

MINUTES OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
May 5, 2010

ATTENDEES: Sue, Ed, Kira, Mike, Chris, Jennifer, Tony, John, Ivana, Jane, Pam, Jeff, Eric, Vanessa, Ramona, Gerry Mabin

WELCOME 7:15pm Motion to pass April minutes: John Seconded: Jane

GERRY MABIN from THE MABIN SCHOOL

Gerry spoke to us about her programme Words in Motion (wordsinmotion.ca).

This programme teaches children the principles of friendship in action. Parents of children today often indulge a child's natural tendency toward self-absorption, and manners, respect, caring, and being aware of one's impact on others are lacking. Through stories, drama, and interactive games, common situations where one's behaviour has a direct effect on others are illustrated. The programme gets the children to answer questions such as: What is a friend?, How do friends treat each other?, What is helping?, How does laughing at someone make them feel? The programme leaders also want to work with parents to help them instil and reinforce positive interactions.

Leaders would come to classes in Grades 1-3 for 4-5 sessions of 45min to 1hr. The programme curriculum would tie in with the school curriculum areas of language and character development. The seeds of caring behaviour are planted, then sustained by the teacher.

The programme has been launched in Fern Av., Rose Av., Essex, Market Lane, and schools north of Kipling. Eventually, Words In Action would like to partner with half a dozen schools in Toronto, including Deer Park, do 3 major sessions annually, and track the effects with the help of the York U psychology department. The measurement of success would be an anecdotal increase in positive attitudes.

The cost is for 4 hours is \$1100 for 1 class; if 2 classes participate, additional \$400, and so on. Sue advised we will revisit this proposal at another meeting to review pricing and contributions from the TDSB under 'character education'. Gerry advised she provide us with a complementary session in June before school ends.

FINANCIALS

In May, cheques are going out to Sophie Bell (\$4500), Charlie Brown copyright (US\$600), Pizza (\$1000). April month end in the bank: \$10,079. Fun Fair expenses not yet accrued.

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Split Grades 2010-11: 1 x Grade 1
 1 x Grade 1-2
 2 x Grade 2-3
 1 x Grade 3-4
 1 x Grade 4-5
 1 x Grade 5
 1 x Grade 6

In the past, parents have written in their desire for placement in certain classes. This year, teachers will decide based on social, behavioural, and academic factors.

There are 5 surplus teachers, it has not yet been determined if any will remain at Deer Park.

Pool: There are waterproofing issues; Scott working on improving the ventilation. Students working hard with Ms. Jamieson & Ms. Hunchuk in dryland training.

IT: 1 more SmartBoard coming in next 2 weeks from the Grade 7-8 Student Success Fund. 32 remotes for Mr. Parkes class also coming. Mr. Parkes has trained all the teachers in SmartBoard use.

Lobby Corkboard has a DPSA section.

TDSB Website: Chris Spence's family surveys to gauge parent satisfaction are up – please complete one.

Newsletter: Deadline for submissions May 12 - will be on school website. Constant Contact will be replaced. Within 4-5 years the TDSB hoping to be wireless & each student having mini-laptop or palm-type device (!).

EQAO Testing: June 1-3

Ferndale BBQ: June 2

School Track Meet: May 12 Jr., May 14 Sr.

City Track Meet: due to scheduling conflict with Grade 7 camping trip, 30 parents will be driving children to camp 1 day later.

Mike wanted to address the school teams issue raised in the April Meeting. He stressed he is not mandating how teachers run their teams. He noted there is a proposal before TDESSA to limit students to 1 team per term. He & Jeff Mann believed it would not pass, as many small schools would then not be able to field teams in some sports. He is also trying to fit more physical activity into the 2010-11 schedule.

Grade 6 Grad: preparations underway

Grade 8 Grad: \$35/students covers food & DJ, \$60 also gets a yearbook, \$70+ also contributes to Grade 8 gift to the school.

Dress Code!! Ramona raised the issue of enforcement. Lots of short shorts, no shirts, etc...Chris, Mike, Jeff will attempt to enforce decent clothing, advised this problem arises every year at this time. Students will be spoken to individually, parents will be advised, & information will go out on the website.

Washington Trip Behaviour Code!! Mike has read the riot act to students. He will link the final itinerary to the website.

Music: Spring Concert deemed the best ever. We have contracted 1 more year with Sophie, Mike confirmed the school will share funding with DPSA. Possibly we can get TDSB funding for 2011-12, 2012-13 as ORFF rotates through the Board. Next year, Mike would like to get more parent input on music in the school. It was noted that some students are not engaged with the current ORFF music programme, calling it 'babyish'. Chris agreed that some Grade 3s do age out of the programme after 5 years of it.

Teacher Appreciation Lunch Friday May 28

Charlie Brown performances May 26-27

Me to We Trivia Night May 7

Me to We Danceathon May 20, featuring Reid the DJ.

FUNFAIR THURSDAY JUNE 10

Jen advised she is slowly getting volunteers. Jeff said he had lots of student volunteers.

K-6 flyers, 300 copies, ready to go, include wristband order form, wristbands to be delivered to each class. \$20 all-u-can-bounce, plus tickets at \$3-4/per bounce. Pricing will be well-posted. ISP pricing will include games and bouncers.

Lawn signs: Sue has 40 at home.

Dunk Tank: must be adult dunkees only, TDSB will not allow children.

Beach Volleyball in sandpit – how will net stay up?

Wacky Hairstyle booth

Silent Auction donations required, please pass the word.

Soccer permit taken care of.

Class Baskets: teachers getting a reminder to pick a theme.

DJ Challenge: DJ Lambchop (Chris) & DJ T-Time – Chris needs 1 power cord. \$1 per play.

Ramona – Food: Mr. DiMartino donating 250 burgers, 250 hotdogs. Sue working on Pepsi for drinks. Scott will review maintenance of BBQ. Mike to investigate if we have room for a 2nd BBQ. Sobey's donating ice. We need individual baking contributions.

ISP

No updates this month. Deer Park still has not heard if we will be pilot school for Learning 360. Spinclusion is a free seminar offered by Association for Community Living for kids with exceptionalities.

JANIS RUBENZAHN REQUEST FOR FUNDS

\$600 to bring hiphop performance group to organize a performance involving entire school during school hours. Cheaper than Equilibrio last year! Unanimous approval of attendees.

Final DPSA Meeting June 21, potluck in the Staff Room.

Meeting Adjourned 8:50pm