was asked about what the TDSB was providing for new classrooms as part of the Full Day Kindergarten roll out. Elizabeth Lau indicated that there is a pre-set kit of supplies that the TDSB provides for new classrooms for Full Day Kindergarten. Cate Spidle advised that there is \$3200 provided for a new classroom. Cate and Elizabeth are hoping to get further details soon. Cate will put together a list of items that could be donated (if desired) by parents (for example, learning toys, books) and a list of items that must be purchased.

A parent asked about the TDSB's insurance for the technology purchased with APA and school funds. The concern was raised because there had been a theft of computers last year. Elizabeth Lau indicated that the police had been notified about that theft and she had not heard from the TDSB about the status of the theft investigation. She advised that Allenby's current technology is locked down every day.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Next APA Meeting: Monday, December 16, 2013 at 7pm in Allenby Jr. P.S. Library