

## John English SAC Meeting

Thursday, October 10, 2013, 7:00 pm

### MINUTES

Marie Cook, Chair, facilitated the meeting

Reminder that website and Facebook page contains agenda.

#### **Principal/Vice Principal's Report**

- Meet the teacher was a success
- Credit to parents and Gr 8 volunteers to help with pizza, water and bake sale.
- Community groups such as healthy bites were able to get more volunteers.
- Thanks to teachers who especially stayed later than the 7:30 closing time.
- Gardening volunteers thanked for mum planting, weeding and general maintenance etc.
- Construction - waterproofing is complete, grading to be done.
  - heating of boys gym may be ready for winter!
- Gr 7+8 classes have high student numbers offered a 1/2 teacher to help with the rotary subjects.
- A whole teacher for the French immersion class
- Lego, wood-working and chess classes starting up.
- School twitter account being set up @johnenglishjm
- Some teachers have their own website (Mme Vella for example)
- Reminder for calls to school when student is to be absent. One secretary is spending upwards of an hour calling homes to find out if kids are planned to be absent. Plan to remind via class reps email.
- Parents to be reminded to refrain from walking kids to the classroom. Safety vs. parenting involvement. Kids should know where they are supposed to be going by now.
- Progress reports coming out 12th of November. Interviews available 14th and 15th of November.
- Gr 3 parent request to find out in what areas of the math scores were down. Gr 3 were actually up, Gr 6 math was down. Principal Howe does have individual results if you wish to follow up.
- Trustee Gough ward forum on e-learning Oct 22 at Islington JMS. Trustee Gough is asking that every schools council send at least 2 people to report back, but of course the forums are open to everyone

## **Teachers Report – Madame Smith**

- Thanks to Walsh's Auto shop on Royal York for repairs to 25 wheeled toys.
- Ms Routin (sp?) interested in parent volunteers for help with coaching the boys hockey team. Also gym uniforms recommended.
- Cross country was a huge success; 40 students going back to represent (Gr 6 came in second, Gr 8 came in third)
- Both the girls and boys football team had recent tournaments.
- Boys volleyball and - girls basketball starting up.
- Gr 1,2 and 3 participating in co-ed games, on Tues and Thurs. Suggestion to have better communication to parents about when kids are to start.
- Mme Mazelet had Officer Rich coach prospective gr 6 safety patrollers
- Mme Salama - book fair Nov 12 to 15 both english and french (volunteers please). Tuesday (12) and Wednesday (13) is French and English, other days are English only
- Gr 8 end of year trip plan to go to same camp as last year. City trips have been costing upwards of 600-700 dollars and thus attendance was less than ideal.

## **Board Business**

- General - for next meeting please come with a list of items the school needs, including trikes below. By that time, the surplus from last year will be known.
  - a) Schoolyard enhancement
    - plan was distributed and is online as well.
    - Trikes even though with the repair, some are on last legs. Anticipated increased usage due to increased kindergarten enrollment. Heavy duty trikes are about \$400 (surely some research can find less expensive alternatives).
  - b) Class reps
    - French classes well represented, English not so much
  - c) Treasurer's report
    - Kim Peters transitioning role (held for past 4 years). This year's expenses are anticipated to be higher, but last year's extra is going to help offset this.

#### d) Fundraising

- Lots of response to the 'one time' donation option, over 150 chose this route, donations ranging from 10-200 dollars.
- Donations come in all forms, monetary, items (new or used), and some think this should all be covered by taxes.
- There used to be chocolate bar fundraisers, but the message is now promoting education and good health via fundraising.
- \$835 raised at the curriculum night, half to go to gr 8, half to school council.

#### e) Programs

##### (i) Kiss n Ride related

- Report on a parent who drops off kids at no parking spot on George St. Traffic constable at 22 division suggested taking a photo of the license number and will have a friendly conversation with you.
- Trustee Gough to be consulted about how to ease the George St situation and child drop off situations

##### (ii) Healthy bites could use more volunteers

(iii) PIAC - Parent Involvement Advisory Committee. Representation at the ward level. Advises the TDSB about issues.

- Updates: SEAC and PIAC holding spec education session. Free
- Sat Oct 26 about EQAO including a focus on math. Free.
- People for education conference at UofT Rotman school of business

#### Snow removal

- On paved area, JMS staff only responsible for clearing a path. The whole thing requires a work order. Ranges \$150-200 per clearing, or \$2500 for whole season.
- The parking lot and snow piles create puddles and there are tramping down of the snow which turns it to ice.
- Better ways to clear?

**2013/2014 meeting times:**

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Thursday, January 16, 2014

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Adjourned.