

**Parents' Advisory Group Inc.**  
**École Robert H. Smith School**  
Reports for Meeting on April 4, 2012

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**Treasurer– Stuart Roche**

The new account at Assiniboine Credit Union (ACU) has been opened and once the last outstanding cheques have cleared the TD Canada Trust account, it will be closed and transferred to the new ACU account. A High Rate savings account has been opened for donations for the Playground Enhancement Project. The account received \$5000 as seed money which was returned to the PAG from the school.

The Annual CRA Information Return was submitted and thanks to all of you who submitted your birth dates which is a new requirement for the return. The GST rebate has been submitted and I await the refund.

**Fun Lunch – Michelle Gaber and Trina Minor**

**PAG Fun Lunch Nibbles**

Our latest Fun Lunch with Salisbury House and Safeway was a huge success as the entire fun lunch went off without a hitch! Everyone involved did a fantastic job and we greatly appreciate all their efforts.

The next Fun Lunch is on April 27th with Boston Pizza and Sweet Impressions Bakery. We will once again require volunteers.

These past two years have been very fulfilling. The RHS staff, students, volunteers, and P.A.G. have been wonderful to work with and have given us such a positive experience volunteering. We will be passing on the torch after this year, so the positions for fun lunch coordinators are available for anyone who wants to volunteer. If you are considering volunteering with the P.A.G., we highly recommend taking on the role as fun lunch coordinator since we have a complete instruction binder to follow for someone new to the role to make the transition easy. As well, you can join us for the last two fun lunches to get a taste of what the position involves.

**Fundraising and Promotions – Sara Man and Kali Li**

The walk-a-thon committee will need to be formed and planning will be started. I will write a syner-voice message to go out asking for committee volunteers. It will be a fun day for all, but most importantly for the kids!

**Volunteer – Daryla Christie and Christine McGregor**

Salisbury fun lunch went extremely smoothly. Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who helped out. The babysitting course is underway. A Big Thanks to Tracey Roberts who has taken it on. I believe the date for it will be Saturday, April 28. April's fun lunch is on the horizon. Sorry we couldn't attend the PAG meeting!

**Environment Report – Nadine Karpinski and Simone Smith**

**Plant sale:**

The plant sale deadline for order forms was extended until April 3, 2012 due to a low number of orders received by March 23rd (50 and 8 classroom orders). For those ordering plant gift cards, they will be available around the end of April.

**Playground Enhancement Project:**

We are still pursuing grant applications that may be applicable to our school project. Unfortunately, we were not chosen by the Run for Porter Foundation grant. We have adapted the Run for Porter application to use as a general template for other grants and to present to various levels of government. Candace has been in touch with Joyce Bateman and will hopefully be able to meet with her in the near future. We would also like to set up a meeting with John Orlikow to determine if there is any funding potential from the city.

We met with Mme. Labossiere and Mr. Rossi to give an update on the project on March 19. We discussed the lack of grants available and the need to reach out to alumni and current families for donations. We will set up a table at the Kelvin 100 year reunion in May to have alumni of our R.H. Smith provide contact information which could also be used for our 100th celebrations. We also discussed the need for the project to be adopted by all students, staff and parents to generate excitement and support. We felt that it may be easier if we "phase" phase 1, meaning that we break up the first phase into even smaller pieces with the hope that we could start something this spring, possibly the amphitheater or rope parkour system (a linear rope climbing system). Phase 1 also contains a hill & aspen forest area as well as the "pothole" area, a circular are enclosed by berms with a supernova & spinners. We also discussed updating the PAG website with more info on the project which could link directly to Paypal.

A paypal account is also in the process of being set up to allow for online donations to the project.

Candace and I spoke to the staff at the April 3rd staff meeting to describe the project and ask for support and feedback from the teachers.

### **Picnic – Shannon Bowden**

The picnic is scheduled for Thursday, June 7, 2012 starting at 5:30 and running until 8:00. We have given the date to River Heights Junior High and they have indicated that they will not schedule their band concert on that date so there should be no family conflicts in that respect.

Bouncers, DJ and train are booked. We will have dance prizes as well. Price of a family pass will increase to \$12 this year to cover expenses.

We have investigated pizza options and chosen Dominos for this year. We are currently looking at hot dog vendors. Food prices will have to increase slightly to offset higher food costs.

**We need one or two more committee members!** Please consider joining our committee! It only entails a couple of meetings prior to the picnic and helping out the afternoon and evening on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **South District Advisory – Tia-Alexandra Everitt & Dan Orlikow**

#### **Notes from the South District Advisory Meeting – Feb 8/2012**

*(In attendance for RHS: Tia Everitt/Andrea Robertson/Dan Orlikow/Tom Rossi/Sharon Labossiere)*

- 1. Chairman of meeting is selected (Wendy Love)**
- 2. Approval of minutes of the meeting (minutes are approved)**

- 3. Draft budget plan**

*(Robert Chartrand – Superintendent)*

Ongoing goals of WSD1 in 2012/13:

- Leading education & innovation
- Provide high quality education
- Provide qualified, caring & competent staff
- Educate the whole child
- Stronger children, families & communities
- Sustainable development
- Ensuring safe learning
- Management of tax dollars responsibly

*(Rene Appelmans- Secretary/Treasurer)*

- Ongoing feedback process – SDA meeting is one of several meetings w/ consultation
- 2012/13 is a unique budget that reflects increases in utilities, salaries, supplies etc.
- These costs continue to elevate year over year, and the Board needs to maintain the existing budget.
- Supply chain/contract review savings where possible are incorporated into budget.
- 2.5% (800 student) increase in enrolment in WSD1 this year.
- Requires that much more resources and costs associated w/ those students.
- Continue to invest in infrastructure in buildings to ensure safety and compliance/retrofit. i.e) HVAC/Windows/AC/Waterlines as well as technology improvements.
- On revenue side, the board is faced with significant challenges re: province funding.
- Province announced 2.2% increase in funding, similar to 2011.
- That funding is distributed and allocated via complex formula, and as a result, many districts will see no funding, which ends up being the equivalent of a 0% increase and presents a lot of challenges.
- Not a lot of different ways for School Boards to levy fees to make up for shortfall = few options.
- To achieve the needs, the Board needs to increase revenue from property taxation via mill rate increase.
- To make budget this year, equivalent to an 8% increase in property taxation of residents in division OR board will have to cut services/programs.
- Do not want to begin to slash programming.
- Property tax revenue from 2005 to 2011 has actually decreased, due to Educational Tax credits that have been applied annually.
- Next step in budget process is to continue with consultation meetings and public meetings to receive feedback and input. Final budget will drop on 15 March.
- Population increase is across all districts in Winnipeg, and is not attributable to any one demographic. (Influx of students via immigration, unique programming/services ie) Nursery program, housing projects)
- École River Heights PAG rep (Rod Miller) questioned enrolment trend and wanted to know if it was directly attributable to Aboriginal demographic and wanted to know if this was something that would continue to trend/if there would be specific programming to “address” the demographic?
- Discussion re: increase in immigrant demographic via refuge or other means that impacts WSD1 and would there be increased funding via federal or provincial resources to compensate?

- 4. Introduction of new business**

- There is no new business to bring to the table at this time
5. **School Reports**
    - Lord Roberts Rep (*Carol Warona*) – report on school events.
    - Robert H. Smith Rep (*Tia Everitt*) – report on school events.
  6. **Approval of minutes from last meeting in November, 2011** (minutes are approved)
  7. **Introduction of new Trustee** (*Mark Wasyliw*)
- Meeting adjourned: 8:15 pm**

#### **Administrators' Report - Mr. Rossi & Mme Labossière**

1. Enrolment presently at approximately 490 students. Our numbers are extremely healthy for the 2012-2013 school year.
2. As of today we have 38 (47) children pre-registered for Nursery and 22 (10) children for Kindergarten English Program and approximately 45 (44) children registered in our Kindergarten French Immersion Programs. Tentatively there will be 1 morning and afternoon Kindergarten French Immersion class and 1 morning Kindergarten English class next year. ( ) denotes 2011-2012.
3. Staffing for 2012-2013: We will be receiving our staffing complement from our superintendent early next week and have it finalized to him by April 19<sup>th</sup>.
4. Life Touch Spring Pictures on Tuesday April 24<sup>th</sup>. A synvoice message will be sent to all families reminding them to let the teacher know if they do not want their child to participate.
5. Life Touch Roof Top Picture on Thursday May 24<sup>th</sup>.
6. Walk-a-Thon Update: Scheduled for Friday June 1<sup>st</sup>. We have ordered the envelopes already and this year our PAG will be organizing the event.
7. Babysitting Course: Thank you to our parents that spearheaded this very important after school program. This year it is scheduled for Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup>.
8. Thumbody Appreciation: Thank you to all the parent volunteers that supported our grade 3 self-esteem program. Our staff really appreciates your concentrated effort and our kids are better today for all your efforts.
9. Student Led Conferences scheduled this month for Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup> evening and Friday April 20<sup>th</sup> all day.
10. Monday May 14<sup>th</sup> is a school planning day. There are no classes.
11. Victoria Day on Monday May 21<sup>st</sup>. School is closed.
12. Volunteer Reception: Thursday May 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm in our library.
13. Report Cards went home today.
14. Non Instructional Days 2012-2013:
  1. Tuesday September 4, 2012
  2. Monday September 24, 2012
  3. Friday October 19, 2012
  4. Friday November 23, 2012
  5. Monday February 4, 2013
  6. Friday March 15, 2013
  7. Friday April 19, 2013
  8. Monday May 13, 2013

There are 2 further dates to be used at the discretion of the school. These days will be confirmed with our staff at the goal setting meeting.
15. On the last day of school, we will be having a farewell assembly in our gym at 11:00am with all the staff and students. This will be a time for us to say our last farewells to students and staff for the 2011-2012 school year. At 11:30am, teachers will escort their class outside for their final time when the bell rings.
16. Grade 6 Farewell scheduled for Tuesday June 26<sup>th</sup>. Doors will open at 1pm and a power point will be running until 1:30pm. We will then start the formal part of the assembly. The students once again will be piped into the gym and it is our intention to have the program completed by 2:30pm in time for the grade 5 parents to host refreshments. Our grade 5 students will also have the honour of singing our school song to the grade 6 students at their farewell.
17. Last but not least, Mme Labossiere, Mr. Rossi and staff would like to thank all the PAG Representatives and members at large for volunteering endless hours for our school and children. Your efforts are appreciated. For many of you that are not returning as PAG members we salute you and thank you for your valuable commitment over the last 3 years or more. As one door closes another one opens for some of our other parents to step through and experience the partnership PAG and our school offers. We certainly look forward to working with whoever walks through the door.

**Together Everyone Achieves More!**