

Adam Beck School Council

Thursday March 31, 2016

6:30 to 8:30pm

Studio

Attendees

Mr Yee, Ms Hall, Mr Bines, Voula Nikolakos

Michelle Lavoie, Francesca Rea, Julie Middleton, Jenn Starr, Lisa D’Innocenzo, Michelle Grahlman,

Victoria Kay, Lisa Armstrong, Cristina Toporas, Vania Costa, Andrea Kowk

Welcome

Michelle welcomed the group and introduced the evening’s agenda.

Committee Updates

Visiting Artists (presented by Michelle Lavoie)

- a booked artist is terminally ill and so the committee is looking to find another artist within the group
- Film berries is being set up for grade 6 students
- The committee is looking for more volunteers for next year

Indigo book buying (presented by Michelle Lavoie) – Michelle and Mme Dassios visited Indigo to spend the \$6000 in books that we were awarded. They spent a portion of the funds but the money is going a long way and there is still more to spend. The books might not be available to students until May, as they will need to be indexed, etc. Michelle recommended that we not allocate money on books in the next budget.

Night on the Beach (presented by Jenn Starr)

- The event is 3 weeks away.
- Tickets are \$30 each and may be purchased at www.adambeckevent.com.
- Last year the event raised between \$12-14k, which went back to the school.
- The committee is looking for people to spread the word about the event and to buy tickets.
- There will be a wine raffle, which is a basket of 6-8 bottles of wine. Last year there were approximately 9 baskets.
- Silent auction items are well under way including concert tickets, summer camps, hotels, birthday parties, etc.
- Volunteers are needed for the day of the event (1-3pm on Friday afternoon) to set up tables, get items ready, table cloths, candles, etc. Volunteers are needed at the event itself to help at the door, sell raffle tickets, etc. Volunteers can sign up online through volunteer spot.

Rendezvous Cafe (presented by Michelle Lavoie) – this month was sparsely attended, possibly due to rain or change in day of week (Thursday vs. Friday morning).

Movie Night (presented by Julie Middleton) – the March 4 movie night was cancelled due to the condition of the gym during the roof repairs, and cannot be rescheduled due to timing of March Break, Easter, and the next scheduled event. Next event is April 8 and the movie options will be the Peanuts movie, Alvin and the Chipmunks and the Good Dinosaur.

Treasurer's Report

Francesca presented the Treasurer's report

- Budget committee
 - The budget committee will meet in early May (after Night on the Beach). People who run individual committees will be asked to put together a proposal for what they want for next year.
 - As a committee, all proposals are reviewed and compared to this year's budget. Much of the budget is dependent on Night on the Beach and Mayfair results.
 - Committee members are executive who have come to at least 80% of meetings. The reason for this is that it's helpful to have been to meetings regularly. Anyone can come and be part of the discussion, but only qualifying executive may vote.
- Francesca is willing to spend another year as Treasurer, but she is looking for a helper who may be interested in being Treasurer in years going forward. If more than one person chooses to volunteer for the position, this would trigger an election.

Passing of the Minutes

Michelle asked for approval of the February minutes as well as the edits to the January minutes. Jenn Starr proposed the motion and Lisa D'Innocenzo seconded the motion. As there were none that we opposed and no edits proposed, the minutes were passed.

Principal Update

- Roof project is almost complete. A parent has inquired as to what is happening with the copper that was previously around the top of the building. Mr Yee confirmed that the TDSB is managing the disposal/sale of the copper.
 - Solar panels will be installed in May. The quantity and location have not yet been confirmed, as a survey will first need to be completed.
- Ski day – Ski day at SkyLoft was a huge success! There were over 100 grade 5 and 6 students and parents. It was a beautiful day and the service was amazing - kids who needed more help/instruction had almost 1:1 care.
- Intruder- as indicated in the notice that went home, there has been a police investigation into a suspected intruder. Teachers have been advised to lock up their personal belongings. Police believe they know who the intruder was and have a warrant out for her arrest.
- No Dogs Allowed signs – these have been put back up around entrances to the schoolyard. Thanks to Mr Mills for putting up the signs.
- Parking signs – “Staff Parking Only” signs have been posted in the parking lot.
- 2016/2017 Staffing

- Student enrollment in the TDSB is projected to be down next year. The decrease is projected to be approximately 2500 students.
- Adam Beck is projected to have 501 students next year (vs 490 this year). However, at this time we will be losing one teacher position.
- Mr Yee will speak with council chairs for feedback in advance of completing the staffing plan.
- There will be a letter sent home in late April/early May to ask for parent feedback on placement for next year. This does not include teacher preferences, but rather to parental input on social dynamics between students and/or twin/sibling placements.
- Toronto Marlies – There will some Toronto Marlies coming to the school as part of an anti-bullying presentation on April 5th. The choir will be performing both the American and Canadian anthems before the game and there will be family skating after the game.
- Upcoming Important Dates:
 - Movie night - April 8
 - International anti-bullying day - April 13. Students are encouraged to wear pink.
 - PA day – April 15.
- Earth week
 - Activities are planned for April 18-22; details are in the principal newsletter sent out today.
 - Fundraising will support the polar bears (toonie donations) and pandas on April 18. There will be a recycled art sculpture competition, bake sale, book sale, imperfect fruit sale (school will buy imperfect fruit and sell it), earth rangers assembly, grounds clean up (part of Toronto schools clean up), eco hat day (i.e. blue and green hat, or speaks to an eco-initiative, etc.)
 - On April 13 students in grades 1-6 will visit the Fox Theatre to watch a movie about household cleaners.
- Kindergarten equipment – Kindergarten teachers are looking for good used tricycles, outdoor toys, math manipulatives, etc. (see newsletter for more details)
- Mr Yee addressed parent concerns regarding teachers posting student photos, etc. on Twitter.
 - Mr Yee explained that if parents sign a media release, it is assumed that photos of your child may be taken. Teachers try to show work vs. students when sharing photos.
 - Mr Yee checked with the TDSB and teachers at all schools post photos on Twitter – this is not something that happens only at Adam Beck.
 - There was a discussion around the clarity of the media release form and guidelines for teachers who do post photos on Twitter on behalf of the school.
 - Mr Yee clarified that for one specific classroom there was a form sent home for specifically related to Twitter, and was above and beyond the TDSB media form. Mr Yee and Ms Hall confirmed that teachers with students that do not have a signed media release form are well aware of who those students are and consciously avoid photographing them.
- World Autism Day
 - Ms Hall showed a video of how the school has supported World Autism Day. This included a slideshow of art work and a video of the school singing a song that Mr Mason wrote, pertaining to autism. Congratulations to Mr Mason for a wonderful accomplishment!
- Mr Yee asked that dog owners not leave their dogs tied to the fence. Unattended dogs pose a risk to students, and there was an incident recently where a student was scratched by a dog tied to the fence.

Guest – Sheila Carey-Meagher

Michelle welcomed ward Sheila Carey-Meagher (TDSB Trustee Ward 16)

- Grade 4 Extended French
 - Sheila spoke about the Grade 4 extended French program, currently at Duke of Connaught and Presteign Heights schools.
 - Sheila explained that there are 4 or 5 schools in the ward that are too small to go dual track (for early French Immersion), but asked attendees their thoughts on expanding the Grade 4 extended program. This may be possible at Secord, Balmy and Kew.
 - Parents in attendance think it is worth looking into expanding the grade 4 extended French program further.
- Sheila clarified that that students in the Adam Beck English catchment have first priority on French Immersion enrollment.
- Sheila spoke about the recent ward budget meeting. She explained that shifts in enrollment in junior vs. primary grades mean a change in staffing numbers.
 - Sheila explained that there will be approximately \$15 million cut from next year's budget, including impacts to Special Education. She noted that the budget has not yet been finalized.

New Business

- No new business

~End~