

Parents' Advisory Group Inc.
École Robert H. Smith School
Minutes of the Meeting – April 13, 2011

Present (based on sign-in sheet): Shannon Bowden, Laurence Broadhurst, Tia-Alexandra Everitt, Michael Gies, Paula Jasper-Hall, Art Jordan, Nadine Karpinski, Dave Leochko, Cathy Macey, Sara Man, Pat McCallum, Tara McCallum, Trina Minor, Candace Partyka, Joseph Partyka, Brad Regehr, Stuart Roche, Tom Rossi, Pam Shay, Simone Smith, Trish Wainikka, Claudette Warnke, Joanne Renaud

Regrets: Patti Chiappetta-Sharpe, Daryla Christie, Mark Chyzzy, Michelle Gaber, Denise Gout-Smith, Dan Orlikow, Kathleen Reid

1. Meeting called to order. We have quorum.

2. Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- ***Motion to approve the Minutes of the January 26, 2011 PAG Meeting – Moved by Paula Jasper-Hall, Seconded by Joseph Partyka, Carried.***

3. Review of Agenda and addition of two items to New Business

- Fundraising suggestions (Sara Man, Simone Smith)
- Conversation About Education (Tara McCallum)

4. Chair's Report – Michael Gies

- A meeting was held on February 23 to review the PAG Constitution and Bylaws. Brad Regehr and Michael Gies are working on a list of amendments which will be posted by April 25th so that they can be presented and voted on at the PAG AGM.
- Congratulations to the Dance Committee – fantastic job!

Vice Chair's Report – Candace Partyka

- The PAG sent Mme Pruden flowers on behalf of the school and the PAG.
- An email went out to see if all PAG Directors will be returning next year. We will have a few vacancies: French Language, Staff Appreciation, South District Advisory (Alternate to join Dan Orlikow), Promotions & Fundraising (to join Sara Man).
- Thank you to Patti Chiappetta-Sharpe and Denise Gout-Smith for their significant contributions to the PAG.
- A list of PAG positions will be posted on the school doors and website well in advance of the AGM. Please let us know if you are interested in any of these positions.

Treasurer's Report – Stuart Roche

- There is one error on the report – the net funds raised by the family dance should be \$4821.01.
- Fun Lunch has generated revenue of \$8778.83 and expenses (to date) of \$5110.52. We expect to break even (2 bills to come).

5. Unfinished Business – none

6. New Business – Fun Lunch Question re: Bags for compost

- Trina Minor asked if anyone on the PAG is aware of compost bags that can be used for fun Lunch.
- Tara McCallum and Cathy Macey responded that yes, PAG has purchase compost bags.

New Business – Environment / Sustainable Development Project

- Nadine Karpinski reported that the school Sustainable Development Committee (includes Nadine and Simone sit on this committee) met with landscape firms regarding the future development of the school grounds, and selected one to do the initial design work.
- The PAG will be entering into a contract with the landscape firm, however the funds will not come from the PAG or fundraising – they will come from various grants and the school budget (for the initial design work).
- The PAG must sign the contract in order to apply for certain grants, once the plan is in place. Also if the project is done through the school, rather than the PAG, it becomes a school division project and may get backlogged.
- Once we have a design, we can look for various grants for each phase of the development.
- This is a long term project – will likely take 3 to 4 years to complete.
- ***Motion that the PAG sign the contract for the school grounds design plan – Moved by Simone Smith, Seconded by Sara Man, Carried.***

New Business – Fundraising Goals for 2011/12

- We will reach our fundraising goal of well over \$30,000 for the 2010/11 school year.

- There have been some concerns about the high level of fundraising. We need to consider our fundraising goal for next year.
- Ideally, fundraising should be spearheaded from the school needs. The first priority is field trips / in school special events (approximately \$10,000 to 12,000 per year).
- The school now has smartboards in all classrooms, however there is some maintenance required for those smartboards.
- The portable classrooms are having problems with the smart boards because of the floors. Ideally, we will mount the projector on the ceiling (cost of \$1300-1500 per classroom). We would like to try this in 1-2 classrooms next year.
- The school is also in need of new laptops. The division only provides regular desktops for the classrooms.
- The read-a-thon and walk-a-thon are fun events that raise money. The dance has also always been a fundraiser, but maybe it can become a break-even event in the future if we are lowering our fundraising goals.
- It was suggested that we discontinue the magazine fundraiser.
- Sara Man mentioned that Peak of the Market is doing fundraisers – selling bundles of locally grown produce. It is a good program with the school keeping 50% of the profits.
- Simone Smith mentioned that Tiber River is also doing a fundraiser for their products.
- The Fundraising Committee will consider these ideas for next year.

New Business – Conversation About Education

- Tara McCallum mentioned a flyer that recently came in the mail suggesting that we “join the conversation at Manitoba.ca”.
- Mme Warnke indicated that this is a K-12 initiative, encouraging the kids in their various talents, encouraging volunteer work, etc.

7. Teachers’ Report

- Friday, June 3 is the Walk-a-Thon.
- Thanks to the volunteers for the Thumbody program for grade 3 students.
- The patrols have been invited to participate in a parade on May 5th in honour of the anniversary of school patrols in the city of Winnipeg. They will go from the Forks to the Legislature in uniform (just grade 6 students).
- The school patrols have won second place in the Winnipeg South District School Division. They are proud to be an award winning leadership team. The trophy will be kept at the school for a year. Tia complimented the patrols for being polite and friendly.
- Mr. Leochko’s class has been working with the Canadian Forces Search and Rescue. They will be doing a parachute drop on June 10 at noon, at River Heights Community Centre field. The entire school and parents are invited to attend this celebration.
- The Adventure Club is planting a butterfly garden, and working with the Living Prairie Museum who will do a demonstration and supply the plants. They are also building butterfly homes for the garden. Paula offered to donate butterflies from her school.
- Mme Renaud announced that after teaching for 33 years, the past 20 at Robert H. Smith, she will be retiring in June. We will continue to see her as she will be a substitute teacher at the school. Ms Fruma Farago will also be retiring after 25 years with the school.

8. Administration Update

- The walk-a-thon is coming up. The committee will meet and consider some changes this year, possibly no prizes but rather a celebration with a nutritional snack and music for all at the end of the walk.
- Thank you to the parents for helping with the babysitting course.
- The musical is going well. Rehearsals are taking place in the morning.
- Thank you to all volunteers. There will be a reception for volunteers on Wednesday, May 25th at 1:30 p.m. in the Library.
- The staffing report will take place at the next PAG meeting on May 25th.
- School numbers for 2011/12 are very healthy. There will be a need to cap classrooms and catchment students take precedent. For example, the nursery class is capped at 26 students.
- An RHS student went to Disney World through a program called “Dream Takes Flight”. This was announced over the loudspeaker at school, but it was not a school funded program.
- Spring Pictures are later this month. Please let your classroom teacher know in writing if you don’t want to participate.
- The school is a Federal Election polling station (8:30-8:30, May 2) and will be a polling station for the Provincial Election October 4th.

9. Questions / Comments Concerning Written Progress Reports / Standing Committees

- Art Jordan announced that there are 2 more block parents. The biggest difficulty in recruiting block parents is the 3 forms for the police record check. It takes months to process, and if you share a birth date with a registered sex offender you will be finger printed.
- The Plant Sale made just under \$2000. The Environment Committee will work with the school to plan for plant drop-off and pickup.
- Shannon Bowden mentioned that she has a young niece who has done extensive travelling and had amazing experiences, and would be willing to speak to the students. She can present in French. Interested teachers can contact Shannon for contact information.

10. Next meeting – PAG Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the School Library.

11. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. – Moved by Paula Jasper-Hall, Seconded by Cathy Macey, Carried.