

École St. Germain Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 6, 2013 7:00pm, ESG Library

Attending: Henri Peloquin, Amy Haworth, Cindy Bennett, Susanne Dandenault, Nicole Hohner, Alison Huppe, Janice Morissette, Bev Padeanu, Audra Peters, Meaghen Shangreaux, Jan Thiessen, Sharon Coughland

Regrets: Mare Richardson, Heike Sobkow, Inga Sif Kristjansdottir, Valerie Allard, Cindy Baerr, Melonie Cleutinx, Suzanne Suzio, Jaquelin Martinez, Nicole Medland, Janice Morissette, Lorelei Douglas, Tracy Igonia, Michelle Lagadi, Amy Panteluk

1. Call to Order – 7:00 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda – Motioned by Allison Huppe, Seconded by Janice Morissette.
PASSED

3. Approval of Minutes for February 2013 – Motioned by Allison Huppe, Seconded by Susanne Dandenault. PASSED

4. Welcome guests and new members - Denise Pope was voted in as a new member.

5. Unfinished Business:

- **Book fair** – It will be held on March 14th in the library starting at 3:30. Please let Cindy Baerr know if you are able to help that evening as we need parent volunteers to help that evening.
- **CJS Scholarship** – Discussion surrounding the idea of increasing the CJS scholarship amount from the present \$300.00. M. Peloquin will find out the amounts that other schools are offering and will have this information for the next meeting.
- **Grade 8 farewell funding** – Wondering if this should become a set amount, not a per student amount due to the fact that attendance is and will fluctuate? Seeing as how attendance is going up, this could affect the amount of money needed in the future. Wondering if bylaws need to be changed? At this time, it is \$15.00 per each grade eight student. Conversations were held for/against this idea. Decision was made to keep it at \$15.00 per student at this time and if there is an issue in the future, the idea will be revisited.
- **Water fountain** - M. Peloquin has purchased the water fountain for the school. The unit has been ordered and is on the way, and it will replace one of the fountains. The cost is \$3400.00. Parent Council will cover \$1500.00 of this amount. It will replace the water fountain in the front hallway between the bathrooms, across from the office.

- **Rocks and Rings** – M. Peloquin did not have a chance to discuss purchasing our own kit with the Phys.Ed department. It will be revisited at the next meeting.

6. New Business:

- **Staff Appreciation** – Melonie Cleutinx was not at the meeting. There will be an email sent out in the next week or so regarding staff appreciation week.

- **Budget meeting** –the following report was submitted by Susanne Dandenault who attended the February 12th LRSD Budget Meeting:

The draft budget for 2013-2014 includes a proposed expenditure of 2.7% over the 2012-2013 budget. There are increases in most areas with the highest percent increase in transportation. There are decreases in two areas (Divisional Support and Instructional and Other Support). Tax implications equate to a 3.7% increase for 2013 (on average \$57/year increase for home owners in LRSD; average house price in LRSD = \$267,778).

Last week the province announced an increase in funding of 2.3% however 16 school divisions did not receive any additional funding of which LRSD was one of them (again). The trustees noted that we did not lose funding over the last year either. Additional funds are apparently allocated based on a formula (formula not provided but note that business development in the school division plays a large role as business pays property tax which contributes on the revenue side of the LRSD budget).

The LRSD has “shifted resources to the classroom” in reducing almost 14 FTE (full time equivalent) positions administratively which will result in 8 FTE teachers (grades 4-8) throughout the LRSD; 2 FTE for EASL and 1 FTE with respect to literacy.

The province’s previously stated mandate of smaller class sizes (K-3) continues to be supported by the province , which is good news for the division.

Interesting statistics: LRSD has 40 schools; ~14,000 students; 29% immersion and over 1,800 employees. Sadly, 1 out of every 6 children in the LRSD lives in poverty.

The board will finalize and adopt the Budget by March 12th for a March 15th submission. If you are interested, you can provide comments to the LRSD with respect to the budget at budget@lrsd.net or you can call Ms. Pat Trottier at 257-7827.

- **MAPC conference** – The conference will be held on May 3rd and 4th. If anybody is interested in going, PAC is willing to cover the cost. There are many workshops offered. Joan Zaretsky is the key note speaker, and Big Daddy Tazz is a Comedian that will be performing on Friday night. It is held at the Victoria Inn and Conference Centre. If you would like to attend, let Jan and Cindy know.

7. Treasurer’s Report - see Appendix A for details.

Allison's Report:

- There were very few changes this month. There are a lot of outstanding commitments at this time. Total funds available are \$ 6,102.11.
- Bev suggested that we remove the shrubs and greening project from the future commitments as this project is finished. M. Peloquin suggested we use the money to replace the trees that have died. It was agreed that we will leave it as is as of now, and wait to see what happens, or what we need in the spring.
- There was no invoice from the Rocks and Rings presentation- M. Peloquin/Mme Haworth will look into it.

8. Administrator's Report:

- **Grade 7 ski trip** – was a huge success. The students were great, and a wonderful time was had by all.
- **Festival du Voyageur** – many exciting activities were held all week for the students.
- **Pink Shirt Day** – thank you to all students who wore Pink Shirts to help support Bully Awareness Day.
- **Operation Donation:** There was a 5 day campaign last week. The response was great. There was 500 food items donated, and \$215.00 in monetary donations. Thank you to all families that donated.
- **Grade 8 Quebec Trip** – will be held June 17th to the 22nd. There are 49 students participating with 6 staff chaperones: Mme Azevedo, Mme Alderson, Mme Hyns, M. Paille, M. Sarbit, and M. Peloquin will attend.
- **Grade 8 farewell** –first meeting was held this week. Discussions around decorations, site (school), theme and food were had.
- **Kindergarten Registration** was held yesterday – 85 parents attended. Projected to have 72 Kindergarten students next year.
- There are **concerns around the rising population**, and space issues within the school. Projecting into next year, there is already a concern that Kindergarten and grade one classes will not be able to have their music classes in the music room. This is a definite concern of parents, and discussions were had as to how we can let others know about our concerns. Representatives from the division came to look at the school to review space issues.
- **Staff updates:** M. Sorin will be back in grade 7 after Spring Break. Mme. Donnelly who teaches grade 3 is leaving Winnipeg, so Mme Brownridge will teach full time until the end of the year. Mme La Rue is done April 8th, the regular teacher Mme Boettcher will return.
- **Student teachers** are finished, they were a great addition to the school, and they will be missed.
- **Current Practices** – What do we think about the way portfolios/interviews are presently held at the school? Conversations will be held at the next meeting.
- **Thoughts on junior high using electronics at lunch:** Last month, a decision was made to let the students in Junior High use electronics at lunch hour. There

have been no issues at this time. Administration would like to know what you think about this decision. A discussion was had. This topic will be revisited next meeting.

9. Committee Reports:

- Education Committee – nothing to report
- Environment Committee – nothing to report.
- Fundraising Committee - Sobey's gift cards will come out after Spring Break.

10. Next meeting - Next meeting April 3rd and meeting adjournment 8:27 pm.

APPENDIX A

Ecole St. Germain Parent Advisory Council
February 2013 Financial Statement

Account Balance at February 1, 2013

\$13,952.86

Credits: Interest \$0.67
QSP refund \$50.10

Total Credits \$50.77

Debits: #103 Patrols -\$45.00
#104 QSP fundraiser -\$644.92
#105 Babysitting-February 2013 -\$20.00

Total Debits -\$709.92

Account Balance at February 28, 2013

\$13,293.71

Plus Future Income

Total Future Income \$0.00

Less Future Commitments:

Greening Project -\$462.24
Shrubs -\$257.38
CJS Scholarship 2012/2013 -\$300.00
Student Leadership (patrols, etc.) -\$817.50
Babysitting for PAC meetings -\$40.00
Staff Appreciation Week -\$400.00
Grade 8 Farewell Dinner (\$15/student) -\$750.00
PAC costs -\$207.27
BBQ 2013/2014 -\$300.00
Water fountains -\$1,500.00
Book Club -\$7.21
Festival du Voyageur -\$1,000.00
Rocks and Rings -\$350.00
Chess Club -\$200.00
Rocks and Rings Kit -\$600.00

Total Debits -\$7,191.60

Total Funds Available

\$6,102.11