



AGINCOURT SCHOOL COUNCIL

1250 Agincourt Road • Ottawa, ON • K2C 2J2 • (613) 225-2750
<http://asc.ncf.ca>

School Council Meeting November 17, 2009

Attendance: Heather Esdon, Beverly Doraty, Julie Parker, Norah Vollmer, Janet Li, Gina Bies, Lawrie Wymark, Shauna Lafrance, Sonia Simoneau, Fariba Amjadi, Jewel Lau, Jodi Bodkin, Lisa Verdon, Jane Chisholm, Penny Mayo, Tony Maer, Arlene Seletaria-Childs

Welcome and Introduction.

Minutes of October 20, 2009 meeting approved without amendments.

New Business – Penny Mayo

- Consider adding “Fundscript” as a fundraiser

Treasurer Report – Jewel Lau

- Janet Li is replacing Jewel as Treasurer.
- Vote passed in favour of Janet as Treasurer – Vote to be ratified at next meeting.
- Financial statements were circulated outlining the following information:
 - Walkathon profit was \$9,647.00
 - Entertainment book sales brought in profit of \$5,084.51
 - Halloween Dance - \$8.64 profit
 - Lunch lady has earned profit of \$175.35 so far
 - Pizza/sub lunches \$4337.84 deposited so far after expenses
 - Popcorn sales have raised profit of \$25 so far – 3 more popcorn sales have been committed to at this time
 - Total balance currently at \$22,282.99 (including \$2,000 float)
- Owing at this time: Internet bill
- 1500 to hot lunches
- 200 for math kits
- OCASC membership dues – Norah checking into

Principal Report – Shirley Brackenbury

- HINI – illness seems to be on the downward slope – even during peak outbreak periods where upwards of 60 children were away daily - no official cases have been confirmed
- Staff levels have been maintained so far
- Additional cleaning has been done at the school.

- School has heard of no official plans for school age vaccination program (in the school). School is asking parents to inform the school if their child has been vaccinated – little extra TLC if necessary (sore arm etc.)
- Portable is up and running – kids are happy to be there
- Library is back in operation – Library Lynn is now back at Agincourt working full weeks, every other week, to catch up on the time owed to us when the Library was out of service
- Classes will now be able to use the library for 1 hour. Last year was not uncommon to see 3 classes in at a time, only able to do book exchanges. This new format will help the library experience to be a positive one with time for reading, research etc.
- Recent PA days were a success. Focus was on special education – “Education for All” being revised as “Learning for All”. Discussions were on how to modify programs for children with special needs (e.g. ADHD, learning difficulties etc.) through strategies, organizational skills, graphics etc.
- Kelly Smyth and Erin Hines attended full day workshop in Kingston on assisting kids with special needs in math. Bansho (group problem solving) presentation demonstrating different ways to approach problems while learning from each other. Kelly and Erin led the Agincourt staff through a demonstration of the exercise.
- Report cards going home November 30. Interview requests will also be going home with interviews planned for the evening of December 3 and morning of December 4. Request was made to include home to parents the explanation of the report cards using the biking analogy.
- Parents of French immersion students are asked to specify if they would like to see the English teacher. English teacher will sit in on interviews where there are big concerns
- Notice has been posted in the school of 1 reported case of Fifth’s Disease – there is a specific danger to pregnant women and it is the Board’s policy to notify

Vice-Principal - Beth Doering

- Working on school supplies – setting up a committee (Council will be asked to contribute)
- This month’s theme is Respect. Assembly being held on the 27th on empathy - “walking in someone else’s shoes”.
- Cheer challenge – Agincourt has been challenged by another school for a “cheer off” to be held at the assembly
- Ekokids spirit day is “Twin day”
- Council member asked if parking lot was going to be paved/potholes filled in – it’s being looked into.
- Lights in the parking lot – issue of them not coming on early enough is being looked in
- Tony Young, Custodian is leaving the school for a leadhand role at a highschool. No word yet on who will be replacing him
- Council will write an official Thank you letter for him to include in his portfolio (along with a Tim Horton’s gift card) – Penny will draft. Vote passed to purchase gift card.

Council Report – Penny Mayo

School Photos

- Photos are not yet in. There was some confusion regarding photo days and some things Carpe Diem had promised us, they could not follow through on. Some parents were not impressed with this year's proofs.
- Life Touch was suggested as an alternative. While pictures have to be ordered in advance, there is a retake feature and a sibling program is offered across Agincourt/Putnam

Action: Penny will explore whether Life Touch could provide us with an earlier photo date (early after Oct 1 when all classes are set) as well as a family picture night.

- Assuming they provide the same services as Carpe Diem, vote passed to change photographers to Life Touch for 2010-11 school year.

Council Funds – Accounts

- Penny presented a proposal on dividing up Council monies into “accounts”. Proposed accounts were as follows (with suggested amounts based on last years figures – to be confirmed when actual monies are available – spreadsheet available upon request)
 - Alternative Learning - \$960
 - Art – 1,600
 - Council Operations/Events – \$1,600
 - Literacy – \$9,920
 - Misc. - \$1,600
 - Numeracy - \$4,480
 - Parent Outreach - \$1,000 (as per amendment – see below)
 - School Beautification – \$1,600
 - Science - \$3,200
 - Special Events - \$3,840
 - Sports - \$1,600
- Council would vote the funds into the account and then monies would be spent at the discretion of the school administration.
- Plan would be flexible in that monies could be moved around even after allocated to an account if warranted and agreed to by Council
- Issue of Council monies being used to buy textbooks was raised. It was noted that through allocations to literacy, Council has bought many books. Idea is that Council enriches programs, school buys the textbooks.
- Question on misc category – this would be things like the 50th anniversary celebrations
- Suggestion was made to put aside \$1,000 to Parent Outreach account. This category usually receives at least 500 in grant money. Vote passed to accept Account categories presented and suggested amounts per account (with amendment of putting \$1,000 in Parent Outreach).

Teacher Report

- Report on behalf of Mr. Paris stated that \$52.63 was raised at the Halloween dance for Unicef. He is working on a “Spread the Net” fundraiser (buying malaria nets for developing countries). Details to follow.

Events – Julie Parker

Gingerbread House Workshop – Penny

- Numbers of registrants is very low. 50 registrants is cut off to go forward. Reminder will be sent to students. If event is cancelled, money will be sent back home. Michelle Demery will make the call to proceed based on final registrants.

Entertainment Book – Julie

- 360 books were sold. Not a lot of work for money generated. Issue was raised of “opting out” of prize feature (students get a prize with every book sold). Issue deferred to future meeting.
- Vote passed to proceed with entertainment book for next year

50th Anniversary

- Committee struck and first meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 19.

Halloween Dance

- Raised \$52.63 and donations for foodbank
- Only 1 volunteer for dance set-up, numerous volunteer issues. Officially thank Scott Esdon for music. Suggested that in future, dance is promoted as a Unicef fundraiser.

OCACS Report – Norah Vollmer

- Next meeting, November 19. Discussions being held on issue of Board releasing more money for lunch monitors/supervision time. Agincourt did not apply for more monies because we don't have an issue with this. Every teacher can, by contract, have 80 minutes only of supervisory time. Some smaller schools require additional funds to augment their staff with community members.
- Updating anaphylaxis policy – push is on for adult supervision during lunch – this is being presented to trustees for discussion

Parental Involvement – Janet Li

- No word on grant approval. Norah to investigate

Volunteer Coordinator – Jodi Bodkin (no report this month)

New Business – Penny Mayo

- Full day kindergarten – up to 35,000 students in 2010, by 2015-16 plan is to be fully implemented.
- No word on any impact to Agincourt at this time.
- New webmaster (David Hunter) for Council website.

Action: Penny asked Council for any thoughts on how to market our site (what's on ours vs. the school's site). Contact Penny with any input.

Fundschrift Fundraiser – Gina Bies

- Fundraiser concept is gift cards being purchased and school getting a percentage of monies sold. Questions were raised on how cards purchased would get home (they are delivered to the school); whether online ordering is available and how much shipping charges (to ship cards to school) would be. Concern expressed regarding

fundraiser fatigue – would have to be careful of timing. Suggestion of a survey on Council website asking for preference of fundraising activities (e.g. Fundscript vs. Entertainment book)

Action: Gina to gather more information and present at January Council meeting.

Votes

- Vote to change photographers to Life Touch for 2010-11 school year (assuming they provide the same services as Carpe Diem) – **PASSED BY GENERAL VOTE.**
- Vote to accept Account categories presented and suggested amounts per account (with amendment of putting \$1,000 towards Parent Outreach) – **PASSED BY GENERAL VOTE**
- Vote to proceed with Entertainment Book fundraiser for 2010-11 year – **PASSED BY GENERAL VOTE**
- Vote in favour of Janet Li assuming position as Council Treasurer – **PASSED BY GENERAL VOTE** - to be ratified at next meeting.
- Vote in favour of Norah Vollmer assuming position of Parent Involvement representative – **PASSED BY GENERAL VOTE** - to be ratified at next meeting.

Requests for money

1. Vote to approve purchase of Tim Horton's gift card for Tony Young (custodian) – **PASSED BY GENERAL VOTE**
2. Votes to distribute \$15,000 (actual monies) into set "Accounts" for use at the discretion of school administration):
 - a. \$1,600 into Events account – **PASSED BY GENERAL VOTE**
 - b. \$3,500 into Literacy account – **PASSED BY GENERAL VOTE**
 - c. \$3,500 into Numeracy account – **PASSED BY GENERAL VOTE**
 - d. \$1,600 into Sports account – **PASSED BY GENERAL VOTE**
 - e. \$3,200 into Science account – **PASSED BY GENERAL VOTE**
 - f. \$1,600 into Art account – **PASSED BY GENERAL VOTE**

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next meeting will be Tuesday January 19, 2010.