

Parents' Advisory Group Inc.
École Robert H. Smith School
Minutes of the Meeting – November 2, 2011

Present (based on sign-in sheet): Candace Partyka, Stuart Roche, Trinity Mak, Frances Greco, Pam Shay, Dave Leochko, Paula Jasper-Hall, Kali Li, Cathy Macey, Ross Stokke, Susan Broadhurst, Art Jordan, Andrea Robertson, Daryla Christie, Anji Petruzzelli, Denise Gout-Smith, Michael Gies, Tanya Ducharme, Tom Rossi, Sharon Labossière, Tia-Alexandra Everitt, Trish Wainikka, Shannon Bowden, Nadine Karpinski, Sara Man, Christine McGregor, Dan Orlikow, Brad Regehr, Leslie Mondor, Anna Randall Gryz, Beth Klassen, Stephanie Gilbert, Mark Wasyliw, Lisa Emre, Vicky Watkins, Jackie Gawne, Donna Sutherland, Angela Clark

Regrets: Mark Chyzyy, Michelle Gaber, Tara McCallum, Trina Minor,

1. **Meeting called to order. We have quorum.**

2. **Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- ***Motion to approve the Minutes of the September 21, 2011 PAG Meeting – Moved by Sara Man, Seconded by Tia-Alexandra Everitt, Carried.***

3. **Review of Agenda**

- There will be one item added to the agenda – City Councillor John Orlikow will be joining us for question and answer related to traffic around the school.

4. **Chair's Report – Michael Gies**

- It is great to see so many people attending the meeting. Thank you for taking the time to come.
- Tara McCallum has resigned from her position as Volunteer Coordinator after many years – a big thank you for her many years of service. Christine McGregor will take over her position – thanks and welcome to Christine.

5. **New Business - none**

6. **Unfinished Business – Fundraising Goals**

- The fundraising goals and fundraisers were outlined at the last meeting. They need to be approved at this meeting.
- ***Motion to approve the 2011/12 fundraising goal of \$25,000 for the following items – Moved by Sara Man, Seconded by Andrea Robertson, Carried.***
 1. Field trips and in-school presentations and events, such as concerts, drama presentations (\$15,000)
 2. Smart Board Maintenance and Mounting (\$3,500)
 3. Sustainable development projects and outdoor school improvement (\$3,000)
 4. Indoor and outdoor recess playground equipment (\$1,500)
 5. School Discretionary Funds (\$2,000)
 6. Books for classroom libraries and the refreshing of home reading libraries (all funds from two Scholastic Book Fairs)

Discussion:

- There was a suggestion that we consider new school t-shirts for sporting events since some of them are not matching or are looking tattered. Maybe can come from the playground equipment funding. 100 were purchased a few years ago after the new Road Runner logo was developed. The school will look into this.
- The school will continue to post the fundraising results on the thermometer outside of the front office.

7. **Teachers' Report**

- PAG Director Art Jordan will be part of the Remembrance Day service.
- Today the grade 6s got together to discuss and select the charity to be the recipient of funds raised at the Community Breakfast. The kids put forward ideas, did presentations and voted for Winnipeg Harvest.
- There is work being done with the patrols at the corner of Kingsway and Ash. A synervice message asked parents to use the crosswalk on the west side of Ash to alleviate traffic congestion, and this has helped. We need to remember that it is kids doing the job and we should support them.
- Friday, November 18 is the Read-a-Thon; Fred Penner will be performing in the afternoon and there will be a gift for all kids. It is a fundraising event so children are encouraged to raise money and read. Parent volunteers are needed in the morning.
- The initial CAP assessment is completed.
- November 14th, grades 1-3 are hosting Queenston School for a performance by Manitoba Theatre for Young People.
- Thank you for the fabulous Staff Appreciation lunch!

8. Administration Update

- Please dress your kids appropriately so that they can go out for lunch and recess.
- Signs or pylons will be going up near the street corners saying "No parking" so that cars do not obstruct the view.
- Parents have been quite receptive to the new system of using the crosswalk at Kingsway and Ash.
- The police will come around and check vehicles and give out tickets.
- Mrs. Huckert will be going on maternity leave shortly; her replacement, Mr. Jones, will be starting tomorrow.
- This year the first reporting period will include parent-teacher conferences, rather than tri-conferences. The teachers need to stick to the time limit of 13 minutes per meeting. Babysitting will be available in the multi-purpose room. The reports are based on the CAP assessment and are personal. Additional support has been given to teachers for CAP testing this year.
- There was an emergency evacuation practice; a synervoice was sent to parents advising them to talk to their kids about it. The kids did very well – it took 25 minutes to get 500 people into the church across the street. There have also been 5 fire drills and a lockdown.

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

- The Family Dance has been moved to Friday, February 10 because the prior week is an information session at River Heights Junior High the prior week.
- The PAG Budget will be presented at the next meeting (December 7).
- The PAG is beginning succession planning for next year. If you are a PAG Director and do not plan to continue in your position, please let Michael or Candace know so that we can begin the process of finding a replacement. It is nice of the incoming Director can be mentored into the position this year to make the transition easier.
- There was a question regarding the playground project – is the field going to be torn up? No, everything that has been done with the new field will stay, however some portions of the school yard will be modified. We won't lose the soccer fields, track, baseball diamond, etc. The school grounds will be enhanced to provide a variety of play opportunities for those that don't currently play sports on the field.
- There is a copy of the draft plan in the school office – it will be posted on the school doors so that parents can take a look at it. It should be noted that this is a draft multi-phased plan that will take place over a few years. Fundraising will be done through grant applications, not requests for funds from the parents. Mr. Rossi mentioned that the project still needs Board / Division approval.
- The PAG and school should consider further communication about the project for those who were unable to attend the open house.

10. GUEST: City Councillor John Orlikow

- There was a question and answer session with John Orlikow regarding traffic related issues near the school.

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

12. Motion to adjourn the meeting – Moved by Tia-Alexandra Everitt, Seconded by Daryla Christie, Carried.