

## **Horace Allen School**

School Council Meeting

September 28, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Teri Harrison, Catherine Graham, Michelle Collins, Kara Civitarese, Becky Giesler, Michele Pitt, Penny Warris, Jenny Wilmot, Katherine Mertz, Leah McNeil, Corinne Petrone, Tammy Penny, Myrna Dembicki, Jaime Reeve, Bonita Bourlon, Dick Peterson

1-1 Meeting called to order at 7:03

1-2 New Program Committee request, added to agenda (2-5)

1-3 Teri motions to accept the minutes, seconded by Leah, minutes accepted.

1-4 Introductions of parents, staff and board members attending the meeting

2-1 Board Positions: All board positions are currently filled, some positions are asking for some help. Anyone interested in Chairing Parent Council? No reply, Teri remains. Vice Chair, Leah McNeil will remain. Secretary, currently Catherine Graham, no one else interested, Catherine will remain. Fundraising; Michelle is willing to stay as Fundraiser Coordinator but would like assistance, because she can not attend meetings. Jaime reeve has volunteer to help with fundraising, Teri nominates, all in favor, motion carried. Hot lunch coordinator, neither are present, but both are able to remain. Teri nominates Kim and Sheri for hot lunch, all in favor, motion carried. Milk Coordinator, do not need one as Marianne is now doing it. We have half of a bulletin board at the school for updates and information. Parent Council has been taking pictures of things we are paying for and helping with (field trips, books, etc.) Penny Warris volunteers for that position "School Council News," Teri nominates, all in favor, motion carried.

2-2 Fundraising Budget: Michelle (fundraising coordinator) asked if we could allocate an annual budget of \$400 for walk-a-thon prizes prior to event to enable her to shop through the year for prizes. Motion to move \$400 to fundraising budget for prizes for walk a thon by Kara, seconded by Leah, all in favor Motion carried.

2-3 Art for Kindergartners: once a month art class, noted it is easier to hire Jaime for 1/2 day substitute fee for each class, full day between both kindergartner's per month, to allow Kindergartners to participate in the art class, Teri motions, seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Starting in October, on Friday's. Cost of that will be approximately \$1800.00 for the year.

2-4 Program Committee; Emails are coming to Teri from Elaine regarding programs to come into the school (i.e. puppet show, co-sponsoring a puppet residency, to spend time with each of the classes) There are more programs out there, that the school does not have the money for (i.e. Taekwondo, laughter yoga) looking for volunteers interested in looking into these programs to bring into the schools, (also into partnerships with ISS

to split costs). The intention is to research what we can bring in, also to research travel costs, accommodation, take a look at costs in general, work as a filter of programs to present to parent council, review incoming correspondence. Tammy volunteers to head the program committee. Parent Council normally covers 1/2 of the agenda's, handwriting without tears (workbooks), a book for each family as a school wide project reading at home (co-sponsoring with the school), field trips, \$5 per grade 3 student for a graduation field trip, much of the busing for field trips.

2-5 "Roots of Empathy" program needs funding for celebrating throughout the year, ie: presents for families, year end party etc. They are asking Parent Council to fund \$100 per class (4 classes) for added costs not covered by program, that usually come out of staff pockets. Michele Pitt motions for \$400 to go to "Roots of Empathy" program, Leah seconded, motion carried.

3-1 Bonita Bourlon- School Liaison, share position with ISS, starting to see the impact of her position and what the school supports. Discussed Kelso's Choices; have seen the rewards in that program at ISS. Healthy snacks, healthy activities, all programs compliment each other. Shared "Roots of Empathy" here, continue to have overwhelming response to the roots (developed by kindergartner teacher who saw the need to develop the need for empathy and celebrate differences). Program is based on bringing a family with a baby, once every 3 weeks, 9 themes, 3 components to that theme, Kim Lewis/ Tracy Linderman works with the program. We go into the classroom, set up theme, watch baby grow, play throughout entire school year. Children take ownership and extend empathy. Go over family visit and relate to the family, how to take care of yourself and plan. Empathy that we hear and see everyday that comes from the child, some from the child, but some from the program. The memories of the program last many years.

3-2 School hours of operation and morning supervision: Elaine would like Parent Councils help in helping people understand, in the mornings kids come to school no more than 15 minutes prior to school start. There is NO supervision available at school till 8:25. We need to help pass the word out that Elaine's job is to follow procedure, not determine the rules. For some people the new times are difficult, but school is not a daycare, it is an educational facility. While she feels for the parents, the school's obligation is not to provide daycare services. Non-profit agencies are welcome to setup a program, but the school will not be involved. Elaine feels for families who are struggling with the start time of school, but the situation is out of her hands. Families are inconvenienced by the start time of school. Can Jaime bring this need up to the Boys and Girls Club meeting to find out about before school care? Can Boys and Girls Club send out a survey to parents? One student walks to/from school everyday. School needs support of parents to understand their obligation to procedure.

3-3 Combined Class information; New for this school, blip with the numbers of grade 3's, class not chosen on academics, it was chosen based on what personalities will work well together and the needs of the kids. Myrna is familiar with combined classes, she is able to assess on each level, some schools choose combined grades as it offers different things for different kids. Class is very well planned and the benefits for kids are plentiful,

kids are having fun in the class while working hard. Copies are available of "Top 10 Questions Parents Have About Combined Grade Classes" digital copy may be available. Will be attached to the minutes when available. If this program is successful, is this something school will be interested in doing in the future? With funding, this may be in the future. 33 Grade 3 students, 39 Grade 2 students, 42 in Grade 1, some schools purposely did combined grade classes for the benefits, saw the future and saw what was happening in rural communities. It really is a numbers situation and how you can best meet the needs of the kids. Classroom community, combined class, not a split class environment. Main concept is taught, and then assignment is given to grade level.

3-4 Boy and Girls Club - tabled till next month.

4.1 School Report (Mrs. Garner) Attached

4.1.7 Open house, need to table (how open house can be improved by Parent Council. May 2010 agenda addition, open to suggestions)

4.2 Michele emailed Teri regarding the hoodies, Teri has price list from Chad, they are looking into doing hoodies this year. When we talked about hoodies, t-shirts and long sleeve shirts last year, idea of kids in art class doing a self portrait that would be optional to put on the back of the apparel. Tricky part is would be printing prior to Christmas. Email will be attached to the minutes.

4.3 Hot Lunch - first hot lunch will be October 15th, pizza, will be a Friday, notes will come home a week prior to hot lunch activity.

4.4 Teacher Representative; teachers perspective, September 4th teachers attended handwriting without tears, all teachers have now been oriented and now have a common approach. 15 minutes a day – handwriting more legible. Team meetings have started once a week, collaboration and assessments. Monday was an assembly for Literacy Day, based on “Recess Queen,” with activities around it. Inter school colaberation day is coming up. Teachers will be attending at out school or different schools in the distric., Parent Intake interviews coming up and Terry Fox Walk was a great success.

4.5 Trustee Report: Board Meeting on the 12th regarding passing legislation regarding borrowing money, community involvement plan to enhance community involvement, faces is a great program for grade 8 and 9 and parents can review of the program on the website. Enrollment update; not down as bad as we thought but have lost 3% of our students in the division, each year, for the last 12 years. Issues that come as a result of budget loss, conveyed sympathy to parents for the changes. Dick will be the trustee for the next 3 years. Regional school council meeting October (?) 25th.

4.6 Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m., next meeting **October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm (note time change)**

Attachments

Principal's Report  
September 28, 2010

1. Great start to school year - students happy to be back and teachers are working together in teams to develop assessment plans and long range plans for curriculum implementation.
2. New Staff: Myrna Dembicki; Assistant Principal and Gr. 2/3 teacher. Also new TAs: Deb Nye and Bonnie Sicluna.
3. Student numbers are about the same as last year: K- 44; Gr. 1 - 42; Gr. 2 39 and Gr. 3- 33. (158 total)
4. Breakfast Program is up and running again - kids come in from the bus and have a quick bite with Mrs. Venier and a TA (on rotation)
5. Mrs. Simpson, Ms. Dembicki/Mrs. Tarcon and Mrs. Margetak will be supporting PS1 students from the U of L starting in November.
6. Continue to address all bussing issues to Don Olsen or Dale Slade at CO / painted cross walk and change in after school bus loading has helped with congestion in the parking lot at the end of the day
7. Open House continues to have a 50-60% participation rate / would School Council be willing to look at making it a social evening for families?
8. Joey Michalski has provided staff with in-service on allergies and anaphylactic reactions. We have a number of students who carry epi-pens for severe allergic reactions.
9. Lockdown procedures have been discussed as a staff / a plan is almost ready for implementation / parents will be informed before the first lockdown. 3 lockdown practices and 6 fire drill practices are required each year.
10. Mrs. Tarcon and Mrs. Garner are working on the AISI report for 2009-10. Once completed, results will be shared with parents.
11. Whole School music is going well - Mrs. Pichurski and Mrs. Garner work as a team to deliver the music program. Students are enjoying it all! Will look at this delivery method again for next year if \$\$ continue to be tight.
12. AFA grant for puppet residency in April 2011 has been received.
13. Devon has sponsored a theater production on March 2, 2011 by Quest Theater.

Exerpts from E-mail from Michele re: Hoody/T-shirt Fundraiser

Here are the tentative prices on the "Horace Allen wear"

Chad quoted me from last year:

T-shirts: our cost \$12 retail \$20

Hoodies: our cost \$25 retail \$35

Sweatshirts: our cost: \$20 retail \$30

Long Sleeve T-shirt: our cost \$15 retail \$22.50

Chad would put the Horace Allen logo on the front and each individual child's hand drawn face of themselves would be put on the back (as he suggested) for the above prices. We discussed we would do about 2 or 3 samples up and display them in the school.

Jamie could have each child draw their faces in the next month or so during her art classes. If this is something the board wants to go ahead with, it would be something to present to families before Xmas. If extra embroidery is requested (ie. Name of child on sleeve, back, etc), I'm sure Chad could provide that option with extra pricing or any other add'ons people would want.