

Jackman School Council meeting – Monday February 3, 2014, 7-9 pm

In attendance: Council members

Shaune Palmer - Principal	Freddy Frenette – Vice Principal
Andrew James – Co-chair	Chris Robertson – Co-chair
Christy Gaetz – Co-Treasurer	Lisa Milne – Outdoor Environment co-chair
Adrienne Lee – Secretary	Maria Saras-Voutsinas – Communications co-chair
Kavita Khandelwal – Strategic Planning co-chair	Tiffany Johnson – Fundraising co-chair
Effie Kourbetis – Education (English) co-chair	Karen Finlason – Member-at-large
Trisha Causley – Outdoor Environment co-chair	Liz West – Strategic Planning co-chair
Vasha Zindros - Social and volunteer co-chair	Paul Cressman – Teacher representative
Patricia Morrow – Member-at-large	Donna Spreitzer – Staff representative
John Chew – Member-at-large	Candice Troupe – Member-at-large
Julie Dale – Education (French) co-chair	Astrid Jacques – Equity co-chair
Angela Mandalas – Volunteer and Social co-chair	

Parent/community attendees – Dafni D. (parent), Elaine H. (parent), Denis J. (parent), Veronica D. (parent), Jennifer P. (parent), Erin O. (parent), Michael C. (parent), Richard M. (parent), Jim G. (parent).

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Minutes – Liz moves to accept minutes of last meeting, Donna seconds, approved.

[no Principal's Update this meeting]

3. Parent/community feedback – parent concern – children eating lunch on floor; repair letter going; discussion on rotating classrooms for lunch, whether we can get tables and chairs. Pilot project to make placemats in classroom (right now just individual kids bringing in placemats – for classes on second floor assigned to eat in the second floor gym – those who eat in GPR do not eat on the floor). **Effie to follow up with this item for March meeting (follow up with Helen Hawketts).** Effie – checked with TDSB, can't have parent volunteers, must rely on lunchtime supervisors. Shaune – school has 5 supervisors (2 inside, 3 outside) for approx. 300 kids; Donna has 4 staff for daycare children. Shaune and Donna looking at alternating lunch times (“swap”). Suggestion that try alternating lunch times – extra education/training for staff. Request new staff? For union staff, need due process. Also, if alternating lunch times, clubs at lunch would be affected – maybe if split into older or younger grades? (as activities usually split into these ages too). Discussion re parent volunteers (TDSB will not allow, because lunch staff are unionized positions); suggestion of in-wall tables upstairs – Shaune - walls won't allow it. Suggestion that kids could stay in classrooms, lunch staff could walk the hallways. Freddy – not safe for Grade 1 and 2 classrooms, plus caretakers

would then have to clean all classrooms. Shaune – will look at “swap”, but concern is that many teachers will not continue with lunch time activities, as will lose 10-15 minutes getting students organized and out. Shaune – could have all Grade 1s downstairs, mix Grades 2-6 between two gyms. Patti – texted Helen, Helen has tried bringing in placemats with a few students, seems to work pretty well.

4. **Committee updates –**

Volunteer and Social – Parent Social March 6th, 7:30-8 pm start; parents should contact Vasha to get babysitters list.

Outdoor Environment Committee – hosted Toronto French School last Friday to advise them about greening their school, very successful event (term of many grants OEC has received is that they will educate other schools); not able to save oak trees that were displaced due to the Full Day Kindergarten construction. Suggestion that we advocate for double number of oak trees from TDSB – OEC to take that on.

Daycare – kindergarten registration for before-and-after care is tomorrow, Feb. 4th, call Carol and Sandra to make an appointment. Shaune – survey of interest will come around, will come through class teacher.

Strategic Planning – recess bins on hold because of weather, but they are here. Gord Baker will decide when it is the right time to roll them out. Purchase of volleyball uniforms. Mr. Baker has asked that Council fund hockey uniforms and a scoreboard for the gym (approx. \$500 for scoreboard). Learning Through the Arts (LTTA) – Effie spoke to Pape School teacher, where they have been using LTTA for last 7-8 years, would assist with lesson planning. Great success with the students – using body/art to learn. Pape no longer needs LTTA as much, as now have the foundation, they just bring them in now to do big events (ie. concert). Question re whether there is a minimum amount of time we can have them in for – questions to discuss once we have decided how interested we are.

Fundraising – Spring Fair – need to start push for re-gifting, do not bring gifts/donations in to school until after March Break. Chris, Liz or Tiffany can store things in their basements.

Education – Ward 15 Council meetings – School Statement of Needs (SSON – Council’s “wish list” of qualities wanted in a school principal, should the position become vacant) needs to be sent in. Shaune – on Numeracy committee, have asked math coach and math instructional leader to come and speak to parents at Math Nights organized. Health and well-being – what schools are doing to promote healthy mental state. Buddy bench – OEC meeting, did come up with plan – should have sub-committee, with administration, to get it done for spring. Suggestion that we put in a bench, rather than re-purposing rocks. Could ask Grade 6 students to paint bench (maybe do this each year, like a Grade 6 class gift). Freddy – met with some of community members, concern re not making bench too inviting for youth who might come to sit on it after dark, will have to make sure location of bench does not encourage loitering.

Finance – we are ahead of budget. Spending is at about 50% of budget – new initiatives are being discussed, would be interested to hear from committees where they are in their

spending, which of committees have extra money in their budget that may not spend, could allocate it to more urgent priorities.

Extracurricular – after school update – space for 2 activities – fall - Mad Science and Yoga, winter - Mad Science and Young Rembrandts, spring – waiting to see whether another art program (Avenue Road art school) can take over for Young Rembrandts for spring (Young Rembrandts is losing license due to lack of numbers). Issue – need parent volunteers to ensure that kids get from classrooms to activities safely (a lot of work for committee) – charge \$5 fee to each parent, this can pay for someone to assist getting children organized and to classrooms. Volunteer and social committee will try to get parent volunteers to sign up first, will turn to paying a parent if no volunteers.

Equity – Speakers – first is Rosemary Tannick (well-known expert on ADHD at Sick Kids, kids with attentional issues), plus also want to get school psychologist to come in to speak. This is an issue of accommodation – Committee feels strongly that they needed to speak to it, Shaune also brought the issue to the Committee. Date TBA. Also working on poverty carousel – April/May, topic is poverty. Tricky to approach with kids, being careful with speakers trying to get for the kids. One idea is to see if Woodgreen can provide a speaker – trying for two speakers for each cohort. Equity mural – lack of representation/diversity of mural that is there a concern for Committee and parents. Discussing ways to improve mural.

5. **Motion** – that Council vote that the following quotation and attribution be inscribed on a rock to be placed in one of the Jackman gardens, and that Council funds of up to \$1,000 be approved to pay for the inscription.

**My friends,
Love is better than anger.
Hope is better than fear.
Optimism is better than despair.
So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic.
And we'll change the world.**

Jack Layton MP

Fully debated at last Council meeting, but no quorum – calling for vote today. Two issues pre-discussion. First issue – have reviewed the TDSB and Ministry of Education guidelines on the use of school council funds. Second – any concern re conflict of interest on part of any of Council members; by-law 6.0 on conflicts of interest read out. Two proxy votes – Chris will deal with validity of proxies after vote, if they are needed to decide the issue.

Parent concern – concern that did not go to wider parent population for vote. Michael - Misgivings – this is a public elementary school yard, not sure how more rocks will work with more active play. Appropriateness – whether within schoolyard is an appropriate place for a memorial; think that someone less divisive might be a better choice. Have spoken to a lot of parents, know that there is a lot of negativity about this, believe that it will reflect badly on Council. Seen as opulent – should be spent on SmartBoards, other materials for the classroom, if can't spend it on driving student success, should give it to another school

who needs this money. Something that transcends politics. Jim G. - child slipped on ice and hit head on rock, was taken to hospital on a spinal board. Don't see purpose, except decorative purpose, and child badly injured on one. Paul Cressman – sitting rocks used because part of outdoor environment, encouraged for eco schools, used for seating, rather than putting in a park bench. Parent concern re “hewn” edges, very sharp corners – this is what injured his son. Lisa M. – looking for a granite, more rounded rock. Should not have effect on platinum status.

Agenda item for March – injury on sitting rock.

Julie – very different kind of rock, more like the rock at the front of the school. Jim G. – wanted to ensure that this rock was not one of those kinds of rocks, also believe that money could be better spent. Michael C. – appropriateness of memorial in an elementary school playground. John C. – educational value of rock – a lot to be learned from this inscription, will spur further discussion. Julie – rock inspires dialogue. Jennifer P. - ceremony already happened for the tree, fence around the tree – maybe don't have to have a rock too. Could have a plaque inside the fence, for \$200? Denis J. – appropriateness of memorial. Also concerned about an implied conflict of interest. Example of placing a religious quote on rock, and how that would be received. Donna – this quote in particular transcends politics. Chris – expense and tying of expense to School Improvement Plan and its goals of improving student achievement/experience; safety issue can be addressed.

Vote on motion called - Lisa M. moves, Trisha seconds – 11 votes in favour, 6 against (2 proxies, if counted, also against), motion does not carry. Discussion regarding majority required to pass a vote in Council – simple majority of members present, or majority of members on Council, present or not? Co-chairs to review by-laws and report back to Council [reported back on Feb. 4, 2014 by email – by-laws as written require majority of members, present or not, so motion correctly did not carry. By-laws to be amended for clarity, Andrew James to form sub-committee for this purpose, to present amendments to Council at March meeting].

6. **Draft letter re repairs** – not addressed due to lack of time.
7. **School Improvement Plan** – not addressed due to lack of time.
8. **School Statement of Needs (SSON)** – not addressed due to lack of time.
9. **Recess bucket report** – not addressed due to lack of time.
10. **Video presentation** – OEC – not addressed due to lack of time.
11. **General Housekeeping** – not addressed due to lack of time.

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

Next meeting – Monday March 3, 2014, from 7-9 pm in the Library