

# Faywood ABC School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016

In attendance: Terri Jackson, Melissa Gardes, Dayle Gordon, Marla Stone, Nicole Nathan, Kimberly Walsh, Riva Turner, Alana Gordon Reznick, Amber Kindavong, Nicole Gross, Myriam Goldaman, Mindy Caplan, Tanya Knights, Rita Cepparo, Allison Sherman, Courtney Weiner, Karen Gnat, Robyn Temins Sklar, Principal

1. Welcome and Opening of meeting- 7:05pm
2. Approval of minutes from September meeting- Alana Gordon, Allison Sherman
3. Chairpersons report -
  - (a) Members at Large – Lindsay Hoffman, Andrew Judelman, Courtney Weiner, Marla Fogelmam, David Black, Hyauinth Bell, Steve Weiner, Rita Cepparo, Tali Elian, Stephanie Shapiro, Melissa Gardos, Kimberly Walsh, Terri Jackson, Sarit Lindenbaum, Diana Makulova, Michelle Diamond, Mindy Caplan

(b) Fundraising Money – Elizabeth and Karen have been discussing where funds should go. To be discussed during Principals Report.

(c) Facebook Page – Closed page and you need to ask to be a member. Wondering how people feel about pictures of kids being posted. There may be some parents who are upset about their kids pictures being posted without their consent. Could be part of the group rules to ensure that parents have consent from other parents if any pictures are to be posted. Make it clear that the onus is on the poster before a picture is posted.

(d) Calendar for Smartphones – Robyn has figured this out for Android and iphone and has a handout. Handout will be posted in the Friday files, but will not go home as a paper note. If anyone wants to email faywoodsac, Robyn will send the link. Follow instructions to set up link to the Faywood calendar on your smartphone (Android and iphone). Question about whether parents can elect email vs. paper copies of notices going home. Other schools are doing this. This is extra work for the teacher and would be difficult to administer, especially for the kindergarten teachers. Some classes are using Seesaw for communication, so the notice could be posted. Need smartphone and internet connection to use Seesaw and not everyone has this. Don't know what the numbers are like comparing those with technology vs. those who don't have. Still have a large group with spotty access to technology. Want to move to less paper, but need to figure out how. Karen suggested sending home the form/survey to see how many would prefer email vs. paper. Could look at how many signed up for Friday Files, but some families

have both parents receiving and only about 50% open rate for Friday Files. A lot of papers going home the first week of school, so it's difficult for parents to get them all back quickly. Still some forms outstanding. Question as to whether all forms need to go home the first week of school to cut down on all the paperwork to be done up front. Maybe a better idea to send home a note now asking about electronic vs. paper to see how people feel. Tanny's school does a sibling list and only sends paper home with the youngest sibling to save on paper. This is administered by the office. Could also consider putting multiple siblings on pizza form to cut down on paper.

(e) Playground Ribbon Cutting and Meet & Greet Coffee – postponed by one week to Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30. Ribbon cutting outside by the new playground and then SAC meet and greet breakfast to follow.

(f) Upcoming SAC Meeting Dates

Monday @ 7 pm – November 28, January 16, March 6, April 24, June 12

(g) Metro Green Apple Grant – \$1000 Grant for schools for any kind of program or activity that will increase fruit and vegetable intake in kids. Last year we used it for the cooking program and the Big Crunch, and then towards the nutrition program. Tanny is thinking of the same ideas for this year, but open to suggestions. Last year we spent \$250 on apples, \$400 on nutrition and \$350 for cooking class. Cooking class last year was grades 2-5 in order to give us a longer program. Grade 8's were helping last year, but would have to find new volunteers for this year. Hope to be able to run this again in the spring. We are subsidizing a number of students for the snack program this year so the money would be helpful to go towards that. Question as to whether we have kids who show up with no lunch and could use assistance? We always have leftover pizza that we keep frozen in the office and we use it to feed kids who come without lunch. We have kids who get subsidized for pizza and frozen treats through SAC. The purpose of the grant is for healthy fruits and vegetables, not lunches. Could also use it to supplement/increase what we offer for snack – Elizabeth is looking into dip for the veggies (individual serving size). Can't do hummus because of kids who are anaphylactic to sesame.

#### 4. Principals report-

(a) Safe and Caring Schools Committee – had 2 parents last year, meets once a month during the day with Elizabeth. Committee gives feedback and suggestions with respect to health and safety issues, bullying, and issues under “accepting schools”. Looking for volunteers, speak to Elizabeth.

(b) Workshops for Equity related issues – Equity issues and gender based violence issues. Issues that are relevant to kids, such as online safety, relationships, etc.

(c) Ordered a card swipe entry system for exit 7 to be used for the portables. Each teacher plus each class will have a card swipe to get in for the bathroom. Team came last week to provide a quote and scope of work and this is being forwarded to the board committee that is dealing with that. Also talking to our superintendent to get help moving along. Also ordered 4 new walkie talkies for the school – may need these for the portables. They will have access to the intercom system as well. Concern about ice on the path between portables and school – tends to become a sheet of ice during the winter and need to be sure that kids can safely come inside. This area will be deemed a walkway and will need to be cleared by caretakers. Caretakers are only mandated to clear official walkways. We also have additional salt and clearing for safety reasons because we have some blind students.

(d) School Evacuation plan – has been updated. We have had 2 fire drills, including one with the fire chief supervising. He was quite happy with our evacuation and it went well. Also done one lockdown drill, which also went well. We will have another fire drill in the next week or so. Question – where does the school evacuate? We have 4 sites, but our primary is Dublin Heights. The rest are Ancaster, John Polyani, etc. Reason for school evacuation has to be a reason for threat that could affect students inside the school – gas leak, etc. Parents could be notified by email, automated phone call or personal phone call if necessary.

(e) School Budget – We currently have \$5,908 left from last year. Some will be offset. \$800 in non-board fund from Evergreen for garden work in kindergarten yard to get benches. Now looking for new naturalized benches to be able to move forward with the project. Balance of non-board fund will go to technology. Our new allocation is [\$99,000 approx.] for everything we have to pay for. Not possible to spend more than allocated – firm budget. We always need to set aside a reserve for operations over the summer. We do get back our holdover before January of the following year. We will get an adjustment in December/January to cover additional students and an additional bump to offset the cost of new furniture we needed for new classrooms. Will get a per/class allocation to cover the new classes.

(f) School Improvement planning – looking at student engagement in 3 areas: Mindfulness – tried daily announcements, but was difficult to keep the timing. Now decided this will be done in the classroom. Teachers are collaborating and sharing resources to bring in mindfulness. Each teacher using their own approach – soft music and meditation, Go Noodle (website) with classroom mindfulness approaches. Culturally Relevant Pedagogy – what do we do and what are our resources and are these relevant to the students we have in front of us. Does the work make sense to them, is it relevant to them and their lives? Can our students picture their families in the discussions we are having?

Math – Rich Problem Solving and Rich Tasks.

(g) EQAO – short discussion on results. Technically, DD and DHH, ESL and Special Ed are included, even though they may not be working at grade level throughout the year. Looked at the numbers 2 different ways – first looking at all students including ESL and Special Ed, and second excluding ESL and Special Ed – numbers look very different when you take out these groups. More work is needed on the math for all students, especially at the grade 6 level. ESL students struggling with language that helps with problem solving, so this is difficult.

(h) Portables – Electricity going in this week, and some construction continuing this week. Hope to move in the week of October 31<sup>st</sup>, but not sure that will be possible.

(i) Playground – wasn't able to be completed on target because of weather. They have come up with a schedule of use, but this will be determined going forward by interest. If the older kids lose interest, the schedule will be changed accordingly to allow for more use by younger students. Current schedule is: Grades 1-3 morning recess, Grades 4-8 lunch 11:30-12, Grades 1-3 lunch 12-12:30, Afternoon recess Days 1, 3 & 5 for Grades 1-3 and Days 2 & 4 for Grades 4-8. Playground has to be closed when it gets icy, but hopefully we have some time to keep it open. General rules – (1) Have fun. (2) One at a time. (3) Play tag and ball on the field. (4) Keep the wood chips on the ground. (5) Slide is one way, down only, on your bottom. (6) Eat snack first then play.

(j) Staffing – 2/3 split that was originally Ms. Brathwaite has currently been filled by Ms. Kim. Regulation 274 requires that Elizabeth interview and hire someone with a certain level of experience and seniority and this is beyond her control. Requirement says that she can only interview the top 5 most senior applicants to fill the role. Elizabeth has hired someone who will transition shortly – week of October 31<sup>st</sup>. Parents will be notified. Ms. D has returned to work in the office.

(k) Upcoming events – Fall Dance, Photo retakes, etc. This will all be posted on the website/google calendar. Can also be downloaded to your smartphone!

(l) Fundraising Money – Elizabeth didn't spend on technology last year until we figured out what we need. Now know what we would like – a number of teachers have committed to communicating using Seesaw. Asking for an iPad for each classroom to be able to use this in the classrooms. Also committed to purchasing wifi for the portions of the school that don't have it already. iPads that are available – large price discrepancy between iPad Air and Mini. iPad Air 32 GB 10 pack is \$3740 plus cases which are \$38 each. iPad mini is

\$3,040 for 10 plus cases (\$3,414.45 including cases). Don't see added value in having the larger screen for the purpose they will be used for. Also have 5 upper grade classes sharing 29 chrome books. These are used every day and classes are signing up for use. There are not enough for the population of students who need them. We would like to buy more chromebooks for that use. Elizabeth would like to get another set of 30 – cost of \$308.60 each plus an extra \$30 for a 2nd year warranty. (\$9,240 for the set). Likely wouldn't go for the second year warranty. We didn't spend anything on technology last year and we put it back in the pot to be spent this year and we didn't spend the dance-a-thon money last year that was allocated to technology. Want to get the ipads first. No more wish lists – these were phased out.

Motion for ipads and Chromebooks (\$12,674.85) – Motion made by Courtney Weiner and Michelle Diamond. All in favour, none opposed. Motion passed.

#### 5. Fundraising-

- (a) Acorn Cards – Artwork and order forms should have been sent home. About 70 orders came in, but no numbers as to how much was made from this initiative.
- (b) Freezer – Asking for the purchase of a freezer to house frozen treats. Current freezer isn't big enough for the number of students we have. The place we purchase our treats from is selling off a freezer for \$50. Will go in the SAC office. Consideration to possibly purchasing a larger freezer instead of adding a second freezer to the room. SAC to look into this and report back next meeting.
- (c) Dance-a-thon – Kick off booked for Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> and Dance-a-thon will be March 8<sup>th</sup>. Asking for \$100 for a deposit for the DJ. Motion for \$100 for deposit made by Riva Turner and seconded by Nicole Gross. All in favour, none opposed. Motion passed.
- (d) Bracelets – RadTagz - new fundraising initiative. Rubber bracelet with a buckle and we would get a Faywood plate that could be customized. Plate could be sold with the bracelet or separately, and other tags sold separately to be added to the bracelet. The big difference between these and the last bracelets is that once you buy one bracelet, tags could be sold throughout the year to be added to the bracelet. Can add up to 7 or 8 tags per bracelet. Could sell bracelet and initial plate for \$8 and then additional tags would be \$3. Our cost is \$4.25 for initial and tags are \$1.75. May want to ask some kids if they are interested in something like

this? Could also donate some portion to charity if we choose to relate it to other charitable events (ie. food drive). Initial order is a minimum of 100 with Faywood tags (\$675). To be discussed in the new year.

(e) Spirit Wear – Working on ordering spirit wear. Narrowed down to toque, zip up sweatshirt, sweatpants and t-shirt. Hoping to order a few items to try on as samples and a bulk order to sell at first movie night (December 1<sup>st</sup>). Would also have order forms available. Will need money to purchase 50 of each items, other than sweatshirts. Total of \$1400 for the initial purchase.

Motion for \$1400 to purchase Spirit Wear samples made by Courtney Weiner, seconded by Michelle Diamond. All in favour, none opposed.  
Motion passed.

(f) Labels – Next month.

(g) Upcoming Dates – Halloween Dance on Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Popcorn Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and first movie night is Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

6. Treasurer's report- So far we have brought in \$27,000 (mostly pizza). We have a little bit of fun fair with people paying for silent auction items. Frozen treat and Universal Donation (\$3250 so far). Cash out has been very little – pizza and pizza for SAC meeting. We are now at \$58,000 (roughly). Will discuss grad at our next meeting. School busses allocated and keeping all of last years allocations. Adding in technology and other amounts approved during this meeting. Cash available at \$46,000 right now.

7. New Business – None.

8. Good and Welfare – Great start by the new council.

10. Adjourned at 9:00.