



École Robert H Smith School

Curriculum Committee Minutes

February 6, 2013

7:00pm-8:30pm

Present: PAG Members: Michael Gies Candace Partyka
 School Trustee: Mark Wasyliw
 Other interested parents

Theme: Informal Discussion

ITEM	ACTION/DECISION REQUIRED
Background from PAG	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting was created due to lack of time at regular PAG meetings, the results of this meeting will determine if future committee meetings should be held ▪ One of the areas in which the curriculum appears to be lacking is math-[link to Manitoba Education Curriculum] http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/english_pr.html#early ▪ Deadline for presenting any resolutions/issues to MAPC is February 29 [link to Manitoba Association of Parent Councils] http://www.mapc.mb.ca/
Comments from School Trustee	
Mark	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The PAG has become a fundraising body and its mandate was to have more of a voice for curriculum matters as well as policy decisions to govern school policies. Many schools are in this position since the policy making has not been a priority over the years. However, some schools are very political and certain items get accelerated due the importance placed on the issue. Certain issues can be presented directly to school trustees as an option.
Parent Feedback-Math	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are generalist teachers teaching math and the strategies they teach are taught through a conceptual understanding format. There are different methods to teach children and this can be done within the class. One suggestion was to take a small group of students from a class to teach them math concepts that they do not understand rather than to overwhelm the students with so many options for strategies. Can this be improved by approaching the principal with our thoughts? Is this a curriculum issue (Provincially set) or a teaching issue (school)? For curriculum changes, do we invite the superintendent to a meeting and lobby for changes to the curriculum? Or perhaps the South-end advisory as another means to approach?
Parent Feedback-CAP Testing	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It appears although the CAP Testing format takes the first couple months of the school year, it is fully entrenched in the school division. Change may come when school trustees begin to retire. Are there any changes that can be made?
Parent Feedback-Science Fair	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Science Fair was not well advertised and only 4 students of 475 students presented projects. What can be done?
Parent Feedback-Community Breakfast	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No classes the day of Community Breakfast, March 1st. Parents could lobby that they want more academics and that classes resume that day.

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ITEM	ACTION/DECISION REQUIRED
Summary	
	▪ Issue Summary: The culture of the school, CAP testing, shortfall in math curriculum/teaching, sufficient staffing, lack of information for school science fair, and class time used for assemblies/special events.
Next Meeting	
DATE/TIME	March 6, 2013, 7pm
LOCATION	École Robert H Smith School Library

News for parents: (link to MAPC site to find news release below)

November 29, 2012 - <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=&item=15737>

**MANITOBA INTRODUCES LEGISLATION THAT WOULD STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN THE
EDUCATION SYSTEM**

Parent Involvement Supports Student Success: Allan