

John English SAC Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 2011, 7:00 pm

MINUTES

Principal/Vice Principal's Report (Craig Howe)

- Progress reports went out on November 16. A suggestion from Mr. Howe: to ensure that you get the most of the meeting and to keep things running on time, parents should come to the interviews prepared.
- Grade 7 and 8 students will soon have a student census taken. It will ask questions of the students about how they spend their time, computer use, etc. To follow up, parent census will come out in February.
- Regarding JE facilities:
 - gates at playground are being considered (they will not lock, they will swing open and closed)
 - Fencing around the primary entrance is also being considered. These two suggestions have been brought up with the facilities people of the TDSB
 - Bike racks have been ordered
- Grade 7 to 10 students have a great resource to access: online tutoring staffed by teachers through www.homeworkhelp.ilc.org. All students in the targeted age bracket are registered for this (so they can log in) however this can be revoked by the parents by signing a form that has been sent home.
- Mr. Samborski has replaced Ms. San-Vincente. He is very visible in the playground and also in the park at lunch time. He has been vigilant on helping with the Healthy Bites, ensuring that the kids stay on property if they are in the program (they were going over to the park with the Healthy Bites trays). His last day will be at the end of November. The replacement that was to start at the school is no longer able as they have been placed elsewhere. Mr. Howe is looking into a new replacement and will update.
- Mr. Gentile spoke about a grant that JEJMS is going to receive through the PALS program (Playground Activity Leaders in Schools). This is for a recess revival program, with an aim to reduce bullying through physical activity. The grant request has been prepared by a parent, (Kyle). The school will proceed with the program regardless of whether there is money from the grant. It will take about 5 to 6 months to hear whether the grant request is successful.
- Conversation proceeded about identifying teachers in the playground with armbands or vests. This will help small children (especially) with knowing who to approach if there is an issue. There are two parents (who are teachers) who are going to look into where other schools get these items. Mr. Howe sees no reason why the program can't be implemented if the vests/armbands are found.
- A parent spoke about the behavior at the park across the street from the school over the lunchtime period. It is her feeling that kids in large groups are hanging around in the park, playing rough games and being disrespectful to people and property. The feeling is that before this becomes a community matter, it might be

better to try to handle it internally. Mr. Howe responded the students have been reminded about appropriate behavior in the park. While the school is not required to supervise off property, it does send the vice-principal out of concern for the kids and the community. As a solution, a note will go out to the parent network in the grade 6, 7 & 8 reminding them of the behavior at lunchtime in the Park.

Teacher Report (Madame Heather Smith)

- Madame Smith showed some of the space models that were prepared for the grade 6 space projects which took place this month. There was an exposition for parents and other classes in the school to come to and see what the grade 6 students (English and French) learned about space. The kids were involved with creating the success criteria, which is used when scoring the projects. This proved to be very successful as it led them to model their work accordingly.
- Some teachers are adopting literacy lessons from The Daily 5: read to self, read to someone, word work, spelling.
- Coming up at Assembly Hall on the Lakeshore, there is an art exposition on November 23rd with 10 art entries from John English on display.
- The school gym uniforms have arrived. They are to be used in gym class and for athletic events (track and field). \$28 for a set.
- At this time of year, Grade 8 kids are looking at high schools and weighing their options for optional attendance for Grade 9.

Board Business

- The organizational chart is now complete with people in all positions. Maureen will distribute. Thanks to everyone who has stepped forward.

Treasurers Report

- QSP fundraiser made \$18 773 in sales, with a profit of \$5000 (roughly) for the SAC.
- Current bank balance is \$9069, but it does not include all of QSP earnings yet.

Fundraising

- Poinsettias as a fundraiser was raised as an option. It was last done in 2008 and we raised \$388. A local nursery "Down to Earth" has offered to sell the plants at cost to the school. There is support from the council so we will proceed.
- An idea for fundraising for Ms. Groh - CANBIKE and the introduction of the bike rack program could be an opportunity to raise funds for our teacher who has faced great hardship since a very serious bike accident last year.
- Kyle (parent) indicated that money may be available to facilitate schoolyard or other improvements. This \$37 money becomes available to communities for specific projects as a result of condominium developments. It is not clear

whether these funds can be used for schoolyard improvements. Further discussion is required regarding the potential and the process. Kyle will look further into this idea.

- French Culture Night – Heather Smith (parent) would like to suggest revamping the French Movie Night into a culture night that includes other area French Immersion Schools with help from the CPF Toronto West chapter. In addition to the movie (which can be supervised by Richview students), a French bistro with a CPF performer/entertainment could be held for families to come, eat and socialize, and booths be set up in the room that offer information and registration for things such as Tourism Quebec, Tourism France, French March break and summer camps, French employment opportunities and the like. The suggestion from CPF Toronto West would be that all ticket sales from John English families would go directly to John English (as they would be hosts and it was originally their event) and any money raised from families of other schools would go to CPF. A book sale/fair could also take place on that night. Heather will speak to Mr. Howe further on this idea.

Healthy Bites Program

- Looking for volunteers for the program, as little as 3 hours per month is all that is required.

Ukelele Program

- There were \$500 in proceeds from the recent Hawaiian show featuring Melanie Doane
- A further \$100 was donated to the Ukelele program through a workplace program
- Melanie has a role in an upcoming Broadway play so she will need to now attend rehearsals and rest her voice. She has suggested a replacement (Cheryl, a TDSB teacher, fully qualified in the Uke program) to fill in for three months. Melanie will return at that time and will stay connected to assist.

Trustee Update

- Debbie Wagdin - debbie.wagdin@tdsb.on.ca the Constituency Assistant from Pamela Gough's office came to the SAC meeting to update John English parents on Trustee Gough's activities and involvement in the Ward 3.
- A ward council meeting that took place at JEJMS on Wednesday, November 16. There is another meeting at the school on November 24th for the extended French program.
- Signup has begun online for Grade 4 immersion, be sure not to miss the deadline
- Trustee Gough has a website with information on other schools http://www.tdsb.on.ca/_site/viewitem.asp?siteid=167&pageid=167&menuid=167
- Education day will be held at Etobicoke School of the Arts: this is an all

candidates meeting (for the Etobicoke/Lakeshore riding). Laurel Broten, the Etobicoke Lakeshore MPP has been appointed as Minister of Education.

- Local facilities information:
 - A sports dome will be installed at Lakeshore collegiate, it will be a championship field
 - Possible reuse of Alderwood Centre
 - James S. Bell is being approved as a sports and wellness academy; it will get a special designations due to its physical education and nutrition programs
 - Lakeshore Collegiate is starting a campaign to raise awareness. They will now offer dual credits (U of T credits for Drama and High school credit - prior to leaving high school) This will allow students to also get 4 credits through Humber College with access to the downtown campus, library
 - Park Lawn is doing renovations to their school and track
 - Bloorlea is opening up after hours for community programs and building up their gym

Recently passed and Upcoming conferences and speaking engagements:

- On November 11 there was a special education assembly. There will be speakers on physiological assessment and the empowered reading program.
- Parent Conferences - Parents for Education took place on November 5th - all materials are available online
- PIAC - Parent Involvement Advisory Committee, a conference took place at the end of October
- There are several meetings for parents by TDSB staff
 - November 22 - Individual Education Plans, what the process is. This will be held at the Civic Centre 7 pm
- On December 8, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Martingrove Collegiate - Barbara Coloroso, international bestselling author and an internationally recognized speaker and consultant on parenting, teaching, school discipline, positive school climate, bullying, grieving, nonviolent conflict resolution and restorative justice.

Ward Parent Representatives are being sought for John English School. There is an upcoming Parent involvement Committee Meetings in January or February.

All city orchestra choir/band tryouts are currently being offered. If your child is musically gifted in choir, bands and strings, they could win a spot to play with the best of the best in the city. If your child is interested, they should be encouraged to apply. Speak to your music teacher.

Health and Safety

Traffic on Hillside: Concerns have been raised about the speed of vehicles on Hillside Avenue, particularly since a crosswalk wasn't replaced following roadwork. Maureen would like to invite Mark Grimes to come to the January meeting and draft a letter to him to voice the concern of SAC and invite him to attend the next SAC meeting. This was approved by council.

Upcoming Dates:

- John English Chapters Night: November 24th
- Holiday Concert: December 15
- Spring Concert: May 10th
- Aladdin Play – 16th, 17th

Next meeting: Thursday, January 19