

Jackman School Council meeting – Monday April 7, 2014, 7-9 pm

In attendance: Council members

Shaune Palmer - Principal	Freddy Frenette – Vice Principal
Chris Robertson – Co-chair	Stephanie Eaton – Co-Treasurer
Christy Gaetz – Co-Treasurer	Adrienne Lee – Secretary
Trisha Causley – Outdoor Environment co-chair	Lisa Milne – Outdoor Environment co-chair
Effie Kourbetis – Education (English) co-chair	Julie Dale – Education co-chair (French)
Michelle Hunt – Fundraising co-chair	Tiffany Johnson – Fundraising co-chair
Donna Spreitzer – Staff representative	Paul Cressman – Teacher representative
Bipasha Choudry – Equity co-chair	Marcela Sleizer – Communications co-chair
Marcela Sleizer – Communications co-chair	Astrid Jacques – Equity co-chair
Kavita Khandelwal – Member-at-large	Louise Biggar – Member-at-large

Parent/community attendees – Jennifer P.

- Welcome and introductions**
- Review and approval of previous meeting minutes** – Tiffany moves, Donna seconds, unanimous, passed.
- Principal's update** – lunch program – have had parent members come forward re lunch on floor in upstairs gym. Have letter from some Grade 1 girls asking that they be moved back to upstairs gym (where would be sitting on the floor). JK – children will eat in their classrooms, will have one supervisor per classroom (11:50 -12:45) plus ECE.

Learning Through the Arts (LTTA) – would like to try it, but want to try it in a grade grouping sampling (ie. all Grade 4s or 5s), see if a good experience, see benefits, before roll it out to entire school. Propose to start in September – should be proposed for Core Budget (to Budget Operating Committee). Numbers before next meeting if possible.

Staffing for next year – Board always understaffs, across Board there will be a few classrooms with over 20, Board can make an exemption. This year, staffing very tight, have more split grades than last year – for example, if have 44 children in one grade, can't have 2 classes of 22, have to do a split grade in order to fit under cap. Goal is diversity in a classroom, same with split grades – boys and girls, academic levels, mix up groupings. Do ask for parent input into placement. Shaune will put an article into the newsletter about how the process works. FDK – 9-3:15 pm is timetable. Looking at 6 full time rooms, 2 French, 4 English. Quiet areas? – should be a quiet area in each room, if not an organized “quiet time”.

4. Review/Discussion item:

Second vote on by-law amendments approved at last meeting of Council:

Amendments to by-laws – (see attached document “Motions to be introduced at March 3, 2014 JSC meeting for wording of proposed by-law amendments).

Motion #1 – re structure of council, council and committee meetings, election process – Donna moves, Michelle H. seconds, 16 votes in favour, motion passes.

Motion #3 – “majority” is simple majority of Council members present at meeting + no bringing back a “substantially same” expenditure vote once it has been approved – Effie moves, Kavi seconds – 16 votes in favour, motion passes.

- 5. Committee Updates: Fundraising** – Spring Fair is Sat. May 24, the weekend after the long weekend; lottery license has been completed, tickets are being printed, raffle tickets will go out soon to all students next Wednesday, top prize will be \$5,000, 2nd is \$3,000 and 3rd is \$1,999. Need to make sure extra books come back, so that can be sold. Raising funding right now for fun fair. Extra lemonade coming, thinking about a corn roast this year. One issue is that we have less playground area because of construction. School cookbook instead of canvasses this year. New sponsors welcome.

Outdoor Environment - at Spring Fair selling herbs and other plants, head wreaths that kids can help make. Construction not having too great an impact, log structure for climbing will go in, wrote grant for shade/raised beds/water collection in kindergarten area. Will be doing some events for Earth Day – plant for every room, bringing green into school. Toronto Zoo collecting old cell phones.

Education (French) – FSLAC meeting in February, distributed newsletter; speaker coming to TDSB on Thursday about summer camps, will be posted to blog. One suggestion for next year – Jackman French Immersion kids to take part in public speaking contest (Concours d’art oratoire).

Education (English) – Ward meeting – discussion about mental health teams, setting these up in the schools; parent reaching out grant due May 16 – can be used for a number of things.

Full Day Kindergarten – one of our family of schools (Diefenbaker) has a parent handbook for new Full Day Learning parents, happy to share it with other schools. Principal has to ask Diefenbaker principal for it.

Minimal amount of supervision for lunch – need to lobby provincial government now if want more funding. Shaune – TDSB has made choice to have lunchroom supervisors, most other Boards have teachers supervising lunch.

Buddy bench – one installed at Eastdale Collegiate, was destroyed quickly. Concern re vandalism – alternative, use existing sitting rocks, create a semi-circle of rocks, still feels

inclusive, kids will have opportunity to name/decorate space – Friendship Rock (Le rocher d’amitié), but without concern about material being destroyed. Grade 6 students will educate the other grades about the purpose of the rocks.

Equity – article in newsletter about Dr. Rosemary Tannock – speaking on issue of ADHD and inattention on Thursday April 10 at 7 pm.

On Feb. 20, 2014 Jackman hosted an equity-based professional development event, including homophobic language used in class, as well as language around equity and race, how to deal with certain language from kids in class. Featured common curriculum material that had been used in past and is now recognized as problematic. Question about whether any of this information (links, resources) could be placed on blog. Need to understand what parents can expect from administration around some of these issues. Message to kids has to be also about standing up for self and others, if this language is overheard.

Also now canvassing speakers for poverty carousel on May 14, 2014.

Extracurriculars – have only had two parents volunteer to pick up at 3:30 and bring kids to activity, wait until 3:45. Had been hearing from parents of younger children about need for their activities - have Mad Science (JK/SK/Grade 1) and Avenue Road Arts School (also younger grades) – both filling up.

Budget - \$8,000 unspent so far in sports budget, sports bins delayed by bad weather, should be some money left over. On track to have a little left over, but all depends on Spring Fair. Start discussing core budget for next year around this time – will schedule Core Operating Budget Committee meeting soon.

6. Open Floor Items
7. General Housekeeping

Motion to adjourn – Kavi moves, Bipasha seconds, all in favour, meeting adjourned.

Next meeting – Monday May 5, 2014, from 7-9 pm in the Library