

Parents' Advisory Group Inc.
École Robert H. Smith School
Reports for Meeting on September 21, 2011

Chair Report – Michael Gies

Hello once more to all our PAG parents and thank you so much for your help and participation as we move forward into another year at École Robert H. Smith School.

I am excited about building from last year's successes and applying everything that I learned last year. Thank you to everyone who helped out, as many of you are back this year, and to our new directors a big thank you for stepping up and accepting a new challenge. I also want to again thank my amazing executive – Candace, Trish, and Stuart, who provide me and well everyone with incredible dedication and an astounding amount of work. So what's in store for this year?

We will be lowering our fundraising sights a little from last year. We have been phenomenally successful raising funds for our children, but we don't want to abuse your generosity. Our school is very well equipped now, and our fundraising goals should reflect that. While field trips will remain the top recipient of funds, we will lower other areas and discuss as a group what direction we wish to take. We will keep our coordinated fundraising with the administration as it has proved to be a successful method of allowing the parents to see the total fundraising picture and be more involved in the process. Our first meeting will include a discussion about fundraising and ensure we are moving in the right direction.

We will also be spending time discussing our Playground Enhancement Project with everyone. It is an exciting new venture for us and we will be kicking it into high gear this year. This project is going to require a lot of effort, but the reward to the kids will be enormous. I also want to try and finish up our governance issues, namely the cleaning up of our constitution and appropriate wording for the every parent's right to vote initiative. I would like more parental input, but this will be an all-year effort and not solved tonight.

I also look forward to working with our new Vice Principal Mme Labossière and am very excited to see that we have two French track teachers, Mme Greco and Mme Mondor, joining our meetings. I hope that we still have as much fun this year as we did last year while accomplishing so much for our children. They are the reason we do all this work - we are all just parent volunteers.

Here's to another great year!

Volunteers – Daryla Christie and Tara McCallum

Our annual volunteer orientation sessions will be held on Friday the 30th of September. We offer a morning and the afternoon session to try to accommodate as many parents' schedules as possible.

We are still accepting the volunteer sign-up sheets but are planning on getting started on the job of collating the many names soon. Our first volunteer job will be the HepB and HPV vaccination morning in mid October. If you have signed up for a specific job and have not heard back from anyone don't hesitate to contact either of your volunteer coordinators. We look forward to a great year of volunteering!

Environment Report – Nadine Karpinski and Simone Smith

The environment committee thanks all of the families who volunteered their time this past summer weeding and watering the gardens. It is tough work when the ground is so dry, so thank you!

We have the final master plan for the school grounds enhancement project and are planning to host an open house with the Landscape Architect firm Scatliff, Miller + Murray next Wednesday, September 28 from 3-7 p.m. at the school. The goal is to have the school community come in to view the plans, see some samples of what is going to be included, and talk to the architects about this and their other experiences building play areas. Both Community Places and the Winnipeg Foundation are potential sources of grant money that we hope to use to fund a portion of the project. Suggestions for grant sources, grant writing assistance, as well as donations will all be accepted at the open house and through the coming months.

The plant sale is planned as a fundraiser again this year with a pick-up date in mid to late May.

Treasurer Report – Stuart Roche

RHS PAG Income Statement Year ended August 31, 2011

Opening balance, at Aug 31/10 **8,553.62**

Revenue

Promotions / Fundraising		
Magazine Fundraiser	6,148.33	
Plant Sale	6,277.95	
Family Dance	8,277.60	
My Fair Share	<u>1,900.00</u>	22,603.88
Fun Lunch		9,091.99
Picnic		4,464.95
Donations		1,359.99
GST Rebate		<u>419.70</u>
		37,940.51

Expenses

Promotions		
Magazine Fundraiser	538.92	
Plant Sale	4,704.58	
Family Dance	<u>3,456.59</u>	8,700.09
Fun Lunch		8,586.70
Picnic		4,368.02
Environment		0.00
Staff Appreciation		473.52
Volunteer committee		214.57
Miscellaneous Expenses		572.14
NSF Chq + Service Charges		241.30
Operating Expenses		
Babysitting	160.00	
Office Supplies	<u>92.55</u>	<u>252.55</u>
		23,408.89

Net income (before gifts to school) **14,531.62**

Less: Gifts to School 17,704.99

Net income / loss **-3,173.37**

Closing balance, at Aug 31/11 **5,380.25**

Fundraising and Promotions – Sara Man and Kali Li

This year our fundraising goal is \$25 000. We will be fundraising for the following:

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)

The Fundraisers for this year are:

- QSP Magazine - this will be a non pressure fundraiser. We were not going to do it but we had a lot of people say that is how they get their magazines. So it will be done ONLY ONLINE with no forms or cheques for to deal with. This may cut down on the amount that we sell but that is fine. We are selling the magazines as a community service.
- Read-a-Thon – taken care of by the school
- Family Dance – handled by the dance committee
- Plant Sale – handled by the environment committee
- Walk-a-Thon – A parent committee will be formed and we will try to make it a really fun day for everyone!
- Scholastic Book Fairs – handled by the school
- My Fair Share

Fun Lunch – Michelle Gaber and Trina Minor

PAG Fun Lunch Nibbles

This year the Friday fun lunch dates are:

Oct. 28, 2011 Subway Sandwiches with TCBY Yogurt & Gunn's Bakery
Dec. 9, 2011 Panago Pizza with Booster Juice Smoothies & Gunn's Bakery
Feb. 24, 2012 Salisbury House with Safeway Bakery
April 27, 2012 Boston Pizza with Sweet Impressions Bakery
June 1, 2012 Traditional Hot Dog Day with A&W Floats & Sweet Impressions Bakery

Unexpected rebates and donations from last year have provided surplus funds for this year. This allowed us to lower the cost of some menu items.

Due to last year's feedback, we have added new options for meals and desserts. Some new vendors provide nut free, dairy free and egg free choices. As well, we are supporting local business and decreasing the amount packaging at the same time.

For a review of the fun lunch menu and dates please refer to the Parent Advisory Group (PAG) website at www.roberthsmithpag.weebly.com - click on "**Parent Downloads**".

Once again we will have need of volunteers to help in the classrooms during lunches as well as inputting order information on a spreadsheet. If you would like to participate you can email us directly or email the Volunteer Recruitment & Activities Committee through the PAG website.

This will be our last year acting as coordinators for fun lunch, so if other parents are interested in managing this portfolio we would welcome your help and you could "learn the ropes" throughout the year!

We are looking forward to a fantastic fun lunch year!

Cheers,
Trina Minor & Michelle Gaber
PAG Fun Lunch Coordinators 2011/2012

Picnic – Shannon Bowden

This year the picnic was held on Wednesday, June 7. This picnic is not a one-person job and I would like to acknowledge the committee, which consisted of Patti Chiappetta-Sharpe, Jan Siemens and Cathy Macey. They all put in a lot of time and effort to make this picnic a success. I would also like to thank Anita Gomes and Mr. Rossi for their help.

The weather didn't really cooperate as it was windy and cold, but at least the rain held off! Due to the weather, we chose to have some of the event indoors. Four bouncers were set up in the gym and the giant slide on the school grounds. The DJ stand, train, face painting, hot dogs and cotton candy were also outside. The pizza, drinks, chips and environment station were inside.

We diminished the surplus last year with the free admission for the 90th Birthday for the school, so for 2011, the \$10/family admission was reinstated.

Tony's Academy chose not to participate this year. Instead, we hired Sis N' Me mobile catering to provide the hot dogs and smokies. This option was considerably more expensive than Tony's, so we essentially broke even on hot dog/smokie sales. We also served pizza from Panago.

We continued this year with the recycling/composting center.

Again, the teachers staffed the ticket desk to sell food tickets to those who did not pre-order food, a huge thank you for all of their help.

Mr. Rossi spent the evening driving the train again this year. Thank you for organizing this, as it is always a highlight of the evening.

We had five inflatables this year along with attendants from Super Bounce. This allowed us to reduce the number of volunteers, and the attendants worked out well.

Al Pitch was the DJ providing lots of entertainment for everyone. Al handed out the prizes that were purchased by the picnic committee.

Thank you to the Grade 6 students for providing face painting and volunteering at the food stations. Thank you to all of those parents who volunteered for the picnic, we cannot have the picnic without you!

I have attached a financial statement (below).

Respectfully submitted, Shannon Bowden, Picnic Coordinator 2010/2011.

École Robert H. Smith School

June 7, 2011 Family Picnic

Financial Statement – June , 2011

REVENUE

Advance Admission	\$2,028.00
Advance Food	\$1,835.00
Door Food & Admission	\$481.95
Candy Floss	\$120.00
Grade 6 Farewell purchase of chips/drinks	\$75.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$4,539.95

EXPENSES

Entertainment:

Superbounce Amusement	\$1,680.00
AI Pitch (DJ)	\$446.25
Dance Prizes and giveaways	\$53.76
Thank you for Anita and Committee	\$80.00
Envelopes	\$45.00
Total Entertainment Expenses	\$2,305.01

Food:

Pizza	\$440.60
Hotdogs/Smokies	\$990.25
Ice	\$60.00
Drinks, Chips	\$482.61
Total Food Expenses	\$1,973.46

Total Expenses	\$4,278.47
Total Profit	\$261.48

* We should be getting a cheque from the Grade 6 farewell committee for \$75 as they are buying the extra chips and drinks.

Administrator's Report - Mr. Rossi & Mme Labossière

1. Enrolment: We are doing extremely well this year. Presently we have 491 children enrolled at École Robert H. Smith School as compared to 471 last year.
2. Staffing Update; Status quo from our meet the staff with the exception of our educational assistants.
3. Lunch Program and Hand washing is going great. Our grade 6 Spirit Team assists all the children.
4. Reading Recovery: Ms Serreti and Ms Buetti teaching reading recovery during the afternoon.
5. Terry Fox Run on Friday September 16 went extremely well. Last year we collected \$1247. 73 and this year we will let you know once we have everything tallied.

6. Stop, Drop and Go Zone again is working great and being monitored by our RHS Troops.
7. Health Care Plans: Being reviewed and updated. All staff will be retrained for the new Epi Pen and Puffers for Asthma.
8. Grade 6 Farewell moved to Tuesday June 26 in the afternoon because of Kelvin's Graduation. Information has been shared with grade 6 families using our synrevoice system.
9. Life Touch Fall Picture Day will take place Thursday September 22.
10. Volunteer Sign Up Station is located inside or just outside our Resource Room once again and certainly do not hesitate to step inside or come to the office in the event you need something.
11. Call back has been running smoothly. Ms McCallum our interim clerk has been doing it.
12. Upcoming professional development, days off, and events: October 6th and 7th Mme Labossiere and Mr. Rossi at their annual Winnipeg Principals Vice Principals Association Conference in Gimli, October 10th No School-Thanksgiving Day, October 31st at 1:10pm Halloween Parade., November 11th – No School Remembrance Day, November 18th Read a Thon Celebration Fundraiser and Performance in the gym in the afternoon, November 24th evening and November 25th all day Reporting Conferences.
13. Calendar of Events; Please refer to our calendar of events that is posted on our website. This is a living document and we will make changes to it as changes arise. A reminder that this is tentative and sometimes changes are out of our control. We will do our best to follow what we have.
14. Thank you to all the families that assisted us with weeding and watering of our gardens. Out of all the years this was one that we really needed every ounce of water to keep the plants alive. Our school looks wonderful because of all your efforts.
15. Gym mats with our school logo are being screened and will be put up permanently behind each basketball hoop in the gym.
16. This year our teacher representatives are Mlle Greco, Mme Mondor, Mrs. Shay and Mr. Leochko.

The month of September has been very good to all of us. Our staff certainly felt great about the start of this school year. The children, parents, volunteers, and staff are wonderful. That's what school is about. École Robert H. Smith School is off on the right foot also and there are a number of great things happening in the area of education. Our staff are working very hard with the Comprehensive Assessment Program (CAP) for all our children. Areas of English Language Arts (ELA), French Language Arts (FLA), Socio-emotional and Gross Motor Skills are assessed.

"It takes a community to educate a child."