

**Parents' Advisory Group Inc.  
École Robert H. Smith School**  
Reports for Meeting on September 26, 2012

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**Chair Report – Michael Gies**

Hello and welcome everyone to another year of the Ecole Robert H Smith PAG. I still cannot believe that the school year has started, let alone the PAG year – yet here we are! Thank you to all of returning parent volunteers-no matter what your role-as they are all important and to all our new parents a hearty way to go. I hope we can provide you with an enjoyable and informative PAG experience.

This year I hope we can become more of an advisory group and take a more active role in shaping our school's direction. We have a wonderful and enthusiastic group of parent volunteers at our school who want to be involved and we must ensure that all our efforts do not just go to fundraising and events. While those are vital parts of what we do, they cannot be all that we do and with that in mind there will be no avoiding discussions on curriculum, programs, or any other topic that involves our children's school experience. My job is to keep it all in focus and fair, which I will do, but I apologize for not allowing a freer discussion at times last year. At our first meeting we hope to lay out a firm plan for reducing and focusing our fundraising activities, discuss the budget, and get ideas on a Parent's Math Night in concert with the school.

I would like to thank Candace, Stu, and Christine for volunteering to be a part of the executive this year. They are all amazing and overly capable people and I consider myself lucky to have them to work with – I only hope I'm not too much of an anchor! I would also be remiss if I did not again thank Trish, Shannon, Trina, and Michelle for not only their years of tireless dedication but the manner in which they mentored the new parents fulfilling their former roles.

So away we go and here's to a great year!

**Volunteers – Daryla Christie and Shauna Filuk**

The first month of the school year has come to a close. The first opening volunteer event is being offered on **Thursday, September 27th**. The **Volunteer Orientation Sessions** are being held in the AM (9:15 a.m.) and PM (1:15 pm.) in the MPR room. Come and enjoy healthy "neighbourhood" snacks and beverages in a relaxed setting while you learn about volunteering at École Robert H. Smith School. As usual, we will provide toddler friendly snacks and activities for those little ones who aren't ready for school yet. The two sessions are geared towards parents who are new to the school; however, any parents wishing to know more about volunteering are most welcome!

Here are some great upcoming Volunteer opportunities available.....they include:

- The **first** of three immunizations for the Grades 4 and 6 which will be held on October 2nd. We will be in contact with those parents who have generously offered to help out with the juice and cookie patrol.
- Fun Lunch #1 is scheduled for October 26th. You may be contacted by the Fun Lunch Coordinators if you have offered to volunteer in your child's classroom.

Don't forget September 28th is **Walk to School Day**

Finally, keep in mind the **Communication Box** ... it is always ready for your constructive comments and solutions. We welcome your feedback! Please include a way for us to respond to you.....so that you can get a reply!

**Fun Lunch –Tara VanCaeyzeele, Kirstin Stokes Smith & Barbara Hermann**

This year the Friday fun lunch dates are:

Oct. 26, 2012	Subway Sandwiches with TCBY Yogurt
Dec. 7, 2012	Domino' Pizza with Booster Juice Smoothies
Feb. 22, 2013	The Pita Pit with Sweet Impressions Bakery
April 26, 2012	Boston Pizza with Sweet Impressions Bakery
May 31, 2013	Traditional Hot Dog Day with A&W Floats & Sweet Impressions Bakery

Due to last year's feedback, we have added new options for meals. We have tried to add a few new healthy options as well as keeping the student favorites.

For a review of the fun lunch menu and dates please refer to the Parent Advisory Group (PAG) website at [www.roberthsmithpag.weebly.com](http://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.

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

The environment committee had a number of volunteers come out during the summer months to look after the flower beds. They weeded and watered on some of the hottest summer days. A big thank-you to them. Unfortunately the fall continues to be dry, which has resulted in the school grounds looking a little tired.

On the Playground Enhancement Project, we have yet to be successful in getting grant money. We plan to continue looking at grant options for our project this year, and are looking to find an extra resource to volunteer with grant application writing. Concurrently we are continuing and planning to ramp up our campaign to open up donations from school families and alumni. Our goals for the project this year are to:

- Get in touch with alumni
- Create greater awareness of the project at the school
- Find additional resources who can assist with marketing, grant writing, and printing
- Continue to increase our donations from current families
- Set a target for development next summer (2013)

**South District Advisory- Tia-Alexandra Everitt**

There is currently no new business to be reported for South District Advisory Board. We submitted our registration of representatives last week, and are waiting for SDA/WSD1 to call the first meeting, which is traditionally in November.

**Treasurer's Report – Stuart Roche**

	Cash in Bank		
<b>A.</b>	<b>Bank Account</b>		
	Opening balance as at September 1, 2011		5451.65
	Prior year outstanding Deposits :	Deposit	<u>0.00</u>
			0.00
	Prior year outstanding cheques:		<u>-29.80</u>
			<u>-16.60</u>
			<u>-25.00</u>
	Financial Statement Opening Bank balance for 2011 - 2012 year		<b>5380.25</b>
	Source of Funds:		
	Fundraising Funds	23861.78	
	Fundraising Expenses	-8750.34	
	Playground Funds Raised	10275.14	
	Playground Expenses	-325.04	
	Programs Provided (Fun Lunch/Family Picnic)	280.15	
	Other Revenue	336.15	
	Other expense (includes payments to RH Smith)	-2152.43	
	Net Revenues/(Expenses)	23525.41	<u>23525.41</u>
	closing balance as at August 31, 2012		<b><u>28905.66</u></b>
	<b>Net Cash in Bank - August 31, 2012</b>		<b>28905.66</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	2011-2012 Budget	2011-2012 Expenses	Proposed 2012-2013
Staff Appreciation	\$ 500.00	\$ 446.44	\$ 500.00
Bank Charges and NSF Chargeback Fees	\$ 250.00	\$ 163.70	\$ 50.00
Office Supplies	\$ 50.00	\$ 6.41	\$ 50.00
Meetings	\$ 50.00	\$ 150.78	\$ 75.00
Baby Sitting	\$ 180.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 200.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 500.00	\$ 215.08	\$ 500.00
Farewell	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Walk a thon	\$ -	\$ 509.94	\$ -
Volunteer	\$ 300.00	\$ 80.08	\$ 300.00
Environment	\$ 850.00	\$ -	\$ 850.00
	\$ 2,680.00	\$ 2,152.43	\$ 2,925.00

<b>Funds Raised 2011/12</b>			
Walk A Thon	\$ 8,476.07		
Read A Thon	\$ 8,305.22		
Pag Fundraisers	\$ 15,111.58		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 31,892.87</b>		
<b>Fundraising</b>			
	Income	Expenses	Total
My Fair Share	\$ 6,405.00	\$ -	\$ 6,405.00
Family Dance	\$ 6,445.74	-\$ 2,916.39	\$ 3,529.49
QSP Magazines	\$ 2,877.59	\$ -	\$ 2,877.59
Plant Sale	\$ 7,798.45	-\$ 5,833.95	\$ 1,964.50
Donations	\$ 335.00	\$ -	\$ 335.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 23,861.78</b>	<b>-\$ 8,750.34</b>	<b>\$ 15,111.58</b>

**Administrator's Report – Mr. T. Rossi, Principal and Mrs. S. Labossiere, Vice Principal**

1. Presently we are at 471 students this year.

2. Mme Johnson away until further notice. Mme Renaud replacing her tentatively. Mrs. McDonald and Ms Gomes will be going on maternity leave middle of November.
3. Terry Fox Run on Friday September 14 went extremely well. We raised over \$1500.00 this year. Highest total raised in 5 years. Thank you to a wonderful school community for giving.
4. Stop, Drop and Go Zone again is working great and being monitored by our RHS Troops.
5. Health Care Plans: Being reviewed and updated. All staff including our lunch program employees have had a workshop on single/dual jet epi-pens, puffers for asthma and defibrillators.
6. Our school will be getting a defibrillator in the very near future.
7. Life Touch Fall Picture Day went last week. Individual, classroom, grade 6 student body and leadership teams had their pictures taken also.
8. Volunteer Sign Up Station this year is located in our office. Changed to monitor who is coming into our building for safety reasons.
9. Thank you to our PAG for supporting our school financially through our fundraisers last year. Two short throw projectors were installed in rooms P2 and 117, electrical outlets moved above and closer to the projectors, purchased gym ropes, wiggle cushions, ear phones and play food for our nursery and kindergarten classrooms.
10. Dr. Marian Small Mathematics Inservice for staff and parents on Monday September 24th.
11. 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.
12. Thank you to all the families that assisted us with weeding and watering of our gardens. A special thank you to Jane Zoutman, one of our retired volunteer community members that nurtured, weeded, planted and sustained our outdoor gardens since the month of June. She also volunteers at Fort Whyte and will be putting on a power point presentation for us next spring.
13. Mr. Philip Bialk volunteering in our library once again this year on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
14. This year teacher representatives that volunteered to attend our PAG meetings are Mlle Greco, and Mr. Leochko along with the administrative team.  
The month of September has been excellent to all of us. Our staff have certainly set a positive tone this year for everyone. There are a number of great things happening in the area of instruction and assessment. Our staff are working very hard initiating assessment practices for all our children that will be used throughout the year to drive instruction. Areas of Mathematics, English Language Arts (ELA), French Language Arts (FLA), Socio-emotional and Gross Motor Skills are currently being assessed.