

Dufferin Parent Council
January 13, 2010

Present: Rahno Simpson, Verna Millington, Jane Goldspink, Jill Berridge, Karen Pugh, Brigitte Tinevez, Cathy Morris, Kelly Klema, Melissa Betts, Leslie Johnston, Alison Weir, Mike Breault, Anne Breault, Catherine Gorecki, Heidi Nanda
Regrets: Nori Smith

1. Conflict of Interest: Heidi, Verna, Rahno
2. Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2009. Melissa. Seconded by Jill. Carried.
3. Wish List Update:
 - a. We were actually able to purchase 3 Smart Boards within our \$10 000 budget. YEA!!! Well done Jane!! This includes the LCD monitors, screens, carts, and refurbished computers, plus an extra monitor which Jane will subsidize. Inservicing for staff will begin shortly.
 - b. The basketball nets and boards have arrived and should be installed soon.
 - c. Some class trips have been organized and subsidized by DPC.
4. Treasurer's Report: We currently have \$7558.96 in our bank account.
5. Teachers' Report:
 - a. Staff and students are looking forward to having the new backboards for the start of the basketball season. Catherine, M Kranenburg and M Adkins will be coaching/managing.
 - b. The Grade 7/8 trip will be leaving soon for St. Donat., Quebec.
 - c. Mlle Tanaszczuk and Mme Smith will be starting up a Scrabble and Chess Club.
 - d. Ukelele club continues.
 - e. There will be PJ day on January 28. The class with the highest participation will win hot chocolate for the class.
 - f. Candygrams will be sold for Valentine's day (Hershey's Kisses: 3 for 25 cents)
 - g. March 10 will be Beach Day with popsicles given for highest participation.
 - h. Feb 11 is the 100th day of school.
 - i. Dufflebag Theater is coming Feb 25. YEA!!!! Parents are welcome to attend.
 - j. Consider nominating one of our wonderful teachers for the Premier's Award in Education. This is through the Ministry of Education.
 - k. Mme Smith defended her Master's thesis today at Nippissing University. Bonne Chance, Mme!
 - l. Jane will do a presentation about bullying to Grade 6 and 7 girls.
 - m. There will be curriculum and a presentation in February about Black History month. These tie into the February virtue of "Tolerance".

6. Principal's Report:

- a. The Principal's Criteria were approved.
- b. Jane will present the school's budget at the next meeting. We should be in the black this year!
- c. New windows were installed in classrooms in the basement, courtesy of the Board.
- d. Feedback has been mostly positive on the change in nutrition break time. Lunches are being eaten and there is less aggression during the lunch breaks as they've already been outside to run around.

7. Hot Lunch: Forms have been sent home for pizza days for the next 3 months.

8. Fundraising:

- a. There are a lot of frozen hamburgers left over from Meet the Teacher which will expire before Fun Fair.
- b. **ACTION:** Melissa will donate them to a charity (Food Bank, shelter, etc.).
- c. Melissa will meet with the Fundraising Committee soon to work on the Turkey Bingo. She is considering having classes put together baskets and asking parents to donate prizes for a penny auction. She will work with Price Chopper to get the meat.

9. Program and Curriculum:

- a. There will likely only be two report cards as of next year.
- b. Staff will be meeting with Fairview to coordinate teaching and evaluations to improve student success. The process is called the TLCP Process (Teaching Learning Critical Pathways) and is a Ministry and therefore Board standard for Professional Learning. The process takes assessment data, analyses the student needs, and selects a cluster of curriculum expectations to be used, all under the umbrella of a "Big Idea". A diagnostic tool is developed, administered to students, goals are set for learning, and specific lessons are given which precisely match the needs of the class as a whole and are also personalized for individual students. A final assessment is given and student progress is tracked so that staff can revise their strategies, and set new goals based on data. Staff work with grade partners to develop the curriculum and return to work together to mark a few of the final assessments, thereby establishing a more consistent approach to evaluating. In the next few years, it is a Board expectation that we will go through this process 2 or 3 times each year with our "Pathway Pals".

10. Social Committee: Teacher Appreciation Week is February 8-12. It was suggested that ALL staff (including the custodian, secretary and lunch monitors) be included. The theme will be The Olympics.

ACTIONS: Brigitte will send out invitations.

Snacks will be brought in daily for first nutrition, with a luncheon on Friday at second nutrition break. Snack responsibilities go to:

Monday – Brigitte

Tuesday – Lora

Wednesday -- Melissa

Thursday – Jill

Friday – TOP SECRET menu. We will have items that are nut-free, Kosher, pork-free, vegetarian, and dairy-free.

-- Alison, Karen, Heidi, and Leslie will help with set up (at 11:45) and then will cover the 40 minute break (supervising both indoors and outdoors)

-- Melissa will be on hand during lunch to help out as needed

MOTION: That \$250.00 be set aside for Teacher Appreciation Week. Brigitte.
Seconded by Alison. Carried.

11. Fun Fair: There was discussion about whether the Fun Fair should be a biannual event. Most people agreed it was a great event that brought the school and community together, so it should be annual as long as enthusiasm prevails. Nori and Karen wrote Christmas cards to all of our donors from last year.

12. Revitalization Committee: Leslie reviewed the committee's newly written Mission Statement and the Committee's plan for the school ground. Please see attached. There will be legal costs involved in setting up a Foundation. Jill hopes to find a lawyer to do this pro bono. There was also discussion about whether there are plans to close this old school. Jane feels that because the Board has been investing in our new roof, windows and floors, that there is no sign that we are slated for closure.

MOTION: That the Revitalization Committee start investigating the process of setting up a Foundation. Karen. Seconded by Leslie. Carried.

ACTION: Jill will start investigating.

13. Centennial Celebration: It was suggested that we take pictures of the fish, sunflowers and butterflies so beautifully painted on the walls before they are painted over (date unknown) and that they be put in a scrapbook to show off at the Centennial Celebration.

14. There is some concern that all of the French Immersion courses at BCI are often scheduled in second term, so that the students go a long time without any French. Brigitte pointed out that if all the courses are in one semester, then it is a better immersion experience for them and that it doesn't matter which semester it's in. There is also a concern that there are too few Immersion courses offered. This may be due to too few qualified French teachers. Kids may drop out of Immersion because of limited options.

ACTION: Lora and M. Yelle will confer and initiate discussion with Fairview Parent Council and possibly Vanier Parent Council before approaching BCI.

15. Ann Breault suggested we consider a school garden. There is funding available through the Public Health Unit.

ACTION: The Revitalization Committee will consider this in their planning.

16. The Board nut-free policy includes items that state “may contain”, but this is not always adhered to. Jane will have the teachers remind the students verbally, as well as send reminders home in newsletters. It was also brought up that lunch monitors are not trained in EpiPen administration. In addition, school bus drivers are not always aware of who on their bus has allergies.

ACTION: Jane will review the policy regarding training the lunch monitors and make sure that they do get trained. She will also ask Mme Samborski to order some new posters regarding signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis. In addition, Jane will review who is to inform the bus drivers of the children with allergies on their buses.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday February 10