

**John English SAC Meeting
Wed. May 19 2010**

MINUTES

Council Business

Principal Report

- Nikki Keenlside has been appointed new chair for the intermediate division for 3 years.
- The contact photo exhibition has been a huge success in all the schools. Scotiabank donated 2 digital cameras and a printer. 3 photos were picked for the competition but they were all excellent.
- The volunteer appreciation breakfast is on Friday morning from 8-10. All volunteers are invited to attend.
- EQAO will be on June 1-3, 7-9. Grade 3's in the morning, Grade 6's in the afternoon
- Graduation ceremony (June 28) – Grade 8's usually have a dance and pizza/pop in the cafeteria. This year, there will be a dinner and dance offsite at the Golden Lion Restaurant near Costco. This will make the event more special. There will be a modest increase in price.
- The school received a grant last year for painting. The front lobby and cafeteria will be painted between May 20 and June 4. The basement gym and some lockers will be painted thereafter. The painters will use low odour paints during the day. Any alkyd-based painting will be done after hours with good ventilation. More information will be obtained about precise dates but Healthy Bites will be informed.

VP Report

- The Kindergarten open house has been scheduled for Thursday, June 10. There is an hour long agenda – 20 minutes in the classrooms, a presentation in the auditorium from the teachers and then lemonade in the courtyard. Administration is looking for a SAC representative to come talk about being involved in the school and someone to help with the lemonade/cookies.
- An information package has been put together for new parents as well as a little bag of goodies and info.

Teacher Report

- The musical is on next week – please buy tickets.
- Madame Zamin's class went to a storytelling event that was very valuable.
- 2 JE students won 1st and 4th place in an essay contest – Prizes will be presented to them on May 28 at Hart House.
- Future Aces did the food drive. Their goal was to bring in 500-1,000 lbs of food and they ended up bringing in 1,100 lbs.
- 3 performances have been booked for next year. These are whole school performances that cost ~\$1,800 each. Dates have not yet been confirmed. Administration is looking for support for these initiatives.

Technology Funding Proposal

- Jan, Carolyn, Lori and Maureen met to review the information that has been presented.

- With respect to the handheld clickers, the group was not convinced that this technology was worth the investment (~\$8,500) particularly since teacher interest was unclear.
- SAC has approximately \$10,000 to fund technology. The group recommendation was for SAC to purchase 5 data projectors, 2-4 digital cameras + video camera, (\$3,000 - \$6,000, depending on estimates) and one portable smart board (\$5,000).
- There was approval of the recommendation.
- It was also agreed that in order to inform any future technology purchases, teachers should have an opportunity to see a demo and should be surveyed generally to see what kinds of technology would be most helpful and most likely to be used in the classroom.
- Sally Salama will be asked to arrange this.

Treasurer Update

- The SAC fundraising balance is \$21,000 at the moment, less \$7,000 for presentations and the skating program which have not yet been paid for— leaving a balance of \$14,000.
- Kim was asked to look into whether or not the school council can get a credit card to purchase things with SAC funds (for example, the website news service).
- TDSB won't issue a credit card through the board, but SAC can get one itself.

Fundraising Scheduling

- There have been concerns from parents about back-to-back fundraisers which can be difficult to manage, particularly when children are not doing their own fundraising. SAC has limited the number of events this year, but there have also been in-class fundraising events and other schoolwide fundraisers, such as Jump Rope for Heart.
- There was support for fundraisers initiated by the children themselves but administration will take the concerns forward.

John English Rocks! (Wendy K)

- Everyone should talk up the tickets because we haven't had many ticket sales yet.
- Planning is going really well. At the Grade 8 BBQ, there will be a promotional event.
- Flyers should be available Friday.
- The event will be promoted at local schools, but not in the community.
- The grade 8's will help to decorate the auditorium and there will be a student MC as well.
- Students should be encouraged to make posters for the concert, as there will be prizes.

Gr. 8 fundraising (Wendy F)

- The Grade 8's will be selling wristbands for John English Rocks.
- They are looking for donations to a bakesale next Wednesday and Thursday.

Ukulele Programme (Jane)

- Jane made a proposal for a Ukulele program at John English.
- Melanie Doane, a June-award winning singer/songwriter/musician, has offered to come to John English to teach children the ukulele.
- She would be using a proven program developed by her father Chalmers Doane.

- Ukuleles are easy to learn, portable, relatively inexpensive, and can be played alone or in a group, even while singing. Learning the Ukulele can also prepare children for band and strings.
- Jane showed part of movie called The Mighty Uke – which showed some very cool ukulele music in a variety of styles.
- Melanie is getting booked up very quickly, so there is some urgency to the proposal.
- The program would include once-a-week instruction for 30 weeks during school hours for all of our Grade 3's beginning next year.
- The instruction fee for the program is \$6,500.
- Melanie runs a successful program at Wilkinson PS on Donlands and is hosting demos there next week if people would like to attend (May 25, May 28 and June 9).
- Jane will volunteer her time to organize
- Bring in qualified volunteers from the community to be trained by Melanie Doane, ensure the program will continue in future years.
- JE has 30 baritone ukuleles which require extensive repairs. This would cost ~ \$600.
- Melanie recommends we purchase soprano ukuleles as they're smaller and easier to learn. (60x\$40=\$2,400)
- JE would be eligible for an instrument grant of ~ \$5,000 to offset the cost of the ukuleles. This grant could not be used for instruction fees.
- We need to secure Melanie and immediate funds to order ukuleles to be up and running for September
- SAC was asked whether it was prepared to fund instructors (\$8,000) and advance the funds for the purchase of 40 ukuleles pending receipt of anticipated grant funds (\$2,400).
- There was enthusiastic support for the program from SAC, the teachers and administration.
- There was limited support for funding someone to be trained. The issue of whether and how the program could be sustained in future years will be discussed at a future meeting.
- **Action:** SAC approved ordering the ukuleles at a cost of up to \$4000, applying for the \$5,000 grant, and booking Melanie Doane at a cost of \$6,500.

Party in the Park

- Planning is coming along nicely.
- They are looking for school talent to participate.
- There might be leftover glow sticks from See Spot Run which could be sold as a fundraiser.

Staff Appreciation Breakfast – Jun. 4th

- Joan Raymond is organizing this and has sent an e-mail to class reps to get volunteers for contributions of food, money or children's art. From 8am to 1pm.

French Immersion bussing letter (Sandy)

- Sandy has drafted a letter to Bruce Davis about French Immersion bussing possibly being at risk.
- The issue is that cuts to bussing might affect enrolment in French from the feeder schools.

PRO Grant – June 11 deadline

- Parents Reaching Out grant is available if anyone has an idea for this \$1,000 if they wish to take the lead.

Kindergarten Snack

- Parents have expressed dissatisfaction with the snack. Some of the children don't like it and some of the snacks seem unhealthy (ie. Processed cheese). Parents would prefer to bring their own snack, ensure that kids eat it and have energy for the rest of the day.
- There were some suggestions about using Healthy Bites surplus for this purpose and seeing if there can be improvements to the kinds of snacks that are provided (ie. More fresh fruit).

Meeting Adjourned: 9:30pm