

Parent Council Meeting
February 19th, 2008

Attendees: Juli Belliveau, Andrea Baldwin, Linda Ruth Ciglen, Karen Hanna, Hilary Inwood, Catherine Kirkland, Anne Lakoff, Toni Lisi, Andrea McPherson, Kshama Patel, Nadine Singh, Basia Stec-Atherton, Jerry Tiessen,

Regrets: Nancy Moloney, Anne Markee, Rosanna Sardella

Agenda

1. WELCOME

2: MOTION TO RECEIVE PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES: approved Julie; 2nd Jerry

3. MOTION TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE: There was no correspondence

4. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Financial Report

Due to the success of many of the fundraising initiatives, there will be almost \$3,000 surplus to our budget if everybody spends their slated budgets. Andrea M. will remind the teachers again of using their budgets by end of April or it could be taken away. There was discussion about how the surplus should be spent. The consensus was that we should refer to the wish list that Manon had established with committee of teachers.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Yard

Money Update

The Committee has formed a subcommittee to look at the donation money (pricing) there will be a brief notice and update in the upcoming Newsletter.

The library mural going to happen in April (Martha Stonehouse)

Earth Day

Anne and Hilary are meeting with Toni about Earth Day events. There will be a Saturday celebration on April 19th with facepainting, music, and fun activities
Astronomy night - This will be a family event, (on a weekday night) and an opportunity for neighbourhood parents

who are interested in astronomy to come and view the night sky. No date has been set yet. The committee will be looking at moon phases and a date will go home in a newsletter later in March.

Other Initiatives

- A "walk around in the garden" family event to look at plant identification
- Annual Door Art Contest (door mural) - All teachers and classrooms will be encouraged to participate, and those classes involved will have their name put in a draw for a pizza lunch
- Judged art contest (chapters gift certificates). The focus will be school yard art - artistic impressions of the school yard... date and details to follow, but it will be in line with Earth Day activities

There was further discussion about ways to get families more involved in Earth Day activities - not just the children. Perhaps the children could make a flyer to send home to the parents... what about a "Green Newsletter" to discuss Runnymede and community green initiatives.

Spirit

Dance-a-thon Update: The dance a-thon was a huge success. \$11,000 was raised (of which Runnymede will net \$8,000). Nadine extended a thank you to the teachers who really motivated the children by joining in and dancing.

Pub Night

Fri April 11th

Feelers have gone out for silent auction... there will be more information to go home to parents

There will be an opportunity, this Saturday, to donate your used technology for recycling equipment at No Frills on Bloor Street

6. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Toni Lisi is happy to be at Runnymede. She has spent a lot of her time familiarizing herself with the school. Things have been very busy since the moment she arrived, as there have been safety issues, a school cancellation (weather related) and so much snow with which to contend..

Other Administrative notes:

- There was a wonderful turn out for French Immersion curriculum night for JK parents. It is expected that French Immersion numbers will remain strong for 2008/2009

- Registration for JK has started.
- The Strings and Band received first place standing in the Kiwanis Festival.
- Ski trip went well.
- Projections for students and staff (numbers) are starting to come in.
- Andrea M. informed us that the EQAO tests (grades 3 and 6) will take place May 28th to June 6th
- Course selection for the grade 8's is happening - due February 28th, and the majority of our grade 8 students will be attending HumberSide.
- On March 26th there will be a feeder school visitation for student during the day and parents during the evening.
- Report cards go home March 31st - Interviews will take place on April 4th

7. WARD 7 REPORT

Ward 7 has not had a meeting - next meeting is February 26th

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Safety Alert From School

There have been questions as to why Runnymede had not sent a letter out to the parents on Friday the 15th. Toni explained that the information came to her attention at 3:30 pm, on Thursday and that other schools in the area (Humbercrest and St. Pius) got their information first, and were, therefore, able to get a communication out to the parents quickly. The information was posted on the school website as soon as possible. However, because of the unpredicted cancellation of school on Friday afternoon, and "Family Day" the children were not back in the school until Tuesday, and a letter could not get out until that time. All the letters went home today, and the administration did the best they could under the circumstances.

Toni informed us that sharing the photo was left to the discretion of the principal. The Runnymede administration decided that they would send a letter home with safety tips and that they would just post the photo on the website.

The sequence of communication:

- Letter was put on the website on Thursday (with photo)
- Details came out on Friday with Photo and address of where the man lives
- Tuesday letter went home from the school today.

This reinforces the fact that parents need to register their names on the website mail list so that they can receive timely communication.

Bursary in Manon's Name

Hilary raised the discussion of a bursary that should be established to acknowledge the amazing contributions that Manon made to Runnymede in the short time she was here. The idea would be to ask parents to donate money for a bursary. There was discussion about what the bursary should acknowledge, and there was agreement that it should recognize students (grade 8) for their contributions to community service and citizenship: A - Citizenship Award/Community Service Award. The idea might be to give a small sum of money to a worthy student and have them donate the money to the charity of their choice - in their name. Motion to establish a bursary fund in Manon's name (looking into it - Karen; 2nd Anne Lakoff

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 16th