

Minutes

Davisville JPS / MTSD School Council

Tuesday, March 29th, 2011

6:45 – 8:00 PM

TLC Conference Room, 3rd Floor

In attendance were the executive council: Rob McCreedy and Sherry Giles (co-chairs) Nancy MacDonald (treasurer) and Tanya Murdoch (secretary)

Tricia Boyce (principal) and Leah Brand-Jacobsen (teacher representative) were in attendance with the principal's report

Also attending were the following parents:

Meredyth Hilton ,John Hiddema, Sarah Miller, Wendy Crawford, Victor diRisio

Proposed outline:

1. Principal's report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Fun Fair Planning and 150th Anniversary Celebration
4. Council Voting Rules
5. Building & Land Use Committee Report
6. Website update
7. Spectrum update
8. Class Parent Update

Meeting convened at 6:50.

Meredyth Hilton is organizing school T-shirts to be printed and we had a discussion about how forms would go out and information would be passed on. Order forms would be sent out early the next week to be returned by the 8th of April to Meredyth. A small profit on the T-shirts would go back to school council, but prices would be kept affordable.

Nancy MacDonald gives the Treasurer report first, as she has to leave early. \$18,000 in bank this year to date, with \$6000 of that spent, owed or committed already. \$4000 is slated to cover expenses for pizza, graduation, recess balls, school dance and banner... Our only major fundraiser left this year is the fun fair, but depending on how much it raises, we are left with a limited balance in reserve to carry over and support the following years' programs (scientists in school, theatre groups, bus transportation, school trips, skate night, Carnaval etc...)

Next, the Principal's Report delivered by our principal, Tricia Boyce. First, she wished to thank all the volunteers, especially those who volunteered to help make *Carnaval* such a success. Enrollment projections are in, but still unofficial. 2 classes of Grade 2 French Immersion will be added next year, so there will be 2 new teachers hired in that program, Spectrum will come in as a separate school within our school, with 62 kids and their own teachers and support staff. Possibly there will be a staggered lunchtime to accommodate the extra kids. In the English stream there are 3 full teachers for grades 1-3, and probably two full teachers for grades 4-6.

Based on the projected enrollment, we have been given two exemptions to the cap of 20 in grades 3 and under, which will probably be used to allow 2 SK classes of 23 in French Immersion. Here are the *projected* enrollment numbers:

JK/SK 19x2, 20x1

Grade 2: 18x2

Grade 3 18

Grade 4 19x2

Grade 5/6 23

French immersion: 23x2 SK (with exemptions granted)

Grade 1 18x2

Grade 2 17x2

Deaf/hard of hearing program expected to remain. No vice principal projected, despite the heavy administration load. Positions for at least two new teachers to be posted for French Immersion in April or May.

Some discussion of split grades- normal for English stream, but not for French Immersion, due to curriculum and need to balance class sizes.

Proposed dress code circulated and discussed. It will be posted in a public place for perusal and discussion. It includes not just dress but also banning electronic devices such as cell phones and games on school property.

Architect Toni Ross met with the principal to discuss renovations to the school over the summer. Changes include: converting the library back to a library, moving the computer lab to room 201, and re-carpeting everything in the library. The Deaf/hard of hearing summer school program will be housed elsewhere over the summer this year while renovations are happening.

Snack program is very successful, we have gotten extra funding to extend program to Fridays. Extra volunteers needed to cover this extra load, especially on Thursday and Fridays. Contact the office.

Leah Brand-Jacobsen then gave a report as teacher representative. At last meeting of school council, council requested that the teachers be canvassed and give council a prioritized request for funds. Leah said that her research showed that the teachers' priority was to have a dance teacher and art teacher come in to supplement that part of the school curriculum, and that teachers had been located and sourced.

The dance teacher would give 4 sessions to every class grades 1-6 over three weeks March 29th-April 8th, \$300/day x 5 days, \$1500 total. A similar arrangement has been made with an art teacher, also for \$1500, for an art program that would run April –mid May. The school requested that school council cover ,or supplement these costs with our fundraising. No decision was made.

Another suggestion from Leah for spending was for helmets for skating... all helmets must be CSA approved for all children for school skating trips. A suggestion was made that this could be a special fundraising effort, and concern that these helmets are expensive and must be replaced every few years to maintain their CSA approval, but no one sure if this is actually the case.

The Principal's report continued with a security update. Doors are now all locked except the front door. This will be locked during school hours starting in late April. A notice will be sent out to let parents know in the newsletter.

Some upcoming dates: March 31st is math night, Spring concert on May 26th, EQAO testing for grades 3 & 6 the week of June 6-10th, graduation June 27th, June 29th the last day of school.

Fun Fair Report (Sherry Giles): 2010 was the 150th anniversary of Davisville PS, and it passed without fanfare SO to rectify this, and as we are still technically in the 2010-2011 year, we will have some sort of acknowledgement/celebration as part of the fun fair. Our principal has volunteered to conduct tours of the school (thanks Tricia) and there will be a banner and cake. A few parents thought that perhaps Edie Shaw had done some research, perhaps written a book about the school's history (she did, with her daughter and classmates, as part of a school project, and there should be a copy in the library), staff will form a committee for the celebration, Shirley and Ian ? offered office support. The need for a parent committee was raised, but no one said they would chair it. Sherry said that Reh [Rhomborg- Stevenson [bucker@sympatico.ca]] was interested in organizing something more around the anniversary.

Magician has been hired, and the next Fun Fair meeting is on Thursday April 14th in the staff room (first floor, east wing of the building)

Rob McCready gives a report on the council voting rules around BLU (building and Land Use Committee)... no definitive report, but the concerns raised at last school council meeting were about open vote vs. limited votes on adopting the recommendations of the BLU committee, whatever they are. Rob discussed these concerns with BLU committee, and he still recommends open vote. The cons are that uninformed crowd could vote down considered recommendations of the committee. But the risk is that committee wastes it's time, not that other recommendations overtake the well thought out ones, as vote is either "yes" or "not now..."

BLU committee report delivered by Wendy Crawford (co-chair of BLU committee)... time spent getting organized, discussed voting, and developed protocol for voting on committee. Voting members must meet once a month. If member misses 3 meetings in a row, they may be asked to step down. Committee is very transparent and communication to larger school body will be done in three ways:

1. Website for council (now under construction) will include BLU information
2. Class parent list used to send out information
3. There will be a presence at curriculum night, school gatherings

The committee is waiting now on information/ input from the school board. Next meeting is TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2011 6:45-8:00pm, doors open 6:30-7:15.

Rob noted that he had talked to our trustee, Shelley Laskin, last week and she said that the trustees were concerned about the committee getting out ahead of the board, but he pointed out that the committee will work out the issues of the school in advance and will be able to actually contribute to the process once the board gets its end together. Also, the process was officially started in 2009 when the superintendent Chris Spence assured all involved, as part of the ARC process, that a Memorandum of Understanding would have to be reached by the board, the school and the community before anything could move ahead with development on the property, so we were just holding up our end. AND, despite working on this diligently since December, we are still working out procedural issues.

Website report (Rob and John) it is up, though still under construction. Rob has registered a few sites: www.davisvilleparents.com , www.davisvilleparents.ca

They will have link to contact class parent liaison on the site as well.

Class Parent report delivered by Tanya Murdoch. The system is up and working, more or less. Class parents represent all classes, including the deaf/HH/intensive program, with the exception of Ms. Chong's class, and Ms. Rawlinson's afternoon class, but Milli Amato has said that she will work with Tanya to get Ms. Chong's class on board.

Meeting adjourned on time at 8pm.