

Parents' Advisory Group Inc.
École Robert H. Smith School
Minutes of the Meeting – September 21, 2011

Present (based on sign-in sheet): Candace Partyka, Stuart Roche, Trinity Mak, Frances Greco, Pam Shay, Dave Leochko, Paula Jasper-Hall, Michelle Gaber, Kali Li, Cathy Macey, Anna Stokke, Susan Broadhurst, Art Jordan, Andrea Robertson, Daryla Christie, Yvonne Skubovius, Anji Petruzzelli, Janet Zaluski, Sharon Morton, Denise Gout-Smith, Kathleen Reid, Claudia Davies, Ana Hodyck, Michael Gies, Tanya Ducharme, Tom Rossi, Sharon Labossière, Andrew Minor, Tia-Alexandra Everitt

Regrets: Mark Chyzzy, Tara McCallum, Art Jordan, Shannon Bowden, Laurence Broadhurst, Brad Regehr

1. Meeting called to order. We have quorum.

2. Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- *Motion to approve the Minutes of the April 13, 2011 PAG Meeting – Moved by Paula Jasper-Hall, Seconded by Tia-Alexandra Everitt, Carried.*

3. Review of Agenda

4. Chair's Report – Michael Gies

- PAG Directors have mailboxes (folders) in the school office. Please check these periodically to see if you have mail, or if you have mail that might belong to another director.
- We will work on the constitution this year and hope to get it cleaned up.

Treasurer's Report – Stuart Roche

- If you need to increase your budget or would like to know what your budget is, please talk to me.

5. New Business – Updated Fundraising Goals

- Please see the written Fundraising Report for details.
- The parents will be coordinating the walk-a-thon this year.
- The fundraising goal has been reduced to \$25,000 (down from \$31,500).
- The amount allocated for smart boards seems low when technology is so important. To mount the projectors on the ceiling would cost \$31,000 for the entire school. We will start with a few classrooms (plan to do 4 under this year's budget).
- Parents who wish to donate can do so and get a tax receipt under the "My Fair Share" program.

6. Unfinished Business – Grounds Project Update

- There will be an open house next week to share plans with the parents. The goal is to enhance the "field of dreams" so that it is not just a field, to enhance what we have already.
- The plan is for funding to come from grants, not from school fundraising. Donations can be accepted. Seed money will be required.
- The company working on our project is the one that did the new Assiniboine Park playground.
- The timeline for the project is at least a few years – it will be phased in. The project is managed by the sustainable development committee (about 12 people).
- Field maintenance is handled by the division and the school. Seeding and topsoil is done by the division over the summer. The nets are also moved off the field in the summer to help the grass get healthy. Even though it doesn't always look pretty, it is graded nicely for drainage, etc.

7. Teachers' Report

- This year will be camp for grades 5 and 6. An information session will take place in February and the camp will run from June 9-11.
- The principles of learning are highlighted in the newsletter and for students. One principle will be featured every 2 months – for September and October it is Collaboration.
- CAP testing has begun so you will see some guest teachers in the school over the next while.

8. Administration Update

- Enrollment is healthy and we have an extra grade 1 French class.
- The CAP testing drives instruction and will be reported at the first conferences.
- The school crest and the school logo (road runner) will be put behind the basketball nets.
- Staffing update – Maria Donahue is off until further notice due to some health issues with her husband.

- Mme Labossière is honoured to be here. The school feels good, kids are polite and welcoming. She has been at 7 different schools over the last 20 years.
- QUESTION: Grade 5/6 choir optional – the plans for this are still in discussion. There will be a synervice explaining it.
- QUESTION: Is it possible to consider music that is more engaging for grade 6 boys? There is a new arts curriculum and the school is trying to be creative and adopt new ideas. This year Mr. Marx will be a guest – making noises and sounds with different instruments, tables, chairs, etc.
- QUESTION: Will the first reporting period be tri-conferences again? Some parents would like the opportunity to speak with the teachers without students there at the first meeting. This will be considered. There is a new provincial report – for information, look online.
- QUESTION: Is home reading optional for grade 4 (English)? No, participation is not optional but the students have the option to either bring books home from school or read books that they have at home. Parents can clarify this with the teacher.
- QUESTION: It was not good today with Ash Street closed. Please note that patrols are not there to control traffic – they are there to help control the children. They will not try to stop traffic. There are currently 2 adults outside with the patrols. It would be nice if school zones were 30 km/hour as in other cities – perhaps we can send a letter to our city councillor or school trustee about this, or invite our councillor to the next meeting.

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

- The Family Dance will either be Thursday, February 2 (there is an in-service on February 3, but the Open House for River Heights School is on February 2) or Friday, February 10. There is also an in-service on March 16, however the Community Breakfast will be on March 2.
- Succession Planning – if people are interested in positions, help out as a volunteer on the committee this year and ask to be mentored into the position. We will try to put together a list of the positions coming up and discuss this at a future meeting. Perhaps we can do an invitation for new directors through synervice. We can also forward the information to parents via the class reps.
- Are class reps invited or encouraged to come to PAG Meetings?
- Picnic – there was a comment that the hot dogs and pizza were not as great as previous years (change in supplier – Tony's did not do it this year). On the positive, many people loved having the bouncers inside – allowed for more mingling and talking. The picnic was amazing and everything was handled well given the last minute changes due to the weather.
- Fun Lunch envelopes have not come in yet so there will be an extension for submitting the envelopes. A synervice will remind parents of this. This year there will be no donations for volunteer meals.

10. QUESTION regarding extreme allergies in kindergarten class

- There are a number of allergies in the kindergarten class which is making it very difficult for parents to plan snacks. There is a concern about liability. Mme Labossière will look into this and respond to the class directly.

11. Next meeting – Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the School Library.

- Yvonne has volunteered to bring snack for the meeting.

12. Motion to adjourn the meeting – Moved by Simone Smith, Seconded by Daryla Christie, Carried.