

**École J.B. Mitchell School Minutes of the Parent Advisory Council
January 19, 2008, 7:00 pm in the School Library**

In Attendance

Call To Order: 7:05 pm

Correspondence: •Winnipeg's Children Festival •WSD Budget x3 •CPFx10 •South End Advisory Committee •CPF Application •CT Custom Meats & fundraising •Petro Canada Card price Changes

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve agenda. Moved by Seconded by Carried.

Approval of Minutes: Tabled to Next meeting. We will need to Approve January and November in February.

Introductions around the table.

Business Arising from the Minutes: will be reviewed in February

Treasurer's Report: As of January 19th 2009, the Reconciliation reports \$16,324.51. Our main expenses: Wish List and Smart Boards. Our Mutual funds are at \$12,000.00. Questions were raised regarding Pennies from heaven and Movie Night: 1. Where do the monies from Pennies from heaven? Answer: The monies from Pennies from heaven get directed towards the Christmas hampers provided. 2. Where is the \$700.00 from Movie Night? Answer: _____ will look into this and find out, As the money was deposited. Both monies deposited, from silver collection and Pennies from heaven. _____ will look into and get back to us.

Fundraising: Profits estimated from various invoices sent : \$2600 - \$2700. For next Fund Raiser we are looking at Bothwell Cheese and label. These fundraisers will be put together. The fundraiser will be after French Week. Epicure is a suggestion. _____ will e-mail them for a demonstration.

Hampers: 10 hampers provided, went well. Thanks for helping out with each class. Teachers liked the idea and the way it was put together.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report In discussion with _____, the Staff Appreciation Week will take place the week of March 9-13 to coincide with Winter Fun Day. It is also the week that the teachers are finished with their reports. They will be ready for some pampering! I know a few individuals volunteered to help me out with the planning of this event but if you could confirm this evening that would be great. Also if anyone else is interested please let the committee know ASAP. I will plan an evening of brainstorming at my house in February.

Movie Night: The Projector burnt. Discussion took place around the price of taking it up and down as it is very costly. Total bill to repair is \$700.00. 100.00 LCD to take up and down. 100.00 an hour / price of estimated. We would like to see the original bill. The vote was tabled to next meeting.

Hot dog Pizza lunch: 380.00 Treasurer's report.

French Advisory: In October, I attended The Canadian Parents for French – Manitoba Annual General Meeting. Most of the parents were from Manitoba towns outside of Winnipeg, except for myself and one other mom. The meeting made me appreciate that we have the option of French Immersion at our school. So many of the parents at the meeting have really fought to bring, and keep French Immersion at their schools, and they discussed their struggles and challenges at the meeting.

There was also a presentation by _____ at the meeting. He is an animation instructor at St. Boniface Collage, who grew up in the immersion system. He spoke of the advantages and opportunities that speaking French has provided him. Many of the people at the meeting were arranging field trips to St. Boniface Collage with _____, which I could inquire about if there were teachers interested here at the school. Another thing that was discussed at the meeting was how to get students excited about learning French. Some things that other schools have tried are French movie nights, French cafes, field trips to CBC Radio Canada, and field trips to St. Boniface.

At the meeting we were shown the French For Life DVD, which is quite well done. It is only 12 minutes long, and I think it would be effective if it was shown at the Nursery/Kindergarten Open House.

I have also been asked to talk about the report The State of French – Second – Language Education in Canada 2008. It is a very interesting report, which discusses some of the challenges and recommendations for French Immersion programs in Canada. The report shows that overall in Canada enrolment and demand for French Immersion is up. It also discusses that many provinces can not meet the demand for French Immersion. In British Columbia they have returned to Caps and Lotteries because they are unable to accommodate everyone who wants in to French Immersion. In Ontario, many students are unable to attend French Immersion programs, because the school boards will not provide transportation for students who need it.

Two of the main topics that were discussed in the report are if French Immersion is appropriate for “English as an Additional Language” students, who are at the same time also improving their English, and if French Immersion is right for students with Academic challenges. Both EAL students and students with Academic challenges are often discouraged from enrolling in French Immersion, and the report discusses research that has been done on both subjects. For the EAL students the research found that the French Immersion program can actually enhance their English skill development. For students with Academic challenges the research shows that they are not at a greater disadvantage in immersion then they would be in an English program, and if the appropriate support is provided, they can do well in French Immersion.

Motion: WE will Pay Canadian Parents for French. A 3 year membership at the price of \$60.00 1st: 2nd: Carried.

Playground Committee: First meeting: How about Wednesday January 28? The date can be flexible. If teachers, admin, and other working folks want to attend and need time, we could do 6:30pm. We will meet after school around 4:00pm. **Proposed Agenda:** 1: Discuss our vision. 2: View plans from another school (to give us some ideas). 3: View/approve open letters to daycares and wider community. 4: Discuss funding options. 5: Delegate research, if any. 6: Set next meeting. There has been a meeting scheduled. January 28/09 at 4:00 at the school. Babysitting will be provided by _____

I was also "chosen" to purchase a freezer. I have not done that yet.

South End Advisory: There is a meeting for February 23/09 and budget information will be provided and discussed. Comments/concerns have to be submitted in writing by Feb. 27/09. _____ will bring questions forward at the next South End Advisory meeting concerning the draft. Report is attached.

BBQ: Tabled to next meeting.

Lunch Program: _____ has been hired and accepted the position of director. Motion: To accept as the new Director of the Lunch Program. 1st: 2nd: Carried

Motion: To raise all supervisors salary's to the highest person's salary so that all supervisors make the same amount of money starting with next pay period, approximately \$13.00. _____ will provide the amount next month. 1st 2nd Carried. _____ acknowledge the work the parents do.

Administrator's Report:

- Letter from a parent at École Riverview regarding Hand Washing. Her concern is there are other products available. Would like us to review guidelines and procedures. Please read the letter and we will discuss at next meeting.
- Building projects: dropped ceilings not only due to the damage but was also a division project to be completed in our school. New sinks, taps and counter tops were installed in the girl's and boys washrooms, by the parking lot. The electrical upgrade was completed in the computer lab.
- Cameras: cameras to be installed for security reasons and supervision of activities, after school and on the weekends. We can buy additional cameras if needed later on, if needed. Several schools in the division are receiving the new cameras and our school is one of them.

- New Registrations: 33 since September 6, school affected by new Immigrants. No date given to us when they arrive. Child guidance and 2 Social workers and EAL working with families and programming within schools. There is also an Immigration Manitoba Liaison between families and schools. 6 schools have increasing number of immigrant and refugee families in the South District. The Child Guidance Clinic as well as the Winnipeg School Division are supporting these schools with the services of a social worker and a liaison specialized in working with EAL and immigrant families. One meeting was also held with the administrators of these schools and the various organizations in the community, to begin conversations pertaining to services and needs, so that we can work together to answer the needs of our students and families and provide them with after school activities and programming.
- Concours d'art oratoire is being hosted at J.B. Mitchell School, at school level is on Feb. 24/09, at Divisional level is on March 18/09.
- The school participated in Project Love. The funds will be used to provide African students with school supplies. Thank you for your cooperation.
- Deaf Awareness Day Assembly is Friday January 23. _____ will show video and Teach signs and multiple ways to communicate. Representatives from Manitoba school of the deaf.
- Spelling bee winner is _____.
- Staff – Wellness day at the Refit Centre on Jan. 30/09

New Business: _____ reported on 2 projects he has been working on with students. The first project is a Philanthropy group of 11 students and they are learning about giving and organizations based on interest. The second project is a butterfly garden in the front of the school by the Lanark & John Brebeuf entrance. Grants: \$500.00 ; Sustainability grant \$25.00 and another \$2500.00 estimated to a total of \$7500. Our timeline is by the end of spring. The building department has approved the garden. The benches required are \$400.00 each and we need six for a cost of \$2400.00. Watering is up to us in the summer and during the school year. Motion: PAC will support the butterfly garden and provide 6 park benches at a cost of 400.00 each bench for a total cost is \$2400.00. 1st : 2nd: Carried

Issue regarding cell phone use by staff. Cell phones are allowed and can be used but not during instructional time.

There has been a suggestion that Parent Council reserve the first 2 rows at concerts. Discussion took place and we will think about and bring back to PAC next meeting.

_____ asked PAC to be heard about AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators). Not on School Division Agenda and we have to follow the policies of W.S.D.. _____ will bring forward at South Council and report back to PAC. They are in other school divisions.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn at 9:01pm. By _____, Seconded by _____