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**JACKMAN SCHOOL COUNCIL
MEETING: 5 DECEMBER, 7PM
MINUTES**

Attending

Members: Astrid Jacques, Antonia Guidotti, Helen Hawketts, Jen Cumming, Gaylene Edmondson, Michael Moore (teacher), Shaune Palmer (principal), Ryan Granville-Martin, Mia Sheard, Kathryn MacDonald, Stephanie Eaton, Lissa Mitchell, Kunle Bristow, Julie Dale, Jeff Lennon, Michele Pollack, Aerin Guy, Joel Brody; Vice Principal: Freddy Frenette; Parents: Adrienne Lee, Christopher Pollmann, Rochelle Myers Pollmann

Absent

Muriel Deschenes, Lisa Farun, Karen Jungjohann, Michelle Nelson, Kamran Jafry, Karyne Finlason, Grace Chao (teacher)

Agenda Item	Decision/Action Taken	Follow up: Person(s) Responsible/Timeline
1. Approval of minutes – Nov 7 2011	w/ revision to item no. 3, CARRIED	

<p>2. Professional Development / Learning Gaps - presentation</p>	<p>School Improvement Plan – not much changed vs last year’s plan regarding the key items; this is because impacting higher order / critical thinking and work w/ kids w/ special challenges are not amenable to quick progress. Shaune outlined some of the areas that the school is working on to improve critical thinking skills, notably verbal rehearsal, and co-constructing knowledge with peers using what is known as accountable talk. Learners throughout the school are practicing oral answers to intellectually challenging open ended and/or complex questions, towards improving both verbal and written thinking. Accountable talk includes teacher directed conversations with learners discussing issues/questions and developing, co-constructing, their answers together.</p> <p>Jackman families are encouraged in their day-to-day lives to ask quality questions, to expand their repertoire of questions. This requires slowing down and taking time to have rich high quality conversations. See Shaune’s recent newsletter article re: tips for parents/guardians. Also, The Ministry of Education provides two guides for parents, one for each of literacy and numeracy: http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideNum.pdf http://199.71.28.69/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideLit.pdf</p>	<p>Shaune P / Joel B to distribute links to parent resources ASAP</p>

<p>3. Big Ideas / Norm setting - discussion</p>	<p>Follow-up to last month's People for Education presentation – ideas taken away by our group include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions at meetings • Stress vision/mission/values • Less formality; reform structure; increase conversation • Welcoming space: sit in a circle • Start meetings w/ a presentation as icebreaker • All members need to be familiar w/ Mission • Council needs to have a cohesive focus: including school improvement plan and dual foci of equity and ecology to steer decision making in a clear/efficient way • Jackman Community and equity/ecology are intertwined. Jackman's place in the broader community and world • Revisit Mission? Are mission/principles clear, agreed upon – do they do a good job in expressing a cohesive, actionable mandate? • It's all about supporting appropriate, positive, progressive relationships - between/amongst: students-teachers; teachers-parents/guardians; students-parents/guardians; school community-wider social and physical worlds. • Need norms – 1) respect; 2) accountability; 3) open minded listening; 4) compromise leading to consensus; 5) focus on student achievement and school/community vision/mission/values/objectives – a clear decision making framework • Some council members not sure what supposed to be doing at Council • Some members express reservations about taking time away from other matters to work on the bigger picture ideas and processes 	

4. Committee updates	<p>Fundraising: Direct donation is at ~\$11,000. Cookie dough at ~\$2,000 net. Outdoor environment: Harvest fest netted ~\$4,000.</p> <p>Communications: New website is nearing readiness to launch. Purpose is to support the school's objectives and strengthen the school community. Website will be owned and operated by Council on behalf of the entire school community. Content from the school, including the Principal, will be what has traditionally been included in the school newsletter, with possibility of expansion to include other forms of contribution. Parents are encouraged to submit relevant material. Terms of use policy to be developed.</p>	<p>Aerin to send invitation/link to new website ASAP. Council members, teachers, asked to provide suggestions and contribute content ongoing</p>
5. Local area Council Co-chairs meeting - update	<p>Potential for collaborations amongst area schools: Frankland, Pape, Withrow, Jackman. Late for this year, so will continue to explore co-planning 4 learning opportunities for parents in forthcoming academic year, one hosted by each council/school.</p>	<p>Gaylene, Jen to continue conversation w/ other schools ongoing</p> <p>2012-13 Council to follow up Sept/Oct 2012</p>
6. Housekeeping	<p>We will donate articles (mittens, socks, etc.) from our annual front of school Christmas tree project to William Burgess School this year. We understand that some kids there could really use them.</p> <p>Discussion re: understanding and applying relevant TDSB policies on school fundraising.</p>	<p>Jeff to facilitate resolution of outstanding questions ASAP</p>
	Next meeting January 9, 2012	