

ALLENBY PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

June 23, 2014

MINUTES

Held: Allenby Jr. Public School Library

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

1. Welcome & Introductions – Chair Paula Riczker
2. Adoption of the Agenda – Chair Paula Riczker
3. Adoption of May 2014 APA Meeting Minutes – Chair Paula Riczker
4. Teacher's presentation on iPads/Apple TV
5. Treasurer's Report – Scott Larin
6. Motion to table the budget for 2014/2015 - Scott Larin
7. Principal's Report (security and dismissal issues for 2014/2015 and technology update re classrooms that still require technology)– Cate Spidle
8. Changes to Band and String Program - Cate Spidle
9. Field Update - Shannon Phillips and Gillian Uy
10. Committee Updates
11. New Business

1. Welcome & Introductions – Chair Paula Riczker

Paula Riczker welcomes everyone. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

2. Adoption of the Agenda– Chair Paula Riczker

Paula Ricker moved that the Agenda, as posted on the APA website, be accepted.
Tamara Sztainbok seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED. (Unanimously passed)

3. Adoption of the May 2014 Minutes – Chair Paula Riczker

Paula Riczker moved that the minutes from May 2014 APA meeting, as posted on the APA website, be accepted.

Robyn Halpern seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED. (Unanimously passed)

4. Teacher's Presentation on iPads/ Apple TV - Sean Gillespie (Grade 3 Teacher)

Sean Gillespie explained that the Apple TV can be used to project what is on an iPad onto a screen. As such, it can be used by a teacher and students in a classroom in a similar fashion to a Smart Board. Mr. Gillespie uses Apple TV in his classroom (Gr. 3) to project the students' work, and to provide the students with a tool to show their work to classmates and do presentations from their desks. Mr. Gillespie did an interactive demonstration with the parents attending the meeting whereby the parents (using 2 iPads) did activities with some apps on the iPads.

Cate Spidle explained that the school is putting together a list of 20 apps for purchase and use by the teachers as there is a discount for bulk purchasing. One example is an app that has geoboards (mathematics manipulatives) for the children to work with in order to explore math concepts such as perimeter, area, angles, congruence, and fractions.

Sean Gillespie explained that currently he is sharing about 10 iPads with another class.

The APA has recently provided funds for 30 iPads to be used by Allenby students. Those iPads have now been imaged and will be used next year (2014-2015) in the classrooms.

5. Treasurer's Report - Scott Larin (Treasurer)

Scott Larin presented the May 2014 Financial Statement of the APA and forecast. In terms of the May 2014 Financial Statement, ending May 31, 2014 the APA had net revenue of approx. \$67,000, and total expenses of approx. \$99,000. Of note on the revenue side was that the Accelerated Reader subscription for the library for next year has been paid. As at May 31, 2014, the APA had a net income of negative \$32,537.

Scott advised that in terms of net revenue to the APA and the net revenue/ expense ratio, the 2013-2014 APA Fun Fair is forecasted to be better than any other year. Tickets and wristbands, donations of goods from businesses, and amazing organization all helped to the great result. Last year the Fun Fair resulted in net revenue of approx. \$27,000. This year the forecasted net revenue is approx. \$33,000. The APA had budgeted a net revenue of \$17,000 so we are definitely ahead.

Finally, Scott indicated that forecasted total revenues for 2013-2014 are currently approx. \$104,000 and forecasted total expenses are approx. \$141,000. These figures do not reflect the sound system, which was just delivered. The forecasted net income is negative \$37,334 and the forecasted closing surplus is \$64,440.

Scott Larin moved that the May 2014 financial statements, as presented, be accepted. Sarah Ferguson seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED. (Unanimously passed)

6. Motion to table the budget for 2014/2015 - Scott Larin (Treasurer)

Scott Larin explained that he was going to table the 2014-2015 APA draft budget, which would be voted upon at the first APA meeting of the 2014-2015 school year. The APA budget is designed to cover the APA's operating expenses and other items that can be funded. Scott then proceeded to go through items in the draft budget. He also noted that the budget is very conservative in terms of revenue forecasts.

Scott explained that Big Night Out is not in the draft budget based on the discussion at last APA meeting. Instead, it is envisioned that a targeted fundraiser will be held with the proceeds to be directed to the field/ playground enhancements. Lisa Spiegel noted that historically the Big Night Out was held every 2 years.

The revenue figure for Pizza lunch is an even more conservative forecast because of the additional kindergarten students. Pizza lunch will be available for kindergarten students but it will start one month later than the start for the rest of Allenby's students.

The draft budget contains a line item for Spirit fundraiser(s). Lisa Speigel explained that it is contemplated, prior to the TDSB announcement that Allenby's artificial turf field's construction would be moved up one year, that the APA would hold some grade targeted events (e.g. Movie Night, Bingo Night). The idea is to have events focused on community building, rather than fundraising.

Scott explained that the revenue figures for Lip Sync and After 4 are conservative numbers. Lisa Speigel noted that there may be space constraints for After 4 with increased daycare after school spots.

Intent to have Allenby clothing items for sale next year.

Scott expects that Eco-age will net revenue this year of approx. \$2,000.

Discussion ensued about the classroom enrichment grants. Next year there are 44 classrooms for enrichment grants, plus each new classroom gets \$500 for new start up items. The draft budget envisions that the classroom enrichment grants will be reduced from \$400 (this year) to \$300 (next year). Some teachers have not spent their grants this year. The idea was that there would be a reduction in the classroom enrichment grants to offset the reduced surplus (big technology spend over past years) and potentially the funds for the field enhancements. A parent asked what teachers used classroom enrichment grants for. Melissa Line explained that she spent her classroom enrichment grant this year on the ladybug (projector) for her classroom. Classroom enrichment grants need to be permanent items for classrooms. Scott explained that the grant expenses must be submitted by December so that it can be spent in the school year for use in the classroom. There was discussion about whether the unspent classroom enrichment funds should be put into the Principal's discretionary fund or "back" into the APA to distribute. One parent suggested that the amount should not be reduced as it is a small number and will not pay for the field. It was explained that the reduction was envisioned last meeting when there was a forecasted of a "lean" surplus for the upcoming year (in comparison to other years' surpluses). One parent suggested that it should be reinstated to support the teachers. There appeared to be a general consensus that the amount for classroom enrichment grants be maintained at \$400.

Scott explained that the draft budget envisioned no changes to grants for Artist in the Classroom or Scientist in the Classroom. A question was asked about the budget for literacy materials and programming as there was not much spend this year on that item. Could be used, for example, with guided reading.

As the draft budget contains a field enhancement line item we next discussed the field update. Shannon Phillips explained that unexpectedly the TDSB is installing (and paying for) artificial turf for Allenby's field for construction to start in July 2015. This will

include artificial turf field, lines for soccer (large soccer field and 2 mini fields), baseball diamond lines, and a baseball backstop. The detailed design is expected to be completed by September 2014. The final master plan will be ready next week (June 2014). Out for tender by end of December 2014. Shannon expects that cost estimates will be ready late June 2014. Because the APA had been informed that the artificial turf field would be constructed in summer 2016, we had envisioned a fundraising goal of \$50,000 for 2014-2015 and \$50,000 for 2015-2016. Given that the timeline for the artificial turf field has been moved up, the quicker the APA can fundraise, the quicker we can complete the field/ playground enhancements. Gillian Uy explained that certain enhancements would need to be done at the same time given their proximity and construction needs. One parent asked about using the APA's surplus for field fundraising. It was explained that at the last meeting there was a discussion about focusing on targeted fundraising with consideration for using some of the surplus on the field. One parent asked whether the APA has a target surplus to start the school year. Scott Larin answered that different school parent councils/ associations have different targets for their surpluses. At a minimum, there needs to be \$11,000 for taxes. Scott Larin, our current APA treasurer, is comfortable with maintaining a \$20,000 surplus. Andrew Heitelman (a past APA co-treasurer) suggested maintaining a \$30,000 surplus.

Scott then explained that the proposed budget includes \$15,000 in segregated funds for technology for the remaining classrooms which have not received SmartBoards or Smart Technology. It is envisioned that there will be a plan for the \$15,000 to be spent on technology next year. The projected surplus for next year's APA budget is \$28,500.

There was a show of a majority of hands for increasing classroom enrichment grants in the draft budget up to \$400 per class. There was also a show of a majority of hands for increasing the line item for field enhancements in the draft budget to \$8,000 from \$5,000.

Scott Larin tabled the 2014-2015 draft APA budget, as presented, with two changes: (1) classroom enrichment grants be increased to \$400 per class; and (2) that the line item "field enhancements" be amended to state "playground enhancements" and be increased to \$8000.

7. Principal's Report – Cate Spidle (Principal)

Cate Spidle advised that Ms Lau will become the Vice Principal at 2 schools with the York Region District School Board. It will reduce her commute. We all indicated that we will miss her terribly. Cate hopes to have the the new Vice Principal confirmed by the end of June.

Ms. Spidle presented her Principal's Report:

- i. June started with a Playground Enhancement meeting with Gillian Uy and Shannon Phillips and is ending with good news for Allenby. The TDSB installation of artificial turf has been moved up one year so that the intention is to have artificial turf ready for students by September 2015. Ms. Spidle thanked the committee organizers, Gillian and Shannon, and the APA for funding the cost of a Master Plan.
- ii. There was the first Allenby Project Giveback Fair with our grade 4 students sharing their learning and their passion for giving.
- iii. The Drama/Dance teachers were very excited to invite a guest dance artist into the school to work with the student this month, thanks to the APA funding.
- iv. Dental Screening professionals checked the dental health of our students for most of the week of June 9th.
- v. Two students, Caleb Rzepa-Stainbok and Ella Tofoletto, were "Principal for ½ Day" and helped in the office, supervised at recess, organized some fun activities and went home tired at the end of the day.
- vi. Cate thanked the hardworking parents who gave up so much time to organize and be at the school setting up, supervising, counting money, selling tickets, delivering services, and then cleaning up at the Fun Fair.
- vii. Our grade 4 students (and some grade 5 students) attended a Sound Sense presentation in the gym intended to teach young audiences to protect their hearing from everyday noise.
- viii. Many trips have been happening (Black Creek Pioneer Village, Humber Arboretum, Illuminato, Papillion, Art Barn, and so many more) all month.
- ix. The APA put on an excellent Staff Appreciation Lunch with a fun picnic theme. Thank you for the thought and great food.
- x. The Dance Party donated by the Rowland family was enjoyed by the students.
- xi. Our Kindergarten Open House was well attended on June 19th with about 70 families coming to see the classrooms and teachers.
- xii. This week is full of Play Days thanks to the organization of Mr. Leaney, Mr. G, Mr. Philpott and Madame Rosta.
- xiii. Graduation is set for Wednesday at 4 pm. Mrs. Ucar has been invited to present the Allenby Cup.
- xiv. Reports go home on Thursday and then on Friday there will be the traditional Staff Baseball Game in the afternoon.

Cate Spidle then provided information on the new teachers for next year (detailed information is available on the school's website). The new teachers are:

Grade 4 English - Mrs. Miri Spencer and Ms. Evra Trought-Pitters

Grade 4/5 French Immersion (FI) – Madame Lindita Bicaku

Special Education - Mrs. Sarah Pryor

To Be Announced Teachers - Grade 1, Grade 2/3 FI, FI Grade 3/4 FI

Early Childhood Educators –

ENGLISH TRACK Olga Ianosev, Charlotte Balter, TBA

FRENCH IMMERSION Jillian Guerin, Vanessa Williams

Lunchroom Supervisors -

Gr 1 – 6 Derek Roopsignh

FDK Jeanie Wu, Sarah Greenall, four more TBA

Cate Spidle reminded parents that class lists will be posted in the school and on the school website on August 28th. Students will be identified by their STUDENT NUMBERS, which are found on their school report cards.

8. Changes to Intinerant Band and String Program (imusic) - Cate Spidle

After changes were announced regarding the band and string program, Cate Spidle advised that she heard a lot of concern from the parents. The French Immersion (FI) intinerant band/ strings program (imusic) will stay the same. Gr 5 and 6 students can opt into imusic. FI teachers tend not to teach new concepts during band time because there is a high attendance in imusic among FI students. However, in the English track not many students stay with the imusic program. To encourage participation among English track students and to minimize English track students “missing” new material being taught when imusic is occurring, the program for English track students will be changed. Once a week the students will take band/strings when their class is taking music class (music will either be with Mrs. Bannerman or imusic) The second imusic class will be during a regular period.

9. Field Update - Shannon Phillips & Gillian Uy

Was already discussed during the draft budget discussion.

10. Committee Updates

None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Next APA Meeting: Tuesday September 30, 2014 at 7pm in Allenby Jr. P.S. Library