



École Robert H. Smith School

Curriculum Committee Minutes

April 24, 2013
7:00pm-8:45pm

Present: PAG Members: Michael Gies

School Trustee: Mark Wasyliv

Parents:

Ross Stokke, Kali Li, Damir Stipanouk, Laurence Broadhurst, Claudia Davies, Andrea Robertson, Dawn McCartney, Ritchie Strachan, Joseph Partyka, Brad Regehr, Nalini Reddy (Chair), Dana Thiessen (Secretary)

Regrets: Jim Cresswell, Candace Partyka, Anna Stokke, Cathy Macey

Theme: Terms of Reference

ITEM	ACTION/DECISION REQUIRED
Call to order	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting called to order and minutes accepted from last meeting March 6, 2013 ▪ The agenda was reviewed and one addition was "Math Strategies"
PAG	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nalini discussed the last PAG meeting. Mr. Rossi and Mme. Labossiere thanked Nalini for her report at the PAG meeting. They also requested a summary report of the committee meeting prior to each PAG meeting. Nalini to prepare and submit a written report to school administration prior to PAG meetings. ▪ Discussion of attendance at the PAG and curriculum committee meetings. Although attendance is good, it may be worthwhile to notify the class rep's of the minutes from the meetings. The class rep's can then circulate to the parents. Can we get list of class reps? ▪ There was a discussion for a motion introduced explaining the role of the PAG, but cautioned that the process is slow and it may take more than a year to be in place as a resource for parents. ▪ Ross discussed the reason the committee was formed was to move the topic from the PAG meetings to the committee meetings. A suggestion was made that those who wish to discuss curriculum matters should attend the committee meetings rather than raise or discuss the issue at the PAG meetings.
Terms of Reference	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A terms of reference should be created to better understand the role of the committee.
Parent Feedback-Terms of Reference	

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ITEM	ACTION/DECISION REQUIRED
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A discussion that the PAG can decide what services they would like available at the school. ▪ A discussion of Grosvenor School where a part time science teacher was hired through the efforts of the PAG at that school. Perhaps a survey would help to determine what services are desired. Does the committee have autonomy to send out the survey without consulting the PAG? ▪ A recent professional development day for educators in the province encompassed a topic on “going back to the core”. Parents supported this topic and agreed with its need. ▪ A request for volunteers for a sub-committee to development “Terms of Reference”. The volunteers are to have a proposal or mission statement for the next meeting.
Parent Feedback-Days of Learning	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A request for volunteers for another sub-committee “Days of Learning”. The committee decided there should be two volunteers for the sub-committee. ▪ There was discussion about lack of curriculum focus during special events and school productions.
Parent Feedback-Science Fair	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A science fair form used by another school was circulated and to ensure parent consideration the form required a parent to check off whether their child will be participating or not. ▪ The science fair was discussed and possible organization the next fair in conjunction with the PAG. A review of the experience from our committee members encouraging 50% student participation in another schools science fair. ▪ Another idea is a science club, which may lead to some better participation in the science fair. Parents commented that there was already a Mad Science camp, but only for limited grades. The science club could encompass all grades in the school.
Parent Feedback-Other Clubs/Events	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Career day was discussed. It sounds like the current career day in the school is evolving well and generally parents expressed positive comments. ▪ There was support for more clubs and a chess club was suggested. ▪ Clubs run with volunteers can be formed, but would require requests for space from the school. ▪ There was a discussion about some clubs running at capacity and a suggestion was made that there could be revolving attendance to accommodate all participants. ▪ Parents mentioned there is no hesitation with setting up clubs ▪ It was mentioned that it is important to indicate in a proposal that the club will be run by parent volunteers ▪ It was suggested that the club ideas be formulated quickly so that they can be implemented in the fall
Summary	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Issue Summary: A request for consensus on two proposals: 1) Promoting Clubs, 2) Promoting Clubs and seeking information on Days of learning. The consensus was number 2 ▪ Review of action items from last minutes:
Next Meeting	
DATE/TIME	May 29, 2013, 7pm
LOCATION	École Robert H Smith School Library

For parents: (link to Youth Science Canada)

<http://smarterscience.youthscience.ca/science-fair-resources>

(Link to Curriculum Development in Manitoba)

<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/process.html>