

**John English SAC Meeting
Thursday, January 19, 2012, 7:00 pm**

MINUTES

Welcome

Additional agenda items/other business

Mark Grimes

Thanks us for inviting him and commends SAC's commitment and involvement. After meeting with members of SAC and the community, Grimes heard our concerns and considered them in making what was a tough council decision on budgetary cuts.

Hillside traffic concerns: request for additional stop sign assessed by experts (Bruce Clayton) over set period. Study determined that a new stop sign/cross walk not warranted.

Q: A parent raised the concern that she needs to cross the street with her school child and there is no legal stop sign or crosswalk for parents and children attending J.E. School.

A: Grimes responded that we can't have stop signs on every corner and there must be a reasonable process of assessment that was followed in this case.

Q: Before road was repaved, there was a crosswalk that was not repainted. Why can't we have the former one replaced?

A: Grimes response is this and other traffic concerns should be addressed at the public traffic meeting that, historically, is poorly attended. At the public traffic meeting, traffic concerns are addressed for the entire region. Grimes advises those concerned to attend the next meeting.

Q: Parent raised exploring S37 and potential to improve our schoolyard with these funds.

A: Grimes response: Mimico has reaped many benefits with a number of park upgrades, Memorial Park being one. S37 funds can only be allocated to school grounds upgrades should they serve the community where there is no park nearby. Currently, there are a number of new parks and parks slated to be upgraded all fighting for funds. He does not feel the school will be a priority.

Grimes added: the former John English schoolyard near St. Leo's is a vastly underused space which could provide funds should the Board sell it.

- Franklin Horner was on the chopping block and Grimes went into the reserves and bought FH from the school board where it now thrives as a community centre filled with programs.

- New Toronto is scrambling for parks, as is Alderwood. The Mimico Residents Association is a powerful force that has reaped results in the past.

Q: Parent questioned the \$4.2 million in S37 and all moneys allocated to community projects and wonders why John English, with its robust student population and community programs, isn't worthy of having a playground upgrade? When, if ever, is our opportunity to add our school's needs to the S37 queue?

A: Grimes response is that so much money has already been allocated for major projects such as the Skateboard Park, Mimico Square, Skating Trail, Ourland Centre, etc.

Many areas, such as Prince of Wales Park, are ahead of us in line and schoolyards are not a priority for the city.

Grimes recommends we go through our TDSB Trustee to see if there are funds available. The School Board has sold properties in this area and he would hope that the funds would stay in this area. Trustee Gough is the best one to consult.

Principal Howe pointed out that funds raised through Board surplus property sales are designated to areas/projects in most need, not automatically to local ones.

Conclusion: Shared school and city projects need to be discussed at the Trustee and City level. Each project adds to a richer community - even when they're not directly beneficial.

Follow Up from November 2011 Meeting

- Toronto City Budget – e-mails, petitions were a success! Thanks to everyone who helped make our community heard by circulating and signing the petitions.

Principal/Vice Principal's Report

Vests/armbands: have been implemented and there are no reported instances of kids not knowing who to run to, based on arm band I.D.

French Immersion: there will be a third Sr. K class to accommodate 2 Fr. Immersion classes. Parents must apply by January 31 for a space www.tdsb.on.ca/pars. Parents need a OSN (Ontario Student Number) for students applying.

Aladdin the school musical: performances will be on May 23 and 24.

Spring Concert: will take place May 10 for Gr. 6, 7 and 8s.

Outside traffic coming into school ground during school hours: Principal spoke with Board liaison and there's an opportunity for closed (vs. locked) gates to keep strangers out and students in.

Parent Census (Gr. 1-6): coming last week of January. Gr. 7-10 students complete Student Census themselves. Information is compiled which can allow adjustments to be made, particularly information from the Gr. 7-8's which can inspire improvements.

Teaching and Learning Pathways: addressing shared issues through lesson planning and assessments with the goal of greater efficacy and consistency across the grades. At times, teachers need to leave class - while the students are otherwise occupied with a relevant assembly or video - to attend planning sessions. Pathways learnings are cumulative.

Board Planning Department and Superintendent: Mr. Howe met with them twice regarding improvements to grounds in the back of school. Planner feels we can better protect our trees (exposed roots) and was overall impressed with our green space. Planner recommends that we plant some trees in case we lose some of the more mature ones. Planner assessed our play structure and commends durability of our wooden structure and suggests we could make some improvements, such as adding some 'bridge' platforms. He suggested we add additional areas for students to congregate such as: mulch mounds, a figure eight pathway for younger

students to ride bikes, an asphalt area for designated games, a more defined area for sand play, low level balance beam logs. Mr. Howe feels we need to put in place a long-term plan and approach and think through timing and logistics to capitalize on this opportunity.

Mr. Howe spoke with a few older students (4, 5,6) about what they'd like to see and interact with behind the school: pavement and areas for themselves, picnic tables, etc.

PAL training of JEL Leaders over lunch for Conflict Resolution. School will recruit younger students for the JEL team to ensure student leadership after current Gr. 8's graduate.

Ms. Marcil mentioned there are victory patches, donated by Scotia Bank, to be sewn on our Bruce Davis Cup winning hockey team and is looking for sewing assistance.

Teacher's Report

Aladdin rehearsals are well underway and may need some after school sessions. There will be a need for parent assistance with costumes, props and scenery in the near future.

Ski Trip to Barrie will take place Thurs. Jan 28 with 20 parent volunteers and 216 students (6,7,8) and there are spots for students who cannot afford to pay \$50.

Gr. 6's are putting together a Social Studies Expo on their Trading Partners next week. Skating has begun and everyone, teachers and parents included, must wear helmets.

Board Business

Treasurer's Report

Fundraising

- Poinsettias Fundraiser: \$378 (may repeat in the spring with annuals)
- Chapters Night: \$439
- QSP: \$6,885.97 (so far)
- Dance-a-thon is set for an Assembly, April 4 and the Event on Friday, April 20 this is a fun, turn-key event for Teachers, Students and Parent Volunteers.
- Proposed fundraising for Ms. Groh – Canbike training – Jane Chapman (deferred from last meeting) will meet with the Fundraising Lead to plan a mini bike-a-thon and bike safety event with fundraising proceeds to support Ms. Groh's ongoing physiotherapy.
 - <http://www.moneyville.ca/article/1072191--devastating-accident>

Movie Night, Friday March 30 - Healthy Bites is happy to prepare and serve food and would love to help in any way. Combined English and French movie night may be a solution to bump up attendance. Heather Woodside will update us on her vision for an expanded Fr. Movie Night at next SAC Meeting.

Health & Safety

Bullying: a parent approached SAC about a bullying incident in Grade 6. Mr. Howe is dealing with the students involved.

Radiator Heat: during the Parent Teacher interview, one of the parents was concerned that upstairs radiators are 'dangerously' hot, despite teachers complaining they're too cold.

