

## **St. Anselm School Council Advisory Meeting MINUTES**

### Date & Time of Meeting

Feb, 25<sup>th</sup> 2015

6:30pm – 8:30pm

### **ATTENDEES:**

CSAC: Bronwyn Gray, Rodolfo Lucero, Annie O’Leary, Leila Harwood, Ed Abdou, Bernadrdo Blum, Frank Spizzirri, Ryan Edwards, Christine Taylor

Richard Walo, Bernadette Connally, Greg Doody, Michelle Raino, Stepahnie Dunn, Stephen Moore, Azenith Villalobos, Carl Anthony, Jenn Anthony, Greg Zimmer, Barrig Hayward, Courtney O’Leary  
Kindergarten play area advisor: Karen Dobrucki

### **WELCOME & PRAYER**

Mr. Walo welcomed parents and an opening prayer was said.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA & previous minutes**

*On a motion made by Rodolfo Lucero and seconded by Ed Abdou, the evening’s agenda was approved.*

*On a motion made by Rodolfo Lucero and seconded by Bronwyn Gray, the previous CSAC session minutes were approved.*

### **BUDGET UPDATE (RODOLFO LUCERO)**

- Final payment was issued to school for the enrichment program.
- Basketball nets were installed (Budget: \$4,500, Final: approx. \$5,500 after rebate)
- Last year, CSAC funded laptops & projectors for each classroom. Mr. Walo has requested that we purchase 5 additional projectors (\$2,500) to ensure that all classrooms continue to have these fantastic resources.
  - *On a motion made by Rodolfo Lucero, CSAC voted and approved to purchase of 5 additional projectors for \$2,500.*

### **SPRING FUNDRAISER (Bronwyn Gray)**

- New date & location: Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> in the St. Anselm school yard.
- Silent auction - We will be requesting donations from parents/community members.
- In place of an entrance fee, each class will have a themed basket, which will be auctioned off to raise funds.
- Inviting all parents, new FDK families, community leaders and Sarah’s Food Drive.
- Communication to be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

### **KINDERGARTEN PLAY AREA COMMITTEE (ED ABDOU)**

- The committee had been meeting in recent months to address our need for a safe, non-muddy kindergarten play area.
- On solution is to do half rubberized surface, half turf. This may not be the best solution. First, the cost is at minimum \$21K. Secondly, if we want to add anything later (i.e. play structure) the entire surface would need to be torn up and reinstalled.

- Karen Dobrucki, Evergreen School Ground consultant for the TDCSB, has been consulted to propose a layout and joined the CSAC meeting to review her recommendations.
- During the discussion, Mr. Walo indicated that St. Anselm will introduce a staggered recess in 2015/2016. This will allow for Kindergarten students to access the primary student play area in addition to the existing FDK designated play area.
- Summary of Karen’s presentation/recommendations:
  - TCDSB is promoting play-based and experiential learning for FDK, which suggests a play area should incorporate multiple learning areas rather than one large area for running and playing.
  - Considerations when designing: Art/sensory zone, construction/manipulative zone, quiet zone, sheltered spaces (25% coverage, with a preference for trees over man-made shade) social/dramatic play zone, physical play zone, storage
  - Karen shared multiple images to show concepts that have been recommended. Some of the specifics include:
    - 3m x 4m sand pit at SE corner with a trellis for shade
    - Play panels with chalk boards, paint, etc.
    - Stage or playhouse for imaginative play in SE corner
    - Seating logs, tables, log stepping stones
    - Tractor tire filled with dirt
    - Water play structure(s)
    - Horizontal rock climbing along school wall
    - Galvanized planters to create gardens
  - The number of “zones” within the yard can be pared down from the proposed recommendation for budgetary reasons and/or to address the concern of having too many “zones” in a small space. A number of parents expressed their concerns about limiting the available space for running and playing.
  - Surfacing
    - Karen has suggested a mesh surface that allows grass to grow underneath. This would be installed in the summer.
    - If consulted, TCDSB would likely suggest mulch.
- Timing
  - Some of this can be initiated in the current school year, with the remainder to be completed during the summer. During the interim, mulch can be put into the yard once the snow melts to address the mud issue.
- Cost
  - Pricing for Karen’s proposal has not yet been determined.
  - Ed & the committee will get to work on raising funds through the community; however, he proposed that CSAC commit to paying \$10,000 towards the new play yard. The sub committee would aim to raise the remaining funds required through community involvement.
- *On a motion made by Rodolfo Lucero, CSAC voted and approved to reserve \$10,000 budget from CSAC towards the kindergarten play yard.*
- *On a motion made by Ed Abdou, CSAC voted and approved to pay \$700 for mulch in April (assuming no permanent solution is in place by then).*

**OVERCAPACITY UPDATE (Bronwyn Gray)**

- CSAC requested that Angela Kennedy pursue an expedited boundary review to potentially consider extending the official boundary to the “flex” area west of Bayview (per the Church boundary) and to redirect the students from Thorncliffe to another school. There is a detailed rationale behind this recommendation, but the Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> CSAC meeting wasn’t the right forum in which to discuss in-depth as a community.
- Angela feels it will be done for September, but CSAC believe this may be an ambitious target. CSAC believes this would happen over the 2015/2016 school year.

## PRINCIPAL UPDATE

- *FDK registration*
  - TCDSB has approved 2 FDK classes and an SK/1, which will be capped at 5 SK children, which means there are 65 FDK spaces allotted for the 2015/2016.
  - 2015/2016 FDK enrolment is currently at 63.
    - There are 32 current JKs moving into SK.
    - 32 new students have enrolled for Sep. 2015 (15 Priority-1, 17 Priority-2)
  - If we cap FDK enrolment to 65, we will not need a portable or alternative solution (i.e. Church basement)
  - There are currently 7 Priority-2 children in the flex zone west of Bayview on the waiting list. (These students do not have siblings currently enrolled at the school)
  - REMINDER: If your kids are not returning in Sep 2015 please notify the school.
- *Facilities update* –RFQ was issued on Feb 12<sup>th</sup> for engineering and architectural service required to renovate the Church. Responses were due back on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>.
- *Library* - New library shelving, funded by CSAC, was installed and looks great.
- Basketball nets have been very well received. On Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, the Toronto Raptor mascots will be visiting St. Anselm and there will be activities and prizes for the children.
- *Curriculum updates*
  - IXL: This math program being is being piloted in the Grade 3 class
  - STEM: We are 1 of 5 schools participating in a pilot for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) with Mr. Nespolo’s Gr. 6 class. The objective is to get more programming and technology into the classrooms, since 77% of post-university jobs are STEM-related. More info here: [www.stemvillage.com](http://www.stemvillage.com)
  - School learning & Improvement plan:  
The school goal from September is that 80% of students achieve a level 3 or 4 (A or B) in Math. Mr. Walo is working with teachers ongoing to monitor progress. Mr. Walo is meeting with Superintendent Shanahan on March 6<sup>th</sup> to review progress-to-date. Human Resources include: Team Teaching/Strategic Withdrawal/strategic use of support staff. Material resources include: IXL, STEM, Jump Math, use of Technology, Prodigy, ongoing monitoring of student data in math, discussion of “Growth of Mindset”, etc.  
All staff to be provided with Mindset book – description [here](#).
  - Leadership  
PALS (Program Activity Leader) program, run with the Grade 5’s by Mrs. Connally & Mrs. Blanchet, runs each Monday.
- *Other*

The Mabel's Fables book fair was very well received and ran smoothly with little administrative effort or set-up required from the school. St. Anselm was very happy to support a local business as well. This new relationship also gives us access to special author visits, such as the visit from Wesley King this week.

Big thanks to Mrs. Barry and Mrs. Harding for assisting with the book fair as well.

#### **AJOURNMENT**

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:31pm.

DRAFT