

Jackman School Council meeting – Monday December 2, 2013, 7-9 pm

In attendance: Council members

Shaune Palmer - Principal	Chris Robertson – Co-chair
Stephanie Eaton – Co-Treasurer	Christy Gaetz – Co-Treasurer
Adrienne Lee – Secretary	Peter Chin – Outdoor Environment co-chair
Michelle Hunt – Fundraising co-chair	Tiffany Johnson – Fundraising co-chair
Effie Kourbetis – Education (English) co-chair	Julie Dale – Education (French) co-chair
Kavita Khandelwal – Strategic Planning co-chair	Liz West – Strategic Planning co-chair
Vasha Zindros - Social and volunteer co-chair	Marcela Sleizer – Communications co-chair
Karen Finlason – Member-at-large	Louise Biggar – Member–at-large

Parent/community attendees –Donna Spreitzer (Supervisor, Jackman Daycare), Paul Cressman (teacher), Jennifer Proos, Dalila Jarvis.

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Virtual library presentation** by Karen DeGroot – students can access our own library catalogue, as well as accessing information online about various areas (ie. PebbleGo). Some French sites as well.
- 3. Learning Through the Arts (LTTA)** – presentation by John Scully from Royal Conservatory of Music. In existence for the last 20 years, in Canada and around world, helping teachers deliver core curriculum (science, math, social studies, etc.) through the arts. Positive gains for kids have been measured in several studies – for example, higher math scores.
- 4. Principal’s report** – teacher inquiry groups into math – usually teachers meet by divisions (primary, secondary, etc.). Wanted to do something different, see different perspectives. Looked at attitudes and functioning in math – came up with questions and then teachers signed up for questions that interested them most. Evidence showing that children curious about math up to Grade 2, then attitudes/functioning fixed after that. Sample questions – how better to embed math in everyday life/whole curriculum, how to develop persistence in math problems, learn better math language, foster better math attitudes, take risks in math, ownership for their mistakes.

Embedding math in everyday life - when students were asked why we read, the answers was: for future success. When asked why we do math, the answer was: to please teachers – they had no real world context for learning math.

Persistence – Grade 6 teacher used a problem that most children could solve; saw how many persisted, how many avoidance behaviours employed and when used (asking for a drink, asking for teachers attention, asking to go to the bathroom, talking to their friends, one started to cry) – results identical to results in Grade 3.

New practices being tried - kids are given one low level, menial task to practice for one minute, to practise focused, calm, concentrated behaviour. Mr. Cressman – are kids understanding math words we are using? Want to ensure that definitions are more sophisticated as kids get older. Now teachers are checking throughout a unit that concepts are being understood, not just at end.

5. Motions

(i) Motion: to pass minutes from last meeting – Adrienne moves, Peter seconds, motion passes

(ii) Motion: to make notice of elections to fill any vacant council positions to be held at the next meeting of council – proposal to post them for election on blog and on the JSC – Liz moves, Michelle seconds, motion passes. (Historically, had a teacher member, not necessarily one English and one French teacher).

Ensuring agenda posted for parents - Shaune will put a copy on JSC bulletin board. Communications will post agenda and past minutes on blog – will ensure that minutes posted on blog for current school year.

(iii) Motion: to approve SSON drafted by Chris as previously distributed, moved by Chris, Kavi seconds – discussion, decision to review SSON and bring to a vote once there has been a chance for discussion by Council members. Vote deferred. Adrienne will set out SSON and need for discussion, council members to address all comments to Liz, Liz to summarize/collect comments and send them to Council for discussion.

(iv) Motion: to amend by-laws to allow voting by email on an issue that has been: (i) a meeting agenda item, (ii) spoken to at a previous meeting, (iii) addressed in the draft minutes which have been circulated to Council and (iv) is an item which should be addressed before the next Council meeting – Adrienne moves, Peter seconds, motion passes.

(v) Motion: to amend by-laws to state that all elections be held by secret ballot, in line with s. 4(8) of Regulation 612/00 of the *Education Act* – no quorum, vote deferred.

Shaune has asked for funds for two new smart boards – 5 teachers had asked for smart boards, Council funded two in budget. With some funds remaining after budget approved, Shaune now seeking two more – older versions are now about \$1,900, newer ones (with built-in projector) closer to \$3,000. Children with higher learning disabilities have a more complex smart board. Anecdotal evidence and use for teachers have developed interest among teachers who don't have them. Paul Cressman – finds them very useful, they generate a lot of interest among students, using them for math manipulatives. Shaune – may get higher level learning if used properly.

(vi) Motion: to purchase two new smart boards for classroom use at a cost to be presented by the Principal at the meeting (not to exceed \$6,000.00) – Shaune moves, Peter seconds – no quorum, vote deferred.

6. Open Floor items –

- Teacher/staff positions – if elected, these positions can be voting positions

- Repairs – leak in roof over top of stairwell to be fixed, as will need to be in good repair before addition goes on. Suggestion is that parents/Council write to Ken Holm-Laursen, the FTL for our Family of Schools. Chris to take on project of seeing what we can do to speed bathroom repairs, as well as other repairs.
- Lunch – children eating in GPR are eating on floor; if tables were bought, would sit on stage, no room for gym equipment. Suggestion that children eat in classrooms, then go outside for recess – no one eating in GPR, could be used for activities. Other school boards have chosen not to have lunch room supervisors – one teacher to monitor 4 classrooms. In TDSB, decision made to have lunch room supervisors, no option of not having them. Peel, for example, there is the balanced day – snacks throughout day, rather than traditional lunch time.
- Time for parents to raise issues in first 15 minutes of Council – suggestion for Town Hall, suggestion to renew invitations for parents to join Committees
- Committee reports – suggestion that these be done by email, or in advance of meeting. Suggest that this be an agenda item for Andrew for next meeting.

Motion to adjourn – Chris moves, Adrienne seconds, meeting adjourned.

Next meeting – Monday January 6, 2014, from 7-9 pm in the Library