



AGINCOURT SCHOOL COUNCIL

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<http://asc.ncf.ca>

School Council Meeting January 19, 2010

Attendance: Shirley Brackenbury, Beth Doering, Penny Mayo, Lynne Sylvestre, Julie Parker, Janet Li, Michelle Demery, Shauna Lafrance, Keri White, Teresa Williamson, Michele Demery, Gina Bies, Norah Vollmer, Lisa Verdi, Sonia Simoneau, James McDowell, Brenda St. Jean, Michelle Linnane, Nathan Speedie

Welcome and Introduction.

- **Minutes of November, 2009 meeting** approved with clarification that there will be no extra money added to parent involvement account

Ratification of Exec and Elections

Treasurer	Janet Li	Approved
Parent Involvement Rep	Norah Vollmer	Approved

Presentation from Canada Homestay International

- works with the school board to place high school students in Canada to learn a second language in homes
- Canada Homestay is not part of the Board but rather an independent organization
- duration of stay varies from 2 weeks to 10 months
- enriching experience for international student and host family
- application through the Board to screen the students and host recruitment process
- support is provided to the students and the host family
- Homestay Int'l is asking to send a newsletter home with students and if there is enough interest, host an information session
- For more information – [Http://Canadahomestayinternational.com](http://Canadahomestayinternational.com)

Treasurer Report – Janet

- From Sept – Dec the Council has raised \$20, 668.00 (net after expenses)
- \$500 for parental involvement
- Expenses (including school trips, various activities, math kits etc.) - \$16,873
- \$2000 committed as the float
- Available funds of \$6, 261.68

Principal Report – Shirley Brackenbury

Message from Grade 5 girls

- Would like to donate 50% of this month's popcorn profits to an organization that will help Haitian earthquake victims. Some families in the school have been affected by this disaster.
- This month's profit from sales was \$300
- Cost of grade 5 trip (funded out of popcorn sales) – approx \$1,600
- Children have also brought money to school to donate to Haiti
- If Council donates to Haiti, will this set a precedent for other causes?
- Suggested that the sales of the next popcorn day be donated

District review

- School board was in school last Friday
- Purpose was to see if Board initiatives have been implemented. This was an initial meeting and to review documentation.
- Board will return on Feb 22nd for entire day, go into classrooms, talk to children, look for elements related to literacy, character education etc.
- Board will prepare a visual and present a report of findings
- Assists with future planning to move forward

Schools on the Move

- Math and literacy lead teachers have gone to conferences
- Teachers have gone to three-step problem solving approach to math workshops

Report cards

- No November report card next year, only progress reports
- Takes time to get to know children and write a representative report
- Progress report will not have a grade associated with subjects
- More info from the Ministry is forthcoming

Transfers

- New guidelines around transfers
- It is now a conversation between principal of receiving school and sending school

Full day kindergarten

- Full day kindergarten will be provided at Pinecrest, Gowling and St. Daniels
- Will have to see if it has an impact on school population

SoftMoc

- SoftMoc is doing a shoe collection for Haiti
- Teachers will send a note home with students

Budget binder

- School has started to spend arts budget from Council (Rag and Bone presentations, math manipulatives, microscope, all classes will have Scientists in the School, special events – hot chocolate for winter play day etc.)

Chief custodian

- Asks older students to help with utility audits every Thursday
- Children bring a note home seeking permission

Other Announcements

- Shirley has decided to retire in June

Vice-Principal - Beth Doering

School Improvement

- Established by a team
- Set a smart goal related to linear measurement including area and perimeter for older children
- Early assessment found that 30% of children achieved level 3 and 4
- This was followed by 6 weeks of teaching after which 70% of children met the required level
- Now turning to Smart goal 2 – still in discussion stage
- Focus may be on “author’s intent” (e.g. why did the author write this piece? What is the message?)
- Smart goal will be set Jan 29th

School Supplies

- Possibility of school-wide school levy is being explored (\$20) for bulk purchase of school supplies. It was decided that this won’t work.
- Will pursue direction taken last year with a few tweaks – focus on environment (e.g. not buy a ruler every year). This will involve adding to the kit as child progress, purchasing fewer duotangs etc.
- Agendas – are these being used effectively? Heavy for children to carry home, waste of paper
 - Shirley will bring issue back to staff

Teacher Report – (James, Lyne)

- Character development initiative at Agincourt has been successful. It is generating discussion in the classroom and children are adopting the vocabulary.
- Teachers support the donation of popcorn sales to support Haiti
- French public speaking students – finalists from gr 4-5 will be competing in finals on Feb 10 and represent school in division finals
- Students will be participating in dance, Scientists in the School,
- Earth Care – students will take place in 2 initiatives by Earthday Ottawa – cloth bag design and Waste to gold – make a useful item with items normally thrown out
- House league basketball in Dec for grades 4-5 a success
- House league volleyball underway

- Mr. Cesario has an open gym on Fridays – new sport every week
- House league broomball underway for grade 3 students
- Julie Breeze – Drama club’s upcoming performance – Great Scientists of the Past
- Computer microscope was purchased to magnify images to the size of a film screen
- Jump Rope for Heart is coming up in April – tryouts for jump rope team underway
- Story telling for grades 1-3 underway – children tell a story in front of the group (in English)

Events Coordinator – Julie

- Book sale – April 12-15 - Coordinator is needed by mid February for this event to proceed
- Agincourt’s 50th Anniversary – Brenda Wilkins is requesting \$500 for a shadow box of items, morning announcement music and trivia and BBQ and other small initiatives that may require funding – all to support the 50th Anniversary
 - Penny will get more information from Brenda– a decision may be made to use Chair’s discretionary funds

Volunteer Coordinator – Jodi Bodkin (no report this month)

OCASC Report – Norah

- Minutes available on the OCASC web site

Correspondence and New Business – Penny Mayo

School Photos

- Life Touch will provide everything they did last year
- Need to buy the packages when you see the pictures

Administration Request for Funds

- Teachers are putting their lists together
- Will likely request more money for literacy

Parent Involvement - Norah

PRO Grant – have applied for \$1,000 but do not yet know if we have received anything

- 3 initiative:
 - Curriculum night
 - Speaker – planned speaker is no longer accepting speaking engagements but other suggestions have been made
 - Multicultural night – could be incorporated with BBQ
- Do we go ahead with these initiatives if we don’t get the grant?

Curriculum night proposal – Literacy Night

- Draft proposal presented
- Tentative date is March 4th

- Request is for \$850.00 to plan evening and reading bags for each family
- As we don't know if PRO grant will be received, do we want to proceed with the event? Event will proceed regardless of whether grant is received and will be tailored to the level of funds available (\$500 or \$500 + grant)
- Next year's Council will consider setting aside \$1,000 for parent involvement at the beginning of the year

FundScript (Gina Bies)

- Proposed fundraiser involving selling giftcards (e.g. Loblaws), school receives a percentage back
- FundScript and Shop and Support were compared, it was found that Shop and Support didn't provide as much support
- Both companies ship cards to a central point for distribution and school must decide how cards will be distributed to purchaser
- School can decide how often the cards are purchased
- This could be considered in place of the Entertainment Books next year
- It is proposed to try this once this school year (mid April). If there is interest, it can be made available on a more regular basis
- Accounts can be set-up to raise money for specific initiatives

Votes

Vote for Council to donate \$150 to support Haitian disaster relief – **PASSED BY GENERAL VOTE**

Vote for Council to provide to administration for \$3,500 for literacy (general fund) – **PASSED BY GENERAL VOTE**

Vote to trying FundScript as a one-time initiative – **PASSED BY GENERAL VOTE**

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Next meeting will be Tuesday February 16, 2010.