

**John English SAC Meeting
Wednesday February 17, 2010**

MINUTES

Start 7:10

13 Parents, Principal, 2 Vice-Principals, 3 Police Officers & Neighbourhood Liaison Representative

Welcome and Introductions

Guest Speaker – Police Community Liaison Officer – 22 Division

Addressing Parent concerns regarding the crime in our community (Lakeshore & Royal York)

- In response to two recent incidents (attempted abduction, flasher):
 - Both arrested and remain in custody
 - Highly coincidental that so many similar crimes occurred in our area
 - One of the accused is not a resident

- Role of Neighbourhood Liaison Representative is to meet with the Police
- To discuss community issues and help disseminate information between the Police and civilian group he represents (a separate entity from the Resident's Association)

- Q&A on Police Community Street Program
- Q: What kind of dedicated police presence is there in the Lakeshore and Royal York and area?
- A: The Police service consists of on call officers and the 22 Division Community Response Unit (represented here) with 4 officers assigned (4) to the immediate area on day or evening shifts
- They know the ones to watch and ramped up with the assistance of the sex crime unit when the recent crimes were being committed
- Q: What kinds of calls help you do your job? What type of things should residents look out for?
- A: Trust your instinct, what's the worst that could happen if you find something suspicious?
- Q: What numbers should we call, other than emergency 911
- A: Call **416 808-2222** or fire off an e-mail to **22Division@torontopolice.on.ca** if something is suspicious and non-emergency
- Officer made point that residents must not hesitate to report issues. Calls are prioritized and officers will deal with them in order of priority. Complaints are recorded to gauge recurrent nature and any trends.
- If it weren't for residents reporting the man who was exposing himself, he wouldn't have been caught
- Q: Was the attempted abduction a rare occurrence for this area?
- A: Yes, it was rare although the person involved is known to police and in a very small minority.
- Q: Are there crimes specific to this area?
- A: There are no specific crimes or alarming trends related to Mimico, just the usual breaking and entering, drugs and prostitution. The press associated with the recent abduction and exposure crimes was purposely disseminated by Police to keep the public informed.
- Q: Should area hookers, for example, be a community concern?

- A: We're aware of area prostitution and know all the players, however enforcement is difficult and requires undercover officers that quickly become familiar to prostitutes
- Q: Is the increase in graffiti tagging related to gang activity or to local punks?
- A: As far as the officers are concerned, street gangs are not a problem in this area.
- Q: Should parents be concerned with drug dealers approaching kids?
- A: We don't normally get drug suppliers approaching kids, it's the other way around: certain kids seeking out drugs.
- Q: We assume there's a drug education program for the TSBD?
- A: (V.P.) Yes, on March 8 there will be a presentation to grade 6 kids at John English.
- Q: Should we be calling in any occurrences of public drinking, drug soliciting, or prostitution?
- A: Yes, get in touch with Sergeant Evans in these cases at the 22 Division, Community Response Unit (416) 808-2200. For example, if you see people drinking in the park Saturday, we'll draw up a report, add it to the data base, and we'll keep an eye out for similar activity the following Saturday if the Primary Response Officer is unavailable to immediately investigate.
- To call in a report, you don't have to speak to an officer at that time, simply leave contact information or, if you wish to remain anonymous, call **Crime Stoppers (416) 222-TIPS (8477)**.
- Q: Does Neighbourhood Watch still exist?
- A: The sign in the window safe house doesn't exist any more as we don't know our neighbours.
- Q: Our school is vigilant about locking doors and windows, lock downs and drills, what else would you suggest keeping our school safe?
- A: Your best option is to work with the Principal who is advised by the board and associated officers on school safety.
- Q: There is a TDSB security number should doors, windows or the roof be violated by kids?
- A: Who should we call and when? TDSB Security or Division 22
- Community Response Unit is the best way to deal with urgent and ongoing issues in this area.
- Q: Should we contact you for traffic issues? No one comes by to enforce the no parking, no stopping zone on George Street.
- A: (Neighbourhood Liaison Rep): Send an e-mail to us about specific location/times and we'll get the information to traffic enforcement.

Officer's Parting Words

- Register on the police e-mail list as that's a good way to stay informed and share information such as break ins
To sign up for "Division 22 Neighborhood Update" send email directly to:
 - Officer Benson at allan.benson@torontopolice.on.ca – subject "Neighborhood Update"
 - Include your First and Last Name, Address, Postal Code, Telephone and email address
- Wendy & Craig recommends to put police e-mail in next newsletter

Additional Business

Principal/Vice Principal's Report

- Kiwanis Music Competition in school and Grade 8 Orchestra performed – won GOLD!
- Report cards will be issued March 2nd, one month early which was set by the board
- Parent interviews will take place on March 4th-5th and parents will be notified if interviews are required or can request one if they have concerns
- Awards assembly will take place on the morning of March 4

- Olympics at John English, some of our kids were interviewed on CTV. Last country meeting today to prepare for final fun day of outdoor events on Feb. 24 with each team represented by all grades
- Jennifer S. mentioned kids can watch Olympics at her school at recess and a live stream of the Games can be accessed from Peel School Board web site
- Funds for Haiti: lots of support with 1,070 raised (Change for Change) and \$522. raised by Mr. Fils Aimé's class through bake sales
- Kindergarten Registration (born 2006) will be in newsletter
- Bill 157 came into effect this February 1, formalizing what we've already been doing, re: special form for suspensions and contacting procedure and information dissemination for victim's parents
- Reading Conference April 13 will include a keynote speaker, workshops about media literacy geared toward Grade 7 students and will feature new media (graphic novels, web reading, story boards). High school students will host workshops for our students.

Teacher's Report

- Q: Is there a replacement for Mr. Lanis? Questioned the promotion/move at mid-year, instead of end of year? It is disruptive at such a pivotal time and disadvantages our kids.
- A: It's a board decision that the Principal was not involved in. The mid-year timing is an anomaly and she will pass on parent concerns to the board. A teacher will be hired as soon as a suitable person is found.

Board Business

French

- French Family Movie Night – 220 attended, including from outside JE. \$1689 raised which will go toward French resources. A full report will be kept on file at SAC for future reference. Thanks to Danielle and committee for a job well done.

Communications

- Craig will do a synopsis of Police visit for inclusion into next Newsletter

Treasurer's Report

- SAC Account (no up-to-date statement due to transition) , Healthy Bites \$22,000. as bi-monthly reports are made to the Foundation for Student Success
- Re: Counting Funds for future Fundraising, please work with Kim or other Treasurer so efforts are not duplicated, as they need to reconcile for deposits.

Health & Safety

- Impressed that teachers wear helmets (albeit a board regulation) at Mimico and Master Card Centre imposes helmet rule, although some Grade 8 students boycott for this reason.
- Next year, all grades will be mandated to wear hockey helmets
- Donated helmets are an option, although helmets have an expiry day for effectiveness.
- Dangerous to see kids who can't skate without helmets. Dearth of gloves and mittens as well.
- Upcoming ski trip, ski helmets will be mandated.
- Recent incident of mother who hit head and died may be the reason for helmet rules changing.

Programs

- Ballet Creole is being investigated for the end of April, early May.

Fundraising

- Spring Event is confirmed as See Spot Run Rock Concert, Friday June 11, please join in promoting this bilingual family event - our biggest fundraiser of the year. Committee to come.

Dance-a-thon

\$6,000 target for new technology (smartboard, video and still digital cameras) to be used as an incentive to raise money for the dance-a-thon. Looking for contacts to help get the best price, as well as advise on software to best utilize the images.

Healthy Bites

Q: Is it true only recycling happens on Healthy Bites days vs. other days?

A: Unfortunately, yes. We need to enforce (train) kids on blue box recycling every day of the week. as it's part of school policy. Administration to follow up.

Other Business

- Administration to follow up on status of lost and found items - L&F bin located at cafeteria exit and will be put out when parents are in school for interviews. Items in good condition will be donated to charity. To DO: Add note re Lost and Found notification on Parent Interview form.
- New technology partnership between Dell and school (March 26) that Principal will report on re: follow up on Smart Board purchase and provide a recommendation on best technology to purchase.
- Sent Mr. Lanis a congratulatory card on behalf of SAC and a condolence card to Mr. Fils-Aimé
- Seminar - Parent Engagement in TDSB – Responding to Parent's Unanswered Question at Richview Collegiate (library) on February 24 at 6:30 pm.
- Seminar - with Elizabeth Witmer, MPP, on Impact of Education on Economic Growth, at Montgomery Inn, February 23 at 7 pm.
- Q: Dissemination of information, re: bake sale. Whose responsibility is it to inform parents about these events?
- A: Class Representative as long as they are given the information and have a contact list.
- Concerns raised over teachers switching skating times, which caused scheduling problems and potential safety problems mixing big and little kids on the same rink.
- Last minute changes are disruptive, causing stress to parents and potential safety issues.

Thank you & Close Meeting

- 8:45