

Jackman Parent Council meeting – Monday October 1, 2012, 7-9 pm

In attendance:

Council members

Shaune Palmer - Jackman principal	Gaylene Edmondson - 2011-2012 Co-Chair
Stephanie Eaton – Treasurer	Adrienne Lee - Secretary
Michelle Hunt – Fundraising co-chair	Michele Pollack – Fundraising co-chair
Karyne Finlayson – Volunteer/social co-chair	Vasha Zindros – Volunteer/social co-chair
Maria Saras-Voutsinas – Communications co-chair	Liz West – Communications co-chair
Kamran Jafry – Strategic Planning co-chair	Lisa Farun – Equity
Karen Jungjohann – Outdoor Environment co-chair	Lisa Milne – Outdoor Environ. co-chair
Neil Marcovitz – Member at large	Julie Dale – Member at large

Parents/community members

Helen Hawketts	Andrew James
Chris Robertson	Bipasha Choudury

1. Welcome from Principal – Shaune Palmer spoke about school priorities in the last few years and the kind of assistance that will be needed from the Parent Council.

Priorities:

- a place of academic learning, focusing on students’ strengths and areas of growth. At Jackman, reading, writing and math skills are strong.
- one area the staff is working on – thinking critically, going back into a text to pull out evidence for reasoning. There is a discrepancy between what students can explain and what they can write, using evidence and reasoning. Same work is needed in math – while students can explain a problem in real life, they need to work on using strategies to solve and then prepare a written math proof.

One of two areas to get students there – “lenses” at Jackman are (1) the environment and (2) equity/social justice. These are areas with several perspectives - we want to create tension in academic learning, see and debate things from a variety of perspectives.

Another area where the school needs more information – we seem to have a higher number of students with ADHD. This may be in part overdiagnosed/designated. The staff also has growing concerns about self-regulation on the part of the students. As well, kids are expected to write well at a young age – this is a concern across TDSB, due to a growing awareness that there will be global competition, and we don’t want our kids to fall behind. Jackman’s scores are quite high on provincial levels.

We also do well on social/emotional levels for kids (the clubs, programs support this) – friendships mean kids are happier and have better learning. They have friends to support each other and will feel more comfortable taking risks in the classroom while learning.

One very important function of the Parent Council (from the staff/principal’s perspective) is to reach out to and communicate with parents the staff doesn’t often see – how do we target some of the parent communities out there, parents who may not be interested in self-regulation, ADHD. We need to access those communities, get them involved.

Jackman has a very small number of ESL students, but we do have supports for them.

2. Election of co-chairs – Andrew James – self-nominated; Chris Robertson – self-nominated. Gaylene made motion to vote on both positions – voted in unanimously.

3. Treasurer’s budget update – Stephanie Eaton – need to set budget for the year. Need to hear from the committees first about their budget requests and then need to finalize budget by the end of November (TDSB requirement).

Some spending already set – core spending already set (funding or activities that needed to be booked before September 2012 – for example, Scientists in the School, classroom budgets for teachers, contingencies). Council has a balance of \$75,000 (\$40,000 of that is already allocated as core spending) – that leaves \$35,000 to be spent.

Last year saw a change to the budget process for Council – budget used to be set in June for the next school year by the out-going Council. In accordance with TDSB policy/funding model, funds raised by Parent Councils are to be spent in the same year they are raised (two years at most), so that the funds are going to the projects that parents contributed to. Jackman had had a build-up of funds in the last several years (funds that couldn’t be spent, for example funds raised for a project that the Board then came and fixed). That surplus has been largely spent down – for the past several years the Council now raises less money than it spends.

Staff have already received their line budgets for this year (approximately \$300 per teacher). Spring Fair now raises approx. \$40,000, after expenses. It used to earn \$50,000, with a big raffle/silent auction – valuable donations and those willing to do the kind of work required by a raffle/

silent auction have declined. Council has also shifted its focus away from raising funds, with more of a focus on the community.

Shaune – Council fundraising should help us accomplish the school’s goals.

Line items can be submitted to Budget Committee by the committees. The budget for the chessmaster, for example, was submitted by the strategic planning committee and has been very successful – the demand from kids for chess exceeds what we can supply.

Budget committee will be setting a meeting the week of October 15th – as the Board requires us to have a budget by the end of November, we will need to pass our budget at the next council meeting.

An explanation of the budget line items and the committee/group with responsibility for that line item/programme:

- Acts of Kindness – flowers, cards for staff, students. (Social/volunteer committee)
- Chessmaster – Strategic Planning committee
- Equity programming – these funds went largely to the purchase of French books (staff work together with parents on these committees to allocate funding)
- Outdoor Environment – funding for, for example, new trees, chess rocks – Board maintains grass, field.
- Music programming – last year this was a special expense for a one time equipment purchase. School musical – the last one was two years ago, with the idea that it was to happen every two years. The last one was organized by Council, with staff involvement. This year may not be a particularly good year to be doing this with potential action on the horizon. We would likely need to start organizing in November to have a musical happen in April.
- Family School Outreach – donation to one family, organized by Council. Usually \$2,000, last year Council also voted to donate the funds raised by the cookie dough fundraiser. The Superintendent usually nominates a school in Wards 15 and 16, the money goes there.
- New Initiatives – raised by principal or any of the committees.

- STEM – club programme that had a science focus; equipment used by science teacher.
- Technology support – these were funds allocated to new laptops, Smart Board support. Initiatives usually come through the Strategic Planning committee.

Proposals for this year's budget (first budget set under new budget process) – set budgets for committees but also have a larger new initiatives budget, so that we are not continuously revisiting the budget but have some room for ideas that come up later in the year.

Initial funding submissions from committees to be sent to the Budget committee chair (Stephanie Eaton) by email by Tuesday October 9, 2012. These budget submissions will then be discussed by the Budget committee and a proposed budget will be circulated in advance of the next Council meeting.

4. Reports from Committees:

- **Fundraising** – direct donation drive has started. Harvest festival is coming up – Fri. Oct. 19th - Council members will serve the chili, please sign for shifts/volunteer for other activities that night. Eco/green t-shirt – Paul Cressman hosted the design competition for the green t-shirt and is considering whether the school wants this t-shirt to be a fundraiser or sold for cost (like Jackman gear).
- **Social** – selling cookies on Curriculum Night (Tues. Oct. 2). We have obtained movie permit for movies in the GPR – may get students to choose the movies.
- **Communications** – will ask committees to email every two weeks with what parents NEED to know (starting perhaps the week of Oct. 9). Potential speaker - Dr. Stuart Shanker, who would speak on mood and self-regulation. He is available in February 2013 – Shaune will consider dates, following up on whether he will charge a fee.
- **Outdoor** - Harvest Festival coming up on Fri. Oct. 19th – musical groups are the Lumberjacks (a dad band) and Afterthought (teenage band that played at last year's Spring Fair), Ms. Lloyd (who will sing), Jackman's Got Talent winner, plus more student bands. There will be apple-bobbing, costume exchange, book sale and much more.
- **Strategic Planning** – some possible initiatives for this year are more enrichment programmes (like the Chess programme), self-funding (fee for those who use those programmes), online learning, music programme taught by a professional.

- **Education (French)** – will be attending Ward 15 meetings (first one was same time as Council meeting, next one is Nov. 7) and French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC) meetings (next one is Oct. 25th) and will report back to Council.

Issue raised - shed on south end of school property. This shed had been protected by plexiglass, which prevented students/community members from climbing on it. The plexiglass has been broken and it is now being climbed on again. This is an issue to be raised to the TDSB's attention.

Next meeting – Mon. Nov. 5th, 7-9 pm.

Gaylene moves to end meeting – meeting adjourned.