

**John English SAC Meeting
Thursday April 22, 2010**

MINUTES

Principal/Vice Principal's Report

- Eileen Dick presented the preliminary projected enrolment numbers for the next school year. Once finalized, they will be made available.
- The projected enrolment numbers form the basis of the school plan and class organization for 2010/11.

Teacher's Report

- Teachers have embarked on the last of the critical learning pathways.
- Sally Salama presented a number of options for technology within the school:
 - Dual interactive whiteboards which enable 2 students to manipulate the board together.
 - Mobis are individual whiteboards that enable students to manipulate the board and data projector to project things onto the screen. A maximum of 9 can be used at any time.
 - Clickers are a handheld remote that allow all the children to participate by selecting answers from a multiple-choice list.
 - This system enables children of every age to participate. Teachers like the system because it is mobile, can be used with multiple children and are good for children who are not comfortable writing.
- Sally Salama presented a quote for this technology - 4 sets of 24 clickers, plus Mobis plus the docking station is approximately \$8,600.
- Parents had questions about durability (they are rugged), cleanliness (they can be wiped), and whether teachers would use them (they are enthusiastic).
- Document cameras (~\$400) are another valuable technology which enable the user to take a picture of something and project it onto a screen in 3D.
- Data projectors (\$400-500) are very popular with teachers. Ideally another 10 would be hugely beneficial.
- Wendy suggested a small group to work with teachers to prioritize what technology we should focus our fundraising efforts on next year. Wendy, Carolyn, Lori and Maureen offered to work on these issues.

Bob Poldon – Guest Speaker

- Bruce Davis will be announcing this project (not yet approved) tomorrow.
- The Women's Habitat has been in the community on Stanley Avenue for 30 years. The current building is moldy and unsuitable for families to live in.

- A new 10,000 square foot building will be built on Royal York just south of St. Leo's Catholic Church.
- The 10 existing families on Stanley will be moved into this facility. \$3M will be raised to support. There is no funding for additional capacity.
- Neither the Rec Room nor the adult centre will be affected by this development.
- Concerns were raised about the fate of the existing building, which will be sold. Is there a way to prevent the building from becoming a slum apartment, given its unsuitability for the current inhabitants?

Board Business

Treasurer's Report

- Current balance is an impressive \$19,718. Teachers are starting to use the money that has been raised.

Special Events

- No report.

Communications

- Mary gave a website update. 200 parents have signed up for e-news. Often the updates are rejected because they are blocked as spam. We can avoid this by using a service that manages the e-mail communication and subscriber services – this costs \$7 per e-mail or \$11-15 month for unlimited mailings. This requires a credit card and SAC may wish to sign up for this. There was agreement to pay the \$11 monthly fee to enable us to send multiple e-mails. SAC wishes to use a Canadian company.
- Information will be sent to all parents in the initiation package in the fall about signing up with the provider.
- If anyone has articles for the monthly newsletter, please contact Kathy Hughes.

Health & Safety

- Recycling has been raised on several occasions. SAC would like to support expanding the focus on recycling from just the Healthy Bites program to the whole school.
- The city does not pick up green garbage. This is happening via Helen Laruccia and the vermicomposter program in individual classrooms.
- Blue bin recycling is happening, but more work can be done.
- This issue will be addressed under Programs and brought to the next meeting for further discussion.

Community

- The Mimico Community Choir, made up of many John English students and co-led by Mary Bella, is having a concert on Sunday, May 16 at 1pm at Mimico Baptist Church.
- The Party in the Park will be on June 22 at John English schoolyard. Volunteers are welcome.

Programs

- Kathleen Eyman thanks those who helped fill in on the PSP program while she was away.
- Recycling will be moved here for further discussion at the next meeting.
- The dishwasher company has indicated that there is no problem with the dishwasher – the problem is with the electrical system. A work order to the board has been submitted but it would be useful to have this expedited.

French

- The French play – Three Musketeers – was very well received.

Class Reps

- No report.

Fundraising

- Dance-a-Thon - \$7,031 profit from this event. A huge success!
- Spring Event – See Spot Run
 - School launch with ticket forms on May 7 at 2:30.- to be confirmed
 - Ivan Petrovic will be MC of the event and managing the launch. – to be confirmed
 - The class that sells the most tickets will win a DJ seminar. – to be confirmed
 - Poster contest for all students. Winners will receive a family pack of tickets.
 - Tickets will also be sold at the spring concert and musical.
 - The opening act will be Splash - a great vocal group from ESA. Briar is also hoping one of the kids from the talent show might be able to do some rock music.
- QSP – SAC supported continuing with QSP again next year. Last year, we raised \$7,600 so it's one of our biggest fundraisers. We qualify for \$900 in prizes based on our previous year's sales. There are 2 major prizes (mini laptop and iPod touch) for those who sell subscriptions, plus a daily draw of mini-webkins to all students in the school. Some concerns were raised about the 2 major prizes and whether there could be smaller (but not junky) prizes as incentives. Further discussion will happen about the prize structure.

Other Business

- Staff has requested funds to replace old gazebos (2 10x10) which are used at the graduation ceremonies are currently being held together with duct tape. Replacing these will cost approximately \$300 and SAC was supportive.
- Teachers requested funding for laminators at a previous meeting. Large, commercial-grade laminators, which can withstand regular use, are fairly expensive – \$5,000 – 10,000. After some discussion, it was determined that teachers may get more use out of the data projectors.

Bruce Davis – Guest Speaker

- In response to concerns about the fate of the existing building that houses the shelter, given its condition, Mr. Davis indicated that the board is not in a position to control who buys the property or what they do with it.
- There has been significant budget pressure on Special Education programs. The budget has been cut and this has an impact throughout the school board. Board has made a commitment

not to cut those services, but money will have to be found elsewhere. Mr. Davis continues to advocate for these crucial services.

- Principal/VP selection process – The Board had introduced a process whereby a parent representative, trustee and superintendent would interview proposed principals. The Principals' Association objected and, as a result, the process cannot be implemented. Mr. Davis' current proposal is that the superintendent would meet with the parent representative, the superintendent would then propose a candidate, and there would be a meeting (not interview) between the superintendent, parent representative and principal to see if there is a good fit. The Principals' Association is still not supportive because they do not feel parents can be trusted to keep information confidential. Lori Green is the representative of the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee, and is looking for feedback from the parents. Please let Wendy Kitson know if you would like to provide feedback.

Meeting adjourned – 9pm