

John English SAC Meeting
Wed. Sep 16/09
7:00 pm

MINUTES

Principal/Vice Principal's Report

Staffing

- Because of declining enrolment, the school lost a few teachers in the English stream
- Madame Spekkens is on a one year Leave of Absence
- 4 teachers are on maternity leave and several on medical leave
- Ms. Ducette has moved to guidance position in another school – but there is a chance she will be back
- Welcome to Madame Gitto – Grade 3 French Immersion and Ms. Groh, Grade 3/4 English
- The school lost some Special Needs Assessment Teachers
- There is a new French Immersion educational assistant in kindergarten and new English kindergarten assistant
- The Grade 8 French Immersion teacher is on medical leave (replacing Madame Niehaus)

Reorganization

- Staffing this year was based on the following projected enrolment: 676 students – 637 full time
- Actual enrolment is more than projected: 686 students – 646 full time
- Primary caps of 20 but 10% exemption overall – can sometimes go up to 23
- English – grade 1/2 class was over cap – 2 children needed to move from 1/2 to 2/3 but now a straight grade 1 and a 2/3 split
- French – at present, no reorganization required.
- This won't be finalized until the end of September
- Require 4 children per grade in each grade of a split

Lunchroom

- Fewer people to supervise in lunchroom because we lost staff – limits on what staff can do re supervision
- Students have now been moved from GP room to main lunchroom
- Seems like there are more kids staying for lunch – staff will continue to monitor and will assess capacity and compare to number of children staying.
- A parent asked about the time children are given to eat – many are finished at 11:35 – most are done by 11:50. They have to move outside or there won't be adequate supervision.
- Lunchroom issues will come back to the next meeting for discussion.

Meet the Teacher night next Thursday

- Hotdogs from 5:30-7, Kindergarten 6-6:30, Grade 6-8 6:30-7
- Info meeting about Grade 8 trip – 6-6:30 in auditorium
- Also book fair

Band/Strings

- Will be in the afternoons starting at 12pm for grades 6, 7 and 8
- Staffing process going on currently – not sure who will be teaching
- Grades 7, 8 Will be starting September 28 – Grade 6 starts the week after
- Students will not know whether they've been selected until the teacher is here
- This item will come back to the next meeting for discussion.

Musical should still be happening – Ms. McLeggon will be returning in January

Teacher's Report

- No teacher representative was present at the meeting because the chair contract (position of responsibility within the school) ended August 31

Board Reports

1. SAC Elections

- There haven't been elections in the past. This year, SAC wants to formalize the process.
- The organizational chart, description of JE School Advisory Exec Council Positions and Membership sign-up sheets were distributed.
- All positions are open to everyone. Executive positions not responsible for doing everything in their area – other volunteers will help out.
- Once approved, the positions will be posted on the website and otherwise communicated
- SAC meeting dates are on the website

Chair - Jan and Wendy – approved – Kathleen seconded

Secretary – Maureen Boon with Jane Chapman as backup – approved – Sophy seconded

Treasurer – Penny Eimer with Kim as backup – seconded by Craig

Special Events – Sophy Wong – seconded by Jan

Communications – Sandy Gene – seconded by Penny

Programs – Alison – seconded by Carolyn

Community – Jim Sanderson (looking for a backup) – seconded by Wendy

Health & Safety – Craig Spencer – seconded by Sandy

French – Jodie with Romana backup – seconded by Craig

Fundraising – Craig Case – seconded by Maureen

Class Reps – Carolyn McPhee and Jenn Robinson – seconded by Jodie

2. QSP Magazines – Kim Peters

- Campaign begins Sep 23
- Incentive program– in previous years, there have been complaints about the many plastic toys and the fact that it was too difficult to get the good prizes
- This year, we are not going the run the prize program and will be taking the cash instead. An iPod touch and laptop have already been purchased.

- There will be a daily, weekly and grand prize. Every student gets a wristband, and will be eligible for a daily prize (\$5 each, mini-webkins and giftcards for chapters and iTunes)
- Some of the profits from QSP will be used to fund the small prizes.
- Weekly prizes are based on # of subscriptions – the more you sell, the more chances you will have – will be purchasing 2 more iPod touches with QSP
- The grand prize will be a laptop computer
- The class with the most subscriptions will be recognized with a \$100 bonus for classroom supplies, double-recess and freezies
- On-line ordering is easier to administer
- Concerns were raised about the appropriateness of the iPod touch and laptop as prizes. These concerns were about expense, appropriateness for younger children and possibly excluding those without internet access.
- After discussion, there was agreement that \$100 Chapters gift cards might be more appropriate for the weekly draw, and the IPOD touch and laptop would become the Grand prizes.

3. PSP – Kathleen Eyman

- Teacher – Susan Hayward – will be in parking lot in morning and end of the day for the entire year.
- Request for volunteers – 2 parents each morning, 1 each afternoon. The commitment is 30 minutes once/week
- The dead-end on Central is creating traffic and safety problems. The school can't put someone from the school on duty – but can call the police.
- Kathleen suggested the name PSP be changed to something like Kiss 'n Ride. There was agreement this was a good idea. Kathleen can decide and let Eileen know.
- Can we get the drop off area painted – painting must be done by the board

4. PRO Grant Application

- Need someone to take the lead – speak to Jan and Wendy if you are interested.

5. Parent Teacher BBQ – curriculum night

- Next Thursday
- BBQ is free, but we will have a donation jar

6. Healthy Bites

- Nutrition program runs 3x/week
- 161 students registered – hoping for more students to register.
- First committee meeting hasn't happened – if there is space, teachers will be invited to joint
- Good volunteer coverage – always need more help in the kitchen – 3 hours every week, every other week or once/month

- A request was made for a menu. Cindy indicated that publishing menus in advance may discourage children from trying new things but sample menus will be published in the newsletter.

Other Business

Shoppers Drug Mart fundraising

- A suggestion was made about a new program from SDM. The school purchases the giftcards, sells them and then gets some percentage back.
- SAC had previously decided not to do small fundraisers, but will keep this in mind.

Graffiti

- A question was raised about graffiti around the school.
- Eileen indicated that a work order was submitted before school began and staff have been calling to follow up
- Concerns were expressed about not removing the graffiti quickly.
- Craig will make the call to the Trustee – and e-mail the contact for those parents who would like to follow up

Traffic problems

- Chronic traffic problems on George Street were discussed, as well as several possible solutions – alternate kindergarten drop off, making the street one-way, limiting turns from Mimico Ave.
- Kathy will contact Mark Grimesand get him to come talk to us or follow up with traffic services

Treasurer

- \$10,000 in our account – council will need to decide what to do with the money.

Meeting adjourned 8:55pm