

Faywood ABC Advisory Council Meeting

Minutes for Meeting – Monday January 18th, 2015

In Attendance: Suzanne Grant (co-chair), Courtney Weiner (co-chair), Elizabeth Schaeffer (Principal), Jordana Britt, Karen Gnat, Nicole Nathan, Yanjin Zhang, Dayle Gordon, Alana Gordon Reznick, Robyn Temins Sklar, Sue Schacter, Ms. Jalon, Ms. Papia and Ms. Pineau

1. **Opening of meeting:** The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm
2. **Approval of the minutes from June’s meeting:** Approved by Alana Gordon Reznick and seconded by Karen Gnat
3. **Guest Speaker/Guest Report:**

No guest speakers but we would like to welcome Ms. Jalon, Ms. Papia and Ms. Pineau. The intermediate team teachers are organizing a yearbook for the graduating class and are hoping for some funding. In past years we have allocated funds raised at the Valentine’s dance – we have sold snacks. We have allocated popcorn sales as well. Courtney suggested that we commit the money from a popcorn sale and the Valentine’s dance again. Karen can let us know what was given last year and we can follow-up at the next meeting. Suzanne asked what we typically make with a popcorn sale. Karen stated that it is usually between \$200-\$300. At this time the yearbook is only for the grade 8 students because it’s a huge project but maybe we can consider a middle school yearbook next year. The teachers will follow-up with us before the next meeting and give us a more specific amount that they are interested in.

4. **Chairpersons’ Report: (Suzanne Grant and Courtney Weiner)**
 - a. **Pro-Grant Presentation:** The Pro-Grant Nutrition presentation will be on January 28th from 7-9. The topic will be raising a healthy eater and will discuss tips and tools for getting your kids to eat healthy.
 - b. **Lunch-time and after-school program update:** Mindy was worried that we didn’t have enough students registering for the programs but she did a great job of organizing everything. The Lego program and the Fitness are completely full. Mad Science was successful again. The play program will run after-schools on

Monday. Kindergarten Mad Science was low on attendance but will still run. The only program that will be cancelled is the Video Game Creator.

- c. **Playground update:** Playground steering committee has been established. At the last meeting we received drawings from the architects and we have 2 options: 1. Build a playground from scratch 2. Build some new equipment and use some of the existing equipment. We are going to keep the climbing structure but remove the gaga court, the dome and the stumps. The equipment is less expensive than the ground prep, drainage, etc. so by choosing to keep some of the existing equipment we will have a better playground. Want to create small areas for play – not just climbing but also sensory areas. It must be accessible for everyone so there will be curved borders and ramps to ensure wheelchair accessibility. At the next meeting the equipment company is going to submit proposals and then the committee will re-evaluate and decide who to go with. This information will be posted online from the playground committee so everyone has access to it. The committee is planning for it to be done in the summer but we don't have any control of TDSB. We will be put in a queue with TDSB and hopefully they will get to us by the summer.

5. **Principal's report: (Elizabeth Schaeffer)**

We are off to an amazing 2016. Students in grades 4-6 are currently working on their speeches for the Faywood Speech Competition. The STEM coach has been in working in classrooms with teachers to further develop the STEAM programming in each class. We have more clubs and activities for students, including a grade 3 lunchtime intramural, Lego clubs, basketball and volleyball.

Report Cards: Wednesday Feb 10th

Interviews: Thursday Feb 11th in the evening and Friday Feb 12th in the morning. No school on February 12th.

See teacher to make interview appointment

Arts at The Heart

Drum Beats: Students in grades 4-8 participating in 6 drum lessons this year and 6 more next year. We hope to showcase drumming at an assembly in February and at the spring concert.

Engage Arts: Ms. Edwards, Ms. Lamey, Ms. Buchanan and Ms. Uribe's classes will be working with visiting artists (Dance, Drama and Visual Arts) to explore the use of arts as a way to deepen understanding of the curriculum.

BBoyism: Crazy Smooth and Bboyism Dance Company will be here on February 8th for an assembly for grades 1-8 and workshops for grades 7 and 8 on the evolution of street dance.

Health and Safety

Snow Removal and Ice: We have applied for enhanced snow removal and salting as we have a number of students who benefit from cleared playground areas. They come after parking lots have been cleared.

Nutrition Program:

We have received approval from the government to be included in the next phase of schools to have a nutrition program.

The surveys went home and we received 115 back from parents. 90 said yes they wanted a program. 25 said no (included in the no are 5 parents who said they would not let their kids participate as they are picky eaters or prefer an organic diet but think it is a good idea for the school). The next steps are to wait for the final approval (funding amount, etc.). Some of the funding would include a bit of a renovation to the kitchen space to comply to Food Service needs (e.g. double sink, fridge, counter space, etc.). Plan pilot to test the program at the school. Elizabeth will continue to learn more about the program and will contact other schools to see what they have budgeted (the amount needs to cover 3 food groups). The office will collect the money but we will need to organize volunteers to help with the program (e.g., plan menu, etc.).

Accepting, Caring and Safe Schools

Newcomer program: starting on Monday January 25th, 2016 for 8 weeks for students who are new and need settlement support. They play games, learn about Canada and practice conversational English.

Best Buddies program: for students in Developmental Disabilities Program to pair them with friends to do crafts and play games.

The DD, DHH and a grade 2/3 Class will be going to the **Lieutenant Governors Games at Variety Village**.

Family Communication Nights: are scheduled for Jan, Feb, April and May for students and their families in DHH program through the Silent Voice Association.

International Languages: A parent has requested that we look into hosting International Languages Programming. Heritage language programs are more cost efficient and ASL has recently been approved as one of the languages. We could offer different languages depending on what students are interested in. Dayle mentioned that Mandarin is very popular at her school. The next step is to invite someone to come to a SAC meeting to explain the program.

Facility:

Painting: During the winter break we managed to get the front hall trim painted. We are scheduled for more painting during March Break.

Kindergarten Yard: We submitted an application to Evergreen to install a Butterfly/Native Species learning garden. We should hear in the next few weeks.

Playground Remodelling: Please see Faywood website for up-to-date information about the process and committee work

6. Fundraising Report: (Karen Gnat, Steve Weiner, Myriam Goldman, Sheri Ashkey and Julie Zaldin)

- a. **Bingo night and bake sale:** We need volunteers for both
- b. **Universal donation:** All tax receipts have been sent out. Unallocated money needs to be allocated
- c. **Dance-A-Thon update:** February 23rd is the kick-off and March 9th is the actual dance. We need parent volunteers.
- d. **Fun fair update:** Shira will give us an update at the next meeting since she wasn't able to be here today. We think the Fun Fair will be on a Sunday this year since it was successful last year
- e. **Family Skate day:** Steve is trying to organize a family skate day at Irving Chapley rink during the Family Day weekend.

7. Treasurer's Report: (Nicole Nathan, Allison Sherman and Yanjin Zhang)
Permit for fitness program is a zero cost. Library money still needs to be spent.

8. New Business: None

9. Good and Welfare: We are at 400 students and there are good projections for the next few years. New condo developments in area are projected to raise our attendance. 56 projected over the next few years and more from the other condos. The number of students needed to have a VP has changed. Not sure what that number is. There are lots of optional attendance requests.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.