

Runnymede Parent Council Meeting September 30th, 2008

Attendees: Andrea Baldwin, Juli Belliveau, Robert Dunford, Connie Edwards, Suzanne Gordon, Kalli Gritis, Dori Hawkinson, Hilary Inwood, Becky Jenkins, Lynn Kerrigan, Micheal Kanalec, Catherine Kirkland, Anne Lakoff, Joan Lash, Marshall Leslie, Mary Machamer, Anne Markee, Andrea McPherson, Nancy Moloney, Chris O'Brien, Kshama Patel, Chris Sheehan Nadine Singh, Basia Stec-Atherton, Jacqueline Sustar, Jerry Tiessen, Liz VanWonderen, Susan Wild,

Regrets: Toni Lisi, Karen Hannah

Accept the minutes or May: Jerry; 2nd Joan Lash

1. Review of Drama Proposal – Anne Lakoff and Mark Latter

Mark walked us through the proposal for the Stratford trip. (It was mentioned that when surveyed, the students involved last year felt it was the most significant trip/learning experience of the year.) The teachers involved are requesting \$1,709. This price point includes a portion of bus cost (half), a subsidy on the tickets for parent supervisors, and visit from one of the actors (Romeo) from the play the students will see. Students from grades 4, 5, 6 and 7 all the 8's will benefit.

Hilary suggested that perhaps it would be a good idea to make this a line in the budget if this is going to be a yearly event. (This will be an agenda item for October's meeting). Look to increase drama expenditure for next year. Mark will put a budget together to submit to the council

Move to approve the trip and to check out the bus subsidy from Toni: Andrea motion, Catherine 2nd; trip approved

2. Website expenditures – Dianne Roberti

Dianne (on behalf of the Parent Council) is requesting \$500 for needed modifications to the website (Ministry of ed annual communication grant is to pay for this). There is a perceived need to make an alumni database (especially in light of the coming centennial celebration), and the banner images need to be updated.

There was an inquiry about the privacy issues around the website and database, and we need to ask Dianne about the privacy of the alumni list; although there was general agreement that it is a submit list, and the information would be kept private.

However, we need to ensure that this is the case.

There was also discussion of creating an integrated website that would combine a school and parent council site. Maybe this is a topic for our next meeting.

Ward 7

Irene Atkinson wants it brought up in Ward 7 Parent Council Meetings the agenda of "Don't Tax Our Schools" www.donttaxourschools.org. Over the last three years, the TDSB has paid a total of \$21.3 million or about 7.1 million per year, which is about \$12,700 per school. All that money could have been used for textbooks, more

teachers and other necessities. Irene Atkinson encourages us to talk to our local candidates about this issue.

3. Status of outstanding expenditures in 2007/2008 – Jerry Tiessen

\$1709 (drama) comes out of the 07/08 budget

Jerry has not applied for the GST rebate, and this will need to be done and added to the next budget

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Catherine; 2nd Jerry

Annual General Meeting

4. Report of the treasurer – Jerry Tiessen

We raised 8000 more than budgeted – Pub night was a great boost and raised \$5000. All fundraising was ahead of plan. Council raised \$42,000 (including expenses). (We do, however, like to ensure that there is an \$8,000 safety net in our accounts.)

The surplus from the 2007/2008 budget will be rolled over into the 2008/2009 budget. Some of the surplus is credited to the fact that we were above target for our fundraising and because not all teachers made use of the classroom budgets they were allotted. A preliminary budget of \$15,000 will be our starting point for next year (2208/2009).

Dorie proposed that the excess funds that teachers do not use should be put together and offered to teachers who submit proposal; this would make the budget line more accurate. We will set a date for the availability of excess classroom funds at a future meeting.

5. CO-Chairs' Annual Report – Kshama Patel and Nancy Moloney

(see attachment)

6. Reports of the Committees of the Council

a) YARD

The Yard Committee hosted two highly successful yard days. Four hundred people out to both of them (parents, students and teacher working together). Hilary made special mention of Anne Markee who came out three times during the summer to work on the Hillside Garden.

The first Yard Day of this school year is this Saturday.

Pioneer garden grade 3's came back as grade 4's and ate the carrots they planted.

Runnymede has the largest collection of yard art in the city

Special thanks to Roy Patterson for his work on the time capsule that will be buried in the peace garden. The time capsule includes vision of children's ideas of peace to be opened in 100 years.

The different fitness structures will be going ahead soon thanks to Juli and Andreas efforts.

Correction to May minutes – new signage was really \$1,400 (reported as \$400)

It was a busy year... please refer to Hilary's handout (See attachment)

B) Spirit Committee Colleen Younder and Nadine Singh

Nadine thanked the phenomenal team that worked with her last year
The Welcome Folders went out, and the Committee is once again trying to push our charitable foundation. This initiative has already raised \$250.

Fundraising Initiatives for this year:

Gift wrap, magazines...

Selling t-shirts – raised money

Runnymede Chapters' Night (gift certificates)

Dance-a-thon

Pub Night (raised 5000 last year)

ADMIN REPORT

Toni Lisi sends her regrets – Andrea gave admin report

1027 was projected enrollment and we have 1025 so we are where we should be and have not had to do any adjustments. We have received exemption to pierce the cap in some of the younger French Immersion classes

Newly promoted vice principal, Michael Kanalec introduced himself and shared the 2007/2008 EQAO scores (individual student scores were mailed home this week)

EQAO result:

The results: numbers indicate the percentage of students who scored at or above grade level.

Grade 3

Reading 69

Writing 71

math 81

Grade 6

Reading 89

Writing 82

Math 87

Michael would like to get a message out to the community that RPS is looking for more people to support the lunch room – there are a dwindling number of people to access in case of emergency. For peace of mind, the school needs 5 to 10 people to line up as paid personnel.

ELECTION PORTION

Please see “Council Member” attachment for full list

Andrea made motion to acclaim the new council members (17 in all); 2nd Basia

Next Meeting:

Drama budget – line increased
Put 100 anniversary committee on next agenda
Parent reps for each class?
ECO Schools being a line item in the budget

As well as website strike committee to deal with communications committee liaison

Marshall motion that the following be the executive committee:

Co-chairs: Robert Dunford and Kshama Patel

Treasurer: Jerry Tiessen

Secretary: Catherine Kirkland

Basia and Mary 2nd: Passes

Any Other Business

Concern raised by parent about allergy protocol in the school. Is there a committee that looks at the health and safety concerns of the students, particularly those with fatal allergies. It was agreed that this should be brought up with the administration

Meetings for 2008/2009: Please refer to website

Motion to Adjourn Meeting Hillary; 2nd Anne Markee