

John English S.A.C. Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 12, 2014

Anthony Humphries – Active Transportation

Anthony came to speak to the council for the second time. Anthony is an advocate for biking to school and was responsible for advocating for the bike racks that the S.A.C. sponsored recently at John English. This time Anthony would like to now have programs brought to the school that solidify the bike to school philosophy. Anthony thanked the council for their support with the bike racks. He will be in further touch with ideas of some board supported programs.

Principal/Vice Principals Report

- Second term report cards have gone home. There will be teacher and parent meetings taking place on Thursday, February 13.
- Miss Way is now in Mr. Bedrosian's Grade 5/6 class and seems to have settled well.
- Madame Gravel went on maternity leave; Madame D'Sa has been replaced by Mr. Smith.
- There has been some work in the building over the past couple of weeks. Painting has been completed in the lower gym and in areas affected by the summer construction project. Boys and girls washrooms were also painted.
- **French Exchange Information Night** – All grade 6 and grade 7 students are eligible. The information night is next Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the gym. Cost is approximately \$2600 (includes excursions, flights, occasional teachers) but will be discussed at the meeting. Trip is to Vienne, France with the school called Institute Robin. 30 students will be selected to go and will take place in October 2014 and May 2015.
- TDSB budget meeting will take place on February 18th at Islington Junior Middle School
- P.C. Scott Mills will come to speak to the students about cyber safety Feb. 24th
- Ward 3 Board Forum on March 3 at Norseman School 7:00 p.m.
- Grade 8 graduation photos will take place on the morning of March 5
- There will be a PD day on March 7
- There is a 4 year strategic Mental Health Action Plan through the TDSB. This has come about from a census where a high percentage of students expressed fear and anxiety. The plan hopes to address the stigma around mental health issues and to create students that meet their full potential.
- Board has rolled out a plan to reach some targets around student success. Some of the initiatives are:
 - Increase literacy (10% academic gains)
 - Kindergarten
 - Mathematics (10% academic gains)
 - Pathways (transition into grade 5 – 6, kindergarten, grade 8 – 9)
 - Relationships with adults
 - Community based

Teacher Report – Madame Heather Smith

- Pink Anti Bullying T-shirts are being sold to raise awareness on “Pink Day”, February 26
- 40 New Canadians will be sworn in at John English at the citizenship ceremony on February 19
- Skating, hockey, basketball and volleyball are currently under way
- Musical rehearsals are underway
- Valentine’s Day dance will take place this Friday, February 14
- Grade 8 classes are going to Cinema Bloor to watch “Hot Docs” documentary films
- 27 February will begin the Concours D’Art Oratoire (French public speaking)

Board Business

- Movie Night will take place on Friday, April 4 which includes a Family Dinner

Tania is going to head up the organizational committee. The council is looking for volunteers and ideas for this night.

- Lists will be issued to the classes for March 3
- March 24th will be the deadline for items
- Considering a poster contest for the classes to participate in the advertising

The Dance-a-thon will take place on Friday, April 25th. Professor Jams (professional DJ company) is hired to provide DJ, lights and sell items to the kids as a “fun” draiser for the school.

Healthy Bites (Heather Henning)

- An upcoming fundraiser for the Healthy Bites program, at the Club called “The Rockpile”. There will be a Ukulele band (adult)
- Cookie Monday has just begun. 50 cents for a cookie (fundraiser for Healthy Bites). Open to all students Grade 1 – 8, not just Healthy Bites registrants. Kindergarten kids are unfortunately not included due to logistics problems around their lunch timing.
- Looking for volunteers for either 9 – 12 noon (food prep and serving) or 11 am – 2 pm (cleanup), on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Contact Lisa if you are interested.
- Looking for a volunteer for the Healthy Bites committee (treasurer position will be open in September)
- Volunteers table will be set up in the cafeteria on Parent Teacher night

Debbie, an ECE in Mrs. Connor’s class, spoke about the snack program for the Kindergarten children (over 120 children). This is subsidized by the parents, and also through a grant from Toronto Council for Student Success. Volunteers prepare the snack. The school is looking for volunteers to help (1 hour in the morning, 8:45 – 9:45 am). Grain/Dairy/fruit/vegetable (room beside the healthy bites server) Room 120. The snack program was discussed with regards to its value; whether it is needed at the level it is currently offered. Mr. Howe will revisit this subject over the next few months.

Parent Involvement Committee is encouraging others to attend the upcoming ward forum and the budget meeting mentioned by Mr. Howe. There will be coverage on the Years of Action initiatives at the forum and the budget meeting will cover the capital project. There are very important issues being tabled and as parents it is wise for us to attend and learn how we can advocate for our schools, our children and the programs.

Next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9.