

**John English SAC Meeting**  
**Thursday October 15, 09**  
**MINUTES**

Teacher's Report

- They are in the final stages of hiring the Chair, a teacher who has a position of responsibility within the school. There should be a rep at SAC for the next meeting.

Principal/Vice Principal's Report

EQAO results

- Grade 3 – only 16 students for reading and writing. Good results for math for both English and French students (above board and provincial standards).
- Grade 6 – Good results
- Over past 5 years, steady improvement, but up and down.
- Many students sitting at the high level 2 – will be looking at strategies to move them up to level 3.
- Staff will be doing unpacking of the EQAO – looking at each of the questions and evaluating how the students did to see if there are specific areas for improvement and what strategies might be appropriate.
- Staff is also interested in looking at this in terms of preparing for Grade 9 math and Grade 10 literacy testing.
- Several years ago, teachers found children didn't understand some of the language in the tests, but worked on this vocabulary and practice tests.

Enrolment

- Projected headcount 677, full time enrolment 631
- Oct – headcount 690, full time enrolment 646.6. Although this is over projected numbers, it does not mean the school will get an extra half teacher.
- Projected enrolment determines budget.

School Budget

- By Dec 31, if we are above the projected number, we will be given extra money.
- \$5,000 base, plus per student amounts. School council budget is \$789. School receives nothing for art, family studies, and instrumental, even though we run those programs.
- \$133,875 total budget. School can use the money any way it wishes, except for special education, which can only be used for that purpose. Last year's budget was \$142,801, so this is a significant drop. The budget has declined over several years.
- The budget pays for classroom supplies, textbooks, AV equipment, computers (other than those designated by the board NOTE: the school cannot use donated computers because they can't link to the board net), sports, athletic events, referee fees, replacing equipment, bus trips, prizes, graduation, printing, photocopier and paper, postage, and telephone expenses.
- There is a significant focus on sports at John English – this is teacher-driven, and lots of children take advantage of the teams.
- Decisions about budget allocation: Teachers have their own budget to purchase classroom supplies plus \$100 cash to purchase special supplies (ie. Apples for applesauce). Other than that, there is a budget committee, made up of teachers and principal which reviews requests every 2 weeks.

- A question was asked about whether SAC could have a role in terms of identifying where to spend fundraising dollars. This is an internal group, but if there were issues related to SAC, Eileen will let us know.
- One possible item is new team uniforms.

Individual Education Plan on-line – John English is part of pilot project this year. The Board is moving to having more of these things on-line, and continues to work through the bugs to make this easier for teachers and reduce paperwork.

New Toronto Police College – John English is starting a partnership with the new College. Grade 1 students will be shown a video and then, 2 days later, will go to the police college for a variety of activities. This is part of the community helpers program. If the parents agree, the children will be paired with a police officer and child youth worker to work on interviewing children.

Chairs – The 3 chair positions (primary, intermediate and junior) have a 3 year term which ended in August. There were many excellent candidates. They are just finalizing the successful candidates. The chair is a position of responsibility and leadership within the school – holding divisional meetings, admin team meetings, etc.

## Board Business

### Chair

- SAC Elections – The new org chart was distributed.
- In order to be involved in decision-making, parents need to become official members of SAC.
- 2 unfilled spots – leads for the community event and fun fair.
- A number of changes were made. Kathy Hughes will now be the communications rep and Sandy Gene and Lori will co-chair the fundraising.

### Special Events

- Parent Teacher BBQ - Review
- Lots of parent enthusiasm and good turnout – it made a small profit of \$33.
- There was a discussion about the potential value of a map of the school and explanation of the word 'colas'.
- Concerns were expressed regarding parent / staff coverage during the BBQ – the process will be reviewed next year.

### French - CPF – Jodie Brown

- CPF received a storytime grant for French storytelling. \$1,000 of resources for Mimico Library.

### Health & Safety

- Graffiti – it was cleaned up 2 days after the last meeting.
- School Parking Lot – when the bad weather starts, barriers will be put up in the parking lot to ensure that snowplows can get in – this will continue to be monitored.
- Traffic on George St. – Craig is trying to connect with someone re this issue. They will monitor. Kathy has spoken to Mark Grimes re the concerns. There is no point doing a petition, but he will issue a traffic study, but it affects EMS and fire. Kathy will send him an e-mail with our specific concerns.
  - Crosswalk on Hillside – needs to be repainted.
  - Crosswalk at Royal York and Hillside.
  - Bus drivers can't get through because cars are in the way.

- What can parents do to drop children off quickly with a small child? Could possibly park at Mimico Adult Centre and walk children over or at the Presbyterian Church at Mimico and Royal York?
- Potential for one way on George.
- Potential for 4 way stop at George and Hillside.
- Parking on Mimico Avenue – more policing required?
- Parking/stopping at dead-end on Central
- Potential for opening up the kiss and ride to kindergarten teachers.
- Principal will review any options / alternatives and report back to SAC.

#### Healthy Bites – update

- Applied for a grant for \$8,500 in June and received it – Toronto Foundation for Student Success. 70% of that money has to go to food and supplies.
- Registration – 170 students. Registration for Tuesdays is 130. There are only 6 subsidized students – it seems likely that others might benefit from the program. It will be discussed at the healthy bites board members. It might be worthwhile to have teachers or lunchroom supervisors identify kids.
- ECO Club, a teacher supervised & led group started today –the worm composting program uses compost from healthy bites program, and other sources.
- SAC would like to see recycling bins in the lunchroom - potential to have members of the Eco-club monitor the recycling bins
- Is it possible to get blue bins for the schoolyard? The Principal will look into this and report back to SAC.

#### Music

- TSO have programs where they come into the school and charge \$1-2/child.
- SAC needs to decide how much it wants to spend and how often it wants to bring musicians into the classroom.
- There are a number of ukuleles at the school that need to be repaired, but could be used.
- SAC voiced concern over maintaining JE's high level of performance in instrumental music – SAC has demonstrated their commitment to this topic – assigned a Parent Rep to liaise with and follow up on any relevant information – Administration will monitor and report

#### Classroom Network – update

- Jenn would like to come to a staff meeting or go around to the classrooms to get more
- Doing well for the French Immersion classes
- E-mails for the teachers – some are not aware of having an e-mail address. All teachers have an e-mail but are entitled to decide whether or not they wish to use it.

#### Fundraising

- QSP – slightly less than last year. Has raised \$16,000, we get 30%. The draw is tomorrow morning.
- Chapters fundraiser – November 26.
- Committee – Several people volunteered to discuss this issue.
- Schedule of events
- Financial Goals
- Movie night – scheduled for November 20 – Hotel for Dogs. Pasta dinner at 6 – movie starts at 7. \$7/person, \$20/family.

## Other Business

### Lunchroom – capacity & culture

- The capacity is 328. There are 300 children having lunch every day. Concerns expressed about the number of children. There are designated tables for grades.
- They cannot use the GP room because they are down teachers and don't have enough supervision.
- Parents expressed a desire to generate a culture of courtesy in the lunchroom; all adults in attendance will take the lead and model this behavior.

### Book Fair – review

- No report provided although it was successful.

### Aspirations

- There are teacher referrals, but these need to be communicated to Jan Vanderwal.

### Skate Sharpening

- Skating program will happen again this year. Last year, SAC subsidized program for \$1,000 – this will continue again this year.
- Play It Again Sports gives us a discount to sharpen the skates. Responsible parties need to be identified and followed up with.

### Parent Welcome & Orientation

- Concerns were expressed about the orientation and welcome for parents new to the school
- There were requests for more information with regards to understanding the children's daily procedures, including where and how to drop off the kids, a review of the snack program, and event notices.
- SAC and administration are committed to reviewing the process for next year

### Playground and Park

- Garbage in the park is a problem. This is a longstanding problem.
- Schoolyard garbage is also a problem, which demonstrates a more widespread cultural problem.
- Potential involvement with JEL team, and administration.
- Vampire and Werewolf game in the schoolyard, where kids bite, kick or scratch other kids is being monitored by administration.

Meeting Adjourned – 9:25pm