



# École Robert H. Smith School

## Curriculum Committee Minutes

**March 6, 2013**  
**7:00pm-8:45pm**

**Present:** PAG Members: Michael Gies, Candace Partyka

School Trustee: Mark Wasyliv

Parents:

Ross Stokke, Anna Stokke, Cathy Macey, Kali Li, Damir Stipanouk, Jim Cresswell, Jennifer Keeney, Nalini Reddy (Chair), Dana Thiessen (Secretary)

**Theme:** Prioritize Issues

ITEM	ACTION/DECISION REQUIRED
<b>Call to order</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting called to order and minutes accepted from last meeting February 6, 2013</li> <li>▪ Nalini discussed the purpose of the committee which is “to better the education of our children and to foster positive relations with our school and parents”</li> <li>▪ Nalini agreed to chair the committee, secretary responsibilities to Dana</li> </ul>
<b>PAG</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion of role of committee in relation to PAG. The committee formulates minutes from the meeting and then a report is prepared to be presented at the PAG meeting from which a decision is made via voting.</li> <li>▪ Discussion of communication of meeting times; some parents mentioned that attendance would improve if more notice had been given for the meeting tonight.</li> <li>▪ The PAG has a “Survey Monkey” subscription and has offered it to the committee if they choose to ask for parent views on issues.</li> </ul>
<b>School Trustee</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mark provided an explanation of property taxes and the component of school taxes.</li> </ul>
<b>Prioritize Issues</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The main issues identified by the committee from the previous meeting:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Math Curriculum</li> <li>b) CAP Testing and related issues</li> <li>c) Days of learning in the school</li> <li>d) Culture of learning at the school</li> <li>e) Staffing</li> </ol> </li> <li>▪ The committee decided to focus on the “Culture of Learning” at the school because it encompasses a number of local-level issues. The remaining issues will be shelved for now.</li> </ul>
<b>Parent Feedback-Math Curriculum</b>	

ITEM	ACTION/DECISION REQUIRED
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Manitoba curriculum recommends 15% of math instruction/learning per day for grades 1-6. Parents commented that the amount of math in each class varies by teacher. <b>Is there a way to create a better of understanding of the amount of math our children actually receive? It was suggested that a study or data from the school could be asked for.</b></li> <li>▪ Dreambox <a href="http://www.dreambox.com/">http://www.dreambox.com/</a> is a math program that has been funded by the school division, but only for grades 1 and 2. Comments that the program although good, does not seem to align with the curriculum. Another program that has merit is Jump Math <a href="http://jumpmath.org/cms/">http://jumpmath.org/cms/</a>. The program has been used in some private schools in Manitoba, is not on the WNCP curriculum list of recommended learning resources for math <a href="http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/math/wncp_k-4.pdf">http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/math/wncp_k-4.pdf</a> because it has not been reviewed as of yet. It is less costly compared to others because of its charitable status.</li> <li>▪ <b>A suggestion was made that PAG could look into funding the cost of this program for the school for the teachers who wanted to use it. The committee would like to obtain more information about Jump Math.</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Suggestion that an after school program/homework club for math be developed at the school</b> either enrichment or remedial depending on the demand. The program could be PAG or parent funded.</li> <li>▪ There is a math contest called Kangaroo Math coming up on March 25<sup>th</sup>. <b>Is there support for this upcoming contest at the school?</b></li> </ul>
<b>Parent Feedback-Days of learning</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The committee queried whether there may be too much teaching time taken away by non-instructional activities. The committee acknowledged that many non-classroom activities have educational outcomes associated with them, but is interested in working with the school to do an audit of that time in terms of amount and subject matter. <b>How do we do this? Can this question be forwarded to PAG for further development?</b></li> </ul>
<b>Parent Feedback-Culture of Learning at School</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Comments regarding values appear to be taught at school and some parents have to re-teach to their children. Focus at the school should be on academics.</li> <li>▪ The science fair could be enhanced going forward. In the past the fair was judged by parents, but no longer. Some parents felt that there could be more attention regarding the science fair. The fair could be enhanced to include an entire day of speakers, projects, etc.</li> <li>▪ Field trips were discussed and perhaps the committee could present a list of new ideas for school field trips. As PAG money funds the field trips, it would be prudent for the PAG to ask the school for a report on how it is spent. There appears to be quite a disparity between classes in terms of the number of field trips per year. <b>The committee would like to look into this issue to assist the school in ensuring more equitable distribution.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Summary</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Issue Summary: The culture of the school, shortfall in math curriculum/teaching, lack of information for school science fair, and class time used for assemblies/special events.</li> <li>▪ Review of action items from last minutes: enhancing relationship with school administration through interest in curriculum, interest in science fair, interest in enhancing opportunities to further math education, collecting data on learning days.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Meeting</b>	
DATE/TIME	April 24, 2013, 7pm
LOCATION	École Robert H Smith School Library

**For parents: (link to Manitoba Education- Guide to School Partnerships)**

[http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/specedu/school\\_partnerships/pdf/School\\_Partnerships\\_Complete.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/specedu/school_partnerships/pdf/School_Partnerships_Complete.pdf)

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