

APA General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 27, 2019

Allenby Library, 7-9 pm

15 parent attendees plus Allenby Administration (Principal Tracey O'Toole and Vice Principal Deborah Zamin)

<p>1. Welcome, 5 minute mingle and Adoption of September 2019 Minutes and November 2019 Agenda</p> <p>Lisa Parker moved to adopt the November 2019 agenda. Seconded by Val Midmer. All attendees were in favour. Motion Passed.</p> <p>Lisa Parker moved to adopt the September 2019 minutes. Seconded by Kristyn Scott. All attendees were in favour. Motion Passed.</p>	<p>Lisa Parker</p> <p>(10 min)</p>
<p>2. Treasurer's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of October 31, so doesn't include November Late Night Recess Note that this fall fundraiser was budgeted for last year (\$10k) but mandate changed and was put together as a community event, rather than a significant fundraiser We have strong contributions from parents, \$4k more than budgeted for Still early in year, so not a lot of expenses to date; typically spending doesn't pick up until the new year <p>Beau Buchman moved to adopt the October 31, 2019 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Jenn Lenk. All attendees were in favour. Motion Passed.</p>	<p>Beau Buchmann</p> <p>(5 min)</p>
<p>3. Motion to spend up to \$1,500 on Lost & Found organization items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trying to make it easier for parents to find items, our success rate of getting things home is higher if we can make things visible Looking to consolidate from 2 locations to 1, at St Clements entrance Organizing and simplifying – hanging items are easier to see Opportunity to hang out wet clothing, bathing suits, winter clothes – they will have a chance to dry Old hanging rack broke in June Replacement was budgeted for in 2018-2019 but rack was working so no urgent need; now that the rack is broken, we have a real need Opportunity to engage peer helpers to keep area tidy; can they match up items that are labelled and help find owners Suggest younger classes do a walk by on the way back from library; this does happen at set times and we move items to tables in the halls so classes can see the items 	<p>Lisa Parker and Amanda Cooke</p> <p>(15 min)</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What happens to items found in the classroom? Teacher gets it to the student if it's labelled and in their classroom <p>Lisa Parker moved to spend up to \$1,500 on Lost & Found organization items. Seconded by Christina Wolff. 14 in favour, one opposed. Motion Passed.</p>	
<p>4. Motion to increase Parent Speaker Series budget by \$1,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each year we bring in a speaker on something relevant to parents based on the needs of the school; this year a key theme is fostering resilience in students A number of years ago we would have three smaller speaker sessions per year on topics like nutrition, internet safety, etc. Approach over the last few years is to have one expert speak to parents in a bigger session (Alex Russell, Karen Gordon) In past, we had our own budget through APA, as well as a grant from the ministry of education to support speakers, but this year the grant has been put on hold and we don't expect that we will get ministry funding Proposed speaker is Dr. Robyne Dafoe, speaking on developing resiliency in students Short Video on 5 components of resiliency https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPyMQVU-j7c Tracey's husband has seen her speak; recommended her based on really strong presenters we've had in the past two years We were able to get her to lower her rate from \$5k to \$2k Two potential dates – Wednesday, February 19 or Thursday, March 5 Note that the Feb 19 is after Family Day weekend so people may be away <p>Lisa Parker moved to increase the Parent Speaker Series budget by \$1000. Seconded by Diana Bold. All attendees were in favour. Motion Passed.</p>	<p>Lisa Parker</p> <p>(10 min)</p>
<p>5. Committee Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundraising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late Night Recess: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank you to Diana, Kristyn, Lisa, Jana and Joanna for parent Late Night Recess event on November 21 100 attendees, including new Allenby parents Auction went well and raised \$5000-\$6000 Goal was to break even, so exceeded goals Consensus is to continue with parent night, rather than family night Work effort for family night is too much Tickets were a bit expensive – what did cost cover, given open to 	<p>30 min</p>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">public as well? Cost covered the venue and food, and was the most cost effective venue in walking distance of the school.▪ There was a lot of food – advertise this more, so people don't eat dinner in advance▪ Diana and Kristyn on board to do it again, but earlier in the year○ Lip Sync – February 27 and 28<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Jenn Lenk Chairing events, looking for committee – please contact Jenn if interested▪ Kids dance to songs and put on event for two nights; each number is only on one night▪ Grade 6 emcees▪ There are auditions although everyone gets in▪ All grades welcome▪ Will put info, key dates in newsletter before holidays so students can begin to prepare○ Winter Clothing Drive going on now to December 3<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ All donations go to Flemingdon, another school, which goes to up to grade 5▪ Items that are for bigger children will go to New Circles, a charity for people new to Canada▪ If anyone is available to sort on Tuesday, December 3 please let Amber know (Amanda Cooke volunteered)▪ Biggest need is snow gloves, because kids lose them○ Kindergarten classes will do Firefighters Toy Drive; info coming in next newsletter○ May 30 is Fun Fair• Safety<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Chaired a sub-committee looking at traffic safety; 8 people are part of the committee<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Surveyed parents last year and looked at results▪ Brainstormed ideas on how to go forward; broke up into three areas 1) school zone, 2) Avenue Road, 3) catchment area as people avoid Eglinton during construction▪ Now looking at priorities; open to anyone who wants to get involved▪ Email Andrea Spender at aspender1@gmail.com○ Key issues happening on St. Clements and Castlefield at pick up and drop off<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Having a hard time engaging new councilor Mike Colle vs last councilor (Carmichael Greb); note that there are half the number of councilors now▪ Working to have a community meeting with parents, community, City Transportation representatives• Health and Wellness | |
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Info on lice on APA website ○ Next lice check is February 7 ○ Speaker coming on January 29 APA meeting, based on requests from parents at last APA ○ We have a third party vendor, Lice Crew, come with 7 technicians ○ Why not Toronto Public Health? If Toronto Public Health comes, there are only 2 people overseeing parents checking 800 kids, and no parents want to volunteer for it ○ Note that volunteers for lice check are supervising kids in the line ups, not actually checking lice • School Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Looking at line up for Winter After 4 Programs ○ Next term we will only take vendors who can run for the full 7 or 8 week session, and we have a week available to fill in any missed days for snow days or any other unforeseen circumstances • Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ APA Directory went out this week; contains a list of all people who have opted in to provide contact information ○ Reminder not to use the directory for commercial purposes • Community Awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Job action is in place but not a big impact on students, more on administration right now ○ What happens / when will phase 2 happen? Will we be given notice? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phase 2 would be work to rule ▪ Any information about action comes directly from TDSB to parents, also in media ▪ No messaging comes from Allenby on the issue 	
<p>6. Principal O'Toole's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019/2020 School Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ APA does budget in May, vote to approve in September ○ School budget happens in October; school won't spend until they have budget approved (this is why we don't see a lot of spending on our financial plan) ○ Committees in the school also develop a 3-year plan ○ These committees decide how the APA budget gets spent – e.g., how do we spend money allocated to literacy, etc. ○ APA and School budget ○ \$65MM shortfall in TDSB budget directly impacted Allenby budget ○ School budget this year is \$120,697; this is \$7000 less than last year ○ Budgets based on school size, and other factors 	<p>Tracey O'Toole</p> <p>(20 min)</p>

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- Budget includes paper, photo copiers, phone, office supplies, key priorities (STEM, Literacy, Mental Health & Wellbeing), Arts, physical education, STEAM, STEAM Prep, Core French, Special education, classroom allocations for consumable materials, school council insurance, contingency
- EQAO Results from 2018/2019
 - Written by grade 3, grade 6 and grade 9 students in the province
 - Covers reading, writing and math
 - Special French versions for math; French students in grade 3 do not do the reading and writing component as it's in English only
 - Provides a lot of data to administrators/schools
 - Shows where we exceed the board numbers, and where we fall short
 - EQAO will release some, but not all, of the questions
 - We see what everyone answered, and can then figure out why students got it wrong, then school can address it
 - Reading multiple choice for grade 3 is tricky as they are not often exposed to it; sometimes it's an issue not understanding the language in a math question (it's a literacy question as well, when word problems are involved)
 - Administration looks at where we don't do as well, and then consider tools to support in the classroom and how we can develop an area in a meaningful way
 - Can compare how English and French students did on the same question to unpack why students respond in a certain way (is it a language issue)
 - Allenby scores much better on written answers, vs multiple choice based on how we teach, focusing on deep level thinking
 - Results published by Fraser Institute includes 0s for students which aren't able to write the test
 - Results compare gender, also show results compared from grade 3 to grade 6 (for same cohort of students over time)
 - These kinds of insights feed into school improvement plan
- School Improvement Plan
 - Every school has three goals to address throughout the year in the following areas 1) achievement goal, 2) equity goal 3) wellbeing goal
 - Allenby's Goals for 2019-2020
 - Student Achievement Goal:
How does embedding 21st century practices and global competencies improve student engagement in mathematics and the image girls have of themselves as problem-solvers?
 - Well-Being Goal:
How can resilience be further developed to improve students' abilities to reduce anxiety, persist with challenges, and persevere with academic and social pursuits?
 - Equity Goal:

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<p>Who does not feel a part of the Allenby community (e.g., ELL learners, students new to Allenby)? Why? What structures are creating this? What can we do to better identify these students in order to ensure their sense of belonging at Allenby? How can we work to address unconscious bias in this regard?</p>	
<p>7. Open Question Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we get input from parents who are not at meeting? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We advertise meetings in the newsletter, and also share any issues we're voting on ○ It will go in minutes and be shared in Chair's message ○ For anything that is more than \$5000, we have to present at one meeting and voted on the next meeting ○ We also do budget planning in May, and items get voted on as we put the budget together ○ New – parents are encouraged to use the online suggestion box on the APA website • Do we get parents emailing each other (using the directory) if their children are upsetting each other? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are not aware of this; Allenby communicates that if something happens at school, it should be brought to the school to address • What are PLCs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Professional Learning Community – groups of staff doing professional learning; students are in an assembly while teachers are doing the professional development ○ Note – there are no staff meetings or PLCs during the job actions • Why do we do EQAO? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It's a standardized metric to see how student are learning and ensure we're teaching curriculum across the province ○ It's only one source of data and doesn't affect funding to schools, etc. ○ Not part of any student assessment by the school ○ There are lots of other sources of data we use to assess learning, schools, etc ○ No longer a bubble sheet to transfer; now students write in the booklet ○ Test has been in use for more than 20 years ○ Students get test results the following year; results mailed to you, optional to share with child 	<p>30 min</p>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are children anxious about?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A whole host of reasons○ Our message to students is that it's ok to have anxious feelings○ We don't try to solve their problems, but work with them so they can solve it○ We have students with anxiety diagnoses, but this is not what we're addressing○ Rather than remove the challenge, we encourage students to work through the challenge and be able to do it next time | |
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