

**Parents' Advisory Group Inc.**  
**École Robert H. Smith School**  
**Minutes of the Meeting – December 7, 2011**

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**Present (based on sign-in sheet):** Art Jordan, Nadine Karpinski, Sharon Labossière, Dave Leochko, Kali Li, Cathy Macey, Sara Man, Christine McGregor, Trina Minor, Leslie Mondor, Joseph Partyka, Anji Petruzzelli, Brad Regehr, Kathleen Reid, Andrea Robertson, Stuart Roche, Tom Rossi, Simone Smith, Trish Wainikka, Janet Zaluski, Sharon Morton, Kerri Lambert, Monique Andrew, Mark Wasyliw, Vicky Watkins, Angela Clark

**Regrets:** Shannon Bowden, Susan Broadhurst, Tia-Alexandra Everitt, Michelle Gaber, Denise Gout-Smith, Dan Orlikow

1. **Meeting called to order. We have quorum.**
2. **Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
  - ***Motion to approve the Minutes of the November 2, 2011 PAG Meeting – Moved by Sara Man, Seconded by Trina Minor, Carried.***
3. **Review of Agenda**
  - No changes to the agenda.
4. **Chair's Report – Michael Gies**
  - The school had another successful Read-a-thon this fall. Thank you to the administration, staff and everyone who volunteered.
  - We also had an excellent staff appreciation event and a great Fun Lunch, with the next one coming up on Friday.
5. **New Business – PAG Budget & Proposed Banking Change**
  - Please refer to the budget provided in the reports. There is a small increase in the PAG Budget this year for grounds clean-up (under the Environment portfolio). This has not been done for a few years.
  - ***Motion to approve the PAG Budget for 2011/12 – Moved by Stuart Roche, Seconded by Joseph Partyka; Carried.***
  - Also in the reports is a recommendation to change the PAG bank from TD Bank to Assiniboine Credit Union (ACU). The PAG would save money in services charges (these were \$241 last year at TD Bank and \$75 the year before); there are no service charges at ACU. Stuart works at the ACU, but this in no way affects having the PAG accounts at that institution.
  - ***Motion to move the PAG bank accounts from TD Bank to Assiniboine Credit Union – Moved by Brad Regehr, Seconded by Trina Minor; Carried.***

**New Business – Fundraising Report (Report can be found on page 3 of the Meeting Minutes)**

- Since last year, the PAG and the school have been doing cooperative fundraising.
  - Please refer to the Fundraising Report provided. There is a significant surplus of fundraising money from the last 2 years and we need to think about how to allocate that.
  - One project that would be very helpful is the mounting of smartboards. We can consider a pilot project to mount 1 or 2 smartboards in the classrooms that need them the most – based on teacher requests, number of students in the classroom, size of the classroom, etc.
  - Smartboards and the mounting of smartboards are costs not covered by the school board. There is a technology budget line, but this is required for items such as new laptops (some of the laptops in the school are 7 years old).
  - Last year the school received a quote of \$1386 to mount one smartboard. We are unsure if that cost has changed or if the price would go down if a few smartboards are mounted at the same time.
  - It would make sense to use the \$5200 already allocated for technology towards this project. Since the funds are already allocated, a motion is not required; however, to ensure support for this project, a vote will be taken
  - ***Motion to use the surplus from the previous year that was allocated for technology for the mounting of smartboards – Moved by Simone Smith, Seconded by Christine McGregor; Carried.***
  - In future years, the PAG will attempt to present this report at the first meeting of the year so that it can be used to help make fundraising decisions for that year. Also, we may want to consider having less fundraising in 2012/13.
  - This is the second Fundraising Report designed to report on cooperative fundraising between the school and the PAG.
  - There were questions about the Adventure Club receiving sustainable development funding; funds were used for the butterfly garden. Acceptance into the Adventure Club is done on a first come selection basis. No other school club has asked for funds.
6. **Unfinished Business – none**

## 7. Teachers' Report

- Canspell starts tomorrow; Mad Science begins in the new year. There are many clubs in the school.
- A number of classrooms are supporting charities through special projects, such as Cheer Board, Winnipeg Harvest, Agape, third world, gift exchange with inner city classroom, hampers for needy families in the city and in the school, etc.
- The winter concert is approaching quickly; nursery and kindergarten concert will be in the morning; grades 1-4 at 1:30 and 6:30. There will be a silver collection at the door and the program will be sent out by synervoice and projected on the wall.
- There was some discussion about nursery and kindergarten concerts not being in the evening – the primary reason for this is overcrowding. The school is open to suggestions and input on this in the future. Renting another facility does not promote a sense of ownership / community. Maybe consider splitting the students – half do the holiday concert and half a spring concert.
- Information on schools for grade 7 will be sent out by synervoice to grade 6 families. School administration can be contacted for references, but parents should not contact the teacher(s) directly. The school also discourages the practice of approaching a former teacher for a reference.
- A special thank you to Art Jordan for his speech at the Remembrance Day Assembly.

## 8. Administration Update

- Parent teacher conferences went well; lots of positive comments. Thanks to the babysitters.
- Thank you for the lovely staff appreciation; the staff feel very valued.
- Enrollment is wonderful – parents are already phoning for next year.
- There is now a “no parking” sign at the Ash / Kingsway corner. We are working on a letter requesting a paid crossing guard.
- There are concerns about parents bringing dogs to school property. The school does not discourage dogs that are kept outside of the fenced-in school yard (often attached to the fence); but dogs are not to be brought on school property. Among other issues, there are many kids scared of dogs.
- The government promised small class sizes of 20 students in the recent election. They are assessing 8 schools and our school will be assessed in January to see if there is room for more classes (for nursery to grade 3). This is just a preliminary stage. Parents will have a say at some point in the future. No one has any idea how it will be done and how long it will take, and there is not yet funds available for this. It is all very preliminary.
- There was a question about the story in the news regarding math in the schools. Many parents are concerned about math. There may be another math night in the new year. The school is in line with what is expected – they are following provincial and divisional curriculum. Healthy conversations have taken place with the parent from our school that is a math professor (who was quoted in the news article).
- There was a question about a math recovery program similar to the reading recovery program. Reading recovery is funded by the province, but there is nothing in place like this for math. The division is looking at better teaching practices in math.
- There are a number of children at the school who are taking math tutoring, and parents are hearing from others whose kids are in need of tutoring when they hit grade 7. On the flip side, the school administration has heard positive comments about our students in math who have gone to other schools.
- It is important to note that the math report takes into account schools in remote areas. Our school has good resources.
- There was a question about grade 2 – teaching about money and the clock is not part of the curriculum? The kids are exposed to the clock and money concepts without a specific requirement for it to be in the curriculum.
- There is home reading for parents to help with reading; could there also be home supports for math? There are many math games and activities on the province of Manitoba website.
- Often it is difficult for parents since they have no idea what the kids are doing in math and it has changed significantly since the parents were in school.
- Maybe there is an opportunity for a parent-supported math club within the school, and perhaps some of the fundraising surplus could be used for this. Also, could we add “math support” to the volunteer list that goes out at the beginning of the year?

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

- The Family Dance committee is looking for someone to help plan the silent auction. Please contact Brad Regehr if you are interested. If no one steps up, maybe we should consider dropping the silent auction this year (since we have quite a surplus already). There was a suggestion to try synervoice or send something out to the volunteer list.
- Andrea attended a French Language Meeting. There is a new policy for diversity in education; information can be posted to the PAG website for all to access.
- Sara mentioned that the magazine fundraiser has sold 228 units to date, which brings in about \$10 per unit.
- This year the Read-a-thon has generated a profit of about \$9000 and \$5350 has come in through Your Fair Share.

## 10. Next meeting – Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the School Library.

## 11. Motion to adjourn the meeting – Moved by Art Jordan, Seconded by Sara Man, Carried.

# École Robert H. Smith School - Fundraising Report - 2010 / 2011 School Year

## Cooperative Fundraising - PAG and School

### Funds raised

PAG Funds to School	17,704.99	<sup>1</sup>
Funds raised by school	<u>21,029.54</u>	Walk-a-thon (\$11,039.70) and Read-a-thon (\$9,989.84), net of expenses
<b>Subtotal - funds raised 2010/11</b>	<b>38,734.53</b>	
Balance unspent from previous years*	<u>11,352.79</u>	
<b>Subtotal - funds raised &amp; carried forward:</b>	<b>50,087.32</b>	

	Financial Goal	Balance from prior years <sup>2</sup>	Fundraising 2010/11	Funded by the School <sup>5</sup>	Subtotal	Spent / Actuals	Balance (A+B+C) - D
Allocation of Fundraising Dollars	2010/11	(A)	(B)	(C)	A + B + C	(D)	
Technology (smart boards)	12,000.00	6,026.78	12,000.00		18,026.78	12,743.00	5,283.78
Field trips / Events	12,000.00		12,000.00	5,150.00	17,150.00	17,150.00	0.00
Sustainable Development	2,500.00		2,500.00	8,371.00	10,871.00	10,871.00	0.00
Playground Equipment	3,000.00	1,276.30	3,000.00		4,276.30	2,910.00	1,366.30
School Discretionary Funds	2,000.00		2,000.00		2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Books / Scholastic Book Fairs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009/10 Excess Funds Raised <sup>3</sup>	0.00	4,049.72	n/a	n/a	4,049.72	0.00	4,049.72
2010/11 Excess Funds Raised <sup>4</sup>	<u>n/a</u>	<u>n/a</u>	<u>7,234.53</u>	<u>n/a</u>	<u>7,234.53</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>7,234.53</u>
<b>Subtotals:</b>	<b>31,500.00</b>	<b>11,352.80</b>	<b>38,734.53</b>	<b>13,521.00</b>	<b>63,608.33</b>	<b>45,674.00</b>	<b>17,934.33</b>

**Balance / Funds remaining - to be allocated:**

**17,934.33**

### NOTES:

- 1 - This information comes from the RHS PAG Income Statement for the Year ended August 31, 2011 - See Written Reports, September 21/11 PAG Meeting
- 2 - This information comes from the 2009/10 Fundraising Report - see the PAG Reports from December 1, 2010 Meeting. Funds are to be kept by school to be spent in future year(s).
- 3 - The 2009/10 Excess Funds Raised (\$4,049.72) was allocated to Communication, but Communication has been removed from Fundraising Goals, so funds are now considered Excess Funds Raised.
- 4 - The 2010/11 Excess Funds Raised is the difference between the Financial Fundraising Goal (\$31,500) and the actual Funds Raised (\$38,734.53)
- 5 - For two projects (Field trips / Events & Sustainable Development), the funds raised did not cover the costs incurred for the project, so the school funded the remainder of the project out of their budget.

### SPENT / ACTUALS - details:

#### Technology

Smart board hardware, carts, lcd projector	3,664.00
Laptop for a smart board cart	638.00
Smart board	3,300.00
Mounting of smart boards	1,662.00
Bulbs for smart board projectors	1,400.00
New camcorder for the school	414.00
Desk top microphones	98.00
Lego mind storm	<u>1,567.00</u>
	<b>12,743.00</b>

#### Sustainable Development

School yard	<u>10,871.00</u>
	<b>10,871.00</b>

#### Field Trips

Cultural activities Ca Claque	800.00
African Drumming	1,350.00
Field trips	<u>15,000.00</u>
	<b>17,150.00</b>

#### Playground Equipment

New gym mats	2,600.00
New balls, various, all grades	300.00
Hardware for outdoor soccer nets	<u>10.00</u>
	<b>2,910.00</b>

#### School Discretionary Fund

Various items, at the school discretion	<u>2,000.00</u>
	<b>2,000.00</b>