

**George Peck School Council Meeting Minutes
December 3rd, 2014**

Attendance :

Stacey Dinadis, Elaine Suessmuth, Lois Concannon, LJ Race, Mark De Soysa, Olena Plouskas, Carol Krastins, Veronica Servellon, Kristine Perikleous, Doris Skrivanos, Melissa Logan, Rebecca Meng Qing, Sabo Uyanik

Review of previous minutes: Approved

Principal's Report:

School Improvements

- classrooms all received gym equipment this past week
- Thursday December 4th anytime between 8:00 am to 4:00 pm the **final electrical inspections** for the solar project will take place and construction should be completed by the New Year
- music department is giving us two flutes, a trumpet and a clarinet (with cases – approx. \$378 each); an additional \$444 for repairs (for filling out inventory in November)
- \$1 000 from school discretionary budget to provide outdoor educational toys for our Kindergarten children (staff are making picks and manual will be given to School Council chair for advisement and approval)

School Safety

- November 25 at 10:00 AM Bruce Day and Gail Bornstein (TDSB Sustainability Office Grounds Standard Design & Strategic Building and Renewal) – Sept. 29 sent email regarding application for a consultation (permitted only one per five years);
- sand was removed from Kindergarten area and was replaced by mulch; sandbox to return at a future date TBD in a better location where the sand can be better contained
- introducing Tom Kerr, Caretaking Team Leader to address community concerns around sand...
- tree replanting should be done in Fall (qualify for 1-1 replacement – don't have to wait... does Council want me to go ahead and have it ordered?);
- Caring and Safe Schools Committee met on Dec. 1 – excellent representation of school Community (each member was given a copy of our School Climate Survey and we examined areas where and how we can improve – student reps on it too) and ways to build a positive school climate; next meeting is Feb. 16, 2015;
- Parking – have one parent who has volunteered for Mondays at lunch – it is a start! Sign should be coming soon – ordered in November.

FYI

- Pest Control – ORKIN last in Nov. 27. The following areas were serviced: Boiler Room, Day Care Kitchen, Staff Room and Staff Room Kitchen; no known sightings reported to me.
- Spirit Day is December 4 - TWIN DAY!

Staffing update and Enrolment

- Robert Shields is the LTO (long term occasional) Teacher in for Mrs. Lockwood for the rest of this year. He has taken on the Leadership for Equity within the school along with Grade 8 student, Erica Templeton. Days of Significance are regularly announced and recognized.

Parent Engagement

- Pick date(s) and time(s) for workshops. “Building Resiliency” 6:00 workshop by Toronto Public Health Nurse, Angela Anderson, frontloading School Council Meeting on Mon., Jan. 26. Grade 1 to 3 students will have an accompanying workshop in the PM on Jan. 27.

We still have time...

• Team up for Green

1. Parents can go online and find your school in the dropdown menu and click it and sign up for online services and coupons.
2. The number of board-wide responses are tallied and the TDSB gets credit for each.
3. When TDSB reaches its goal, Toronto Hydro will donate up to \$250,000 towards 500 new bike racks.

HERE'S HOW EASY IT
IS TO PARTICIPATE:

1. Go to TeamUpForGreen.com
2. Make sure to have your Toronto Hydro account number handy
3. Sign up for one or all three green programs and services

Not a Toronto Hydro customer? You can still participate! Download coupons and ask friends and family to sign up for green programs and services.

Extra-Curricular...

- Grade 8 fundraising money (last year's and this year's) – helping local families, Hope 4 Help (100% of donations used directly towards charity; i.e., no administrative fees), set of e-Readers for Library
- Girls`club bake sale raised over \$400 to go towards SickKids Holiday Hamper baskets (certificate received for Sending a Girl to School last year)
- Homework Club
- Knitting Club
- Boys to Men starting in New Year (Gr. 4 to 6)
- Boys Basketball starting up
- Badminton in the New Year
- Scrabble Club
- Little Jammers (final session moved to Tues., Dec. 12 at lunch and will stay to perform for the Primary students at the SOTM assembly)

Kindergarten Playground:

Guest Tom Kerr (TDSB Caretaking Team Lead). Mike Thompson (TDSB Caretaking Team Lead) sends his regrets that he couldn't attend. Tom has spoken to Mike and is aware of the issue of the sand. Tom informed us that the time allocated in a day for caretakers duties are limited and there is no time to sweep the sand thoroughly in the kindergarten playground. Parent council has expressed concerns about the outdoor duties not getting done. Due to a recent injury resulting from the poorly maintained sand, it has been removed and replaced with wood chips as a temporary solution. Tom said that if there are any issues, it can be brought to his and/or Mike's attention. Concern was expressed that wood chips are being thrown by the children and could also result in injuries (to eyes, etc). As an alternative solution, the question as to why the day care playground can't be used was brought up again. It needs to be investigated as it hasn't been officially confirmed either way what the reason is. Tom mentioned the daycare has a permit for that space. Details of the permit are unknown. Stacey

Mitchner is investigating and Lois will let us know what the result of it is. Questions were brought up regarding the garden. Why the caretakers don't take care of the garden? Tom reiterates the lack of time. In addition, there have been cutbacks and there is not enough money for flowers.

Frustrations have been expressed regarding the grass not getting cut during the summer. Mike knows about the grass and has become proactive in dealing with the issue. Tom will let Mike know about the discussions we had.

Dates for council meetings are as follows:

January 26 - anxiety workshop presentation (6:00 p.m) & meeting (6:30) February 25, April 20

Dates set for Pizza lunches:

January 22, February 20, March 13, April 17, May 15

Volunteer Tea: May 20 during the lunch hour

Treasure's Report:

Sunsweet did well. \$5400 gross, with a profit of \$2553. The last pizza lunch made a profit of \$241.71. Total balance in the bank is \$3385.15. There were some kids very late in bringing in the chocolate money. For next year, we may have to ask those families for the money for chocolates in advance. We want to have the chocolate fundraising earlier next year. Ending just before thanksgiving. There is no coin charge at the bank.

Pizza Lunch update:

Kris asked that it is highlighted, in the next newsletter, the importance of sending pizza money with completed pizza form. Forms are coming to school incomplete. The idea of changing the format of the form was considered. Instead of "room number" replace with "teacher's name".

Fundraising Goals:

- Team jerseys. We have to find out how much it will cost.
- We can ask for donations of books.
- Gardening tools - hedge trimmers
- Baseball equipment for the baseball team
- We will buy a trombone - majority voted in favour

Other items:

- Star Frampton is a member of the community and wants to join parent council. Vote is unanimous in favour.
- Concerns about the 10 minutes difference in dismissal time for kindergarten students were brought up. It was suggested that the kindergarten kids can remain inside. There are issues regarding the union, and student safety.
- It was noticed that the plaque for "Highest Fundraisers" was taken down and missing since June. Lois will order another one.
- One change room was cleaned out and completely organized. Bbq's will be moved. Volleyball net still missing.