



Roch Carrier Elementary School

Meeting Minutes School Council December 8, 2010

7:10 Call to order

7:11 Approval of agenda

Correction of agenda: next meeting is January 12 and not January 5th as noted.

Motioned by: Cynthia

Second by: Chrstina.

Reports:

Principal's Report (Katia Sioufi)

1. Debrief on an incident in the school yard.

An email was circulated yesterday regarding an incident during the first recess. The incident was that a man parked in a car rolled down the car window and took a photo of two children. The students told an adult on duty who then reported the incident to the office. The parents of the children photographed gave permission to speak to the police. The police arrived approximately 2:30. The police were given a description of the car and the man, but children weren't sure about the man's description as they were far away. The purpose of photograph is unclear. Katia stated that when the police give Katia more details, she will communicate what she can share to the school.

As Katia wanted to communicate the incident as quickly as possible, she sent the email the first time they spoke to the children (prior to the arrival of the police). The process was to send the communication to the Board and when she got it back, she circulated it. Once the police arrived, they got more information from the children. This information has yet to be communicated. Parents have been calling in with questions (is it my child, etc).

Q- Michael asked why more information hasn't been sent out since the first email; for example, a description of the person and the car.

A - Katia replied that she will ask the SRO to determine whether it is OK to send out another email with more details.

Christina stated that she really appreciated the email. She felt it helped her to be proactive and not reactive. This appreciation was echoed by other council members as well..

More discussion about the event were discussed such as the fact that the children unlikely could provide a good description of the man, given the distance (the children were in the butterfly

garden) between themselves and the man. Also, there was discussion about wanting more information about the incident to better respond to the other school children. Someone also questioned why we don't have a plan in place to respond to similar incidents and whether there was reluctance to release detailed information. Katia reinforced the fact that it is in the police officer's hands to OK whether more information is communicated to parents. There was some discussion about how children were talking about the "commotion" and that some children were telling parents stories and that the email was too vague to really understand what was going on.

Q -(Ken) asked whether there was communication to all the children as he feels this would stop the rumour mill and mitigate the escalation of the incident in the minds of the children.

A-(Katia) responded that they had not meet with all the kids. She did not want to scare the children. She said they chose to make parents and teachers aware; some teachers answered questions to their classrooms.

2. Goals on literacy and math standardized tests

Katia reminded the council of the goals to increase average literacy score from 31 per cent to 41 per cent and to increase the average math goal from 28 per cent to 38 per cent. The teachers were given a month of teaching and then the children were given a post-test. The results increased from 31 to 48 per cent for literacy and 28 to 46 per cent for math/numeracy.

Katia stated that they are now ready to start a new SMART goal for second term. The new goals will be presented to the school council, when the new goals are set.

Staff Report (Kathy Laviolette)

JK

- Sue Bannerman's class baked a gingerbread man and when we went to the oven to get him, he was gone. We had to follow notes all over the school before we found him in Ms. Sioufi's office with the big book "The Gingerbread Man". We wrote our own class book about our fun activity.
- Miss Kathy's JK students are busy decorating everything from Hanukkah Menorahs to Christmas tree ornaments with glitter!
- On Friday, December 10th, Mr Peter Krogh, a Roch Carrier parent , will entertain all the Kindergarten students in 2 great shows. Just a note to let you know that these shows are just for our students.
- Miss Kathy's class parties will be on Tuesday, December 14th. Students will be singing for all family and friends in attendance.

SK

- Christmas and cinnamon seem to go hand in hand. Just walk by Mrs. Kerwin's room and you'll smell the delicious Christmas presents we're making! Reindeers with handprints, with popsicle sticks and with paper are decorating our room! We're busier than ever in Senior Kinderland!

- In SKEFI (Mme Catherine) we have been having lots of fun with words beginning with the letter "B" (biberon, bouchon, boucle, brosse...). Our next unit of study will be "Shapes". We will be playing many games and practicing complex patterning with 2D shapes.

French

- Mme Shawna:
- Mrs. Allingham's Gr 5 class is eagerly preparing to present a French song during our holiday assembly!
- All of the Core French students are working on activities related to the play they are studying this year.

Grade 1

- Grade 1 EFI working on the 5 senses. Grade 1 Core French are finishing up their puppets and getting ready for January puppet plays.
- All grade 1 French immersion is doing a singing and dancing concert to present to parents.
- Curriculum dance and music!
- The Grade Ones in Mrs. Wood's class have been preparing for a concert by making their own instruments. In Science, they have been investigating the different types of energy sources.

Grade 2

- Connie Teye and Jennifer Lamarche's classes will be preparing for the Primary Holiday Showcase.
- Mme Greenland's grade two class is preparing their "Jingle Bell Rock" dance for the Christmas Concert.
- Mlle Backstrom -We are discovering a lot about measurement this month. Our rulers that we made on Kidpix will be one of the units of measurement we will use to measure various objects. Students will be figuring out ways to measure how far they can jump, how high they can jump and will figure out the shortest way to get from our class to the office.
- All grade 2EFI students went to the Museum of Civilization to learn about Traditions & Celebrations.

Grade 2/3

- Sue Levy-Rick - Students in Grade 2 are having fun doing a lot of hands on experiments as they discover the properties of solids, liquids and gases! In grade 3, the students are

learning about the importance of soil. They really enjoyed harvesting the 'special soil' from our vermi (worm) composter!!!

Grade 3

- Les élèves de la classe de Madame Poirier sont heureux et curieux d'étudier la vie des autochtones et des pionniers.

Grade 3/4

- In Mr. Saschenbrecker's grade 3/4 class we're learning about early settlers and medieval times.

Gym

- For the past few weeks we have been playing bordenball (a version of handball) with the Junior students. We have a tournament on December 8th and 9th for boys and girls at Glenn Cairn P.S.

Grade 4 and 4/5

- In Kathy Laviolette's Grade 4 and 5 ETFI classes with Mrs. Harrison, the students have been working like elves in Santa's workshop building picture frames out of recycled wooden crates. Then they wrote the procedure for it.
- The Gr 4/5 English class with Ms. O'Shaughnessy is now Reading Buddies with Mrs. Woods Grade 1 class. We are very excited about this partnership and look forward to working with our buddies in reading and other activities.

Grade 5

- In Grade 5 EFI, students are busy presenting their research projects on Canadian Govt. We will also welcome a special guest, Mr. Yassir Naqvi, an MPP for Ottawa Central. He will be coming on Thursday, December 9.
- Students will also be putting on a skit "La nuit de Noël" at our Junior Holiday Concert.

Grade 5/6

- During this month, Ms. Carew's class participated in a live webcast with scientists in northern Manitoba that are studying the arctic polar bears. It was very interesting and we learned lots! We also had our first bridge tournament, where we played the same hands as students from all across Ottawa. It was wonderful! Noah Ford and Ankit Jain ranked first in the B division! All the students played very well, and we are very proud of them.

Grade 6

- Mme. Laviolette's students are putting together their research projects on Canada and its trading partners.
- Sam Riem's students in the class have had a native feast and have made native long houses. We are busy practicing a song about peace for the holiday concert.
- Mrs. Gasperetti's grade 6's are busy working on their projects about First Nations Peoples and are looking forward to their Aboriginal Feast on Friday. Students have made their own totem poles to represent themselves and have also finished writing pourquoi tales to share in a storytelling format.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer (Christine)

A detailed treasurer report can be found in a separate excel spreadsheet.

A few highlights are presented below:

- The December cake walk earned 1,088.55 (1,000 was expected).
- The holiday fundraiser earned just under 1300. (1,500 was expected). Discussion around the possible reasons why the fundraiser did not earn as expected. For example, was there too much information? Conflict with other report cards or other information? The time too early (needed to do so to organize the pickups of all the fundraiser options); Christina asked whether we send out an email that provides parents with specific understanding as to where the funds will go so it won't seem frivolous (e.g., we are 10,000 books short for our library).
- Discussion on emails and low web site traffic.

Cynthia stated that OCASC says one good way to promote the use of emails is to send out a school welcome email and have parents actively ask to be off the list. Currently, Cynthia estimates that 90 per cent of the emails of Roch Carrier parents are active.

- Chantal noted that in the treasurer report there is a separate line item for fundscrip for the spring/holiday fundraiser. However, it does not require its own line on the budget.

ACTION: Christina - noted this and will remove the line for fundscrip

- Christina noted that there is currently 7,000 dollars that the school can request.

MOTION: to release the teacher allocation (wish list) of 3,350 to the school.

Motioned by: Cynthia

ACTION: Christina to release the 3,350 in funds to the school. It was noted that we do not require a formal motion to release funds to the school that have already been budgeted for release.

Discussion around the use of the funds.

- School goal is to have a projector and smart board in every classroom.
- May buy 4 projectors and a couple of ELMOs?
- Need places to put the books – library requires two book shelves.(while library shelves may appear to have room, there are currently lots out as they are in classrooms, and with the children, approx..1400 in children's hands. The book

room also overloaded. It was noted by another member that Roch Carrier receives approximately \$7,000 from scholastics to spend on books.

Discussion then moved to books

- Lisa then led a discussion about determining, as a school, which books are missing. For example, mentor texts to teach a lesson (about writing, etc) from an educator standpoint are required.
- Andrea asked about sponsoring books. Susan indicated that we do this. For example, at the book fairs parents can purchase books for teachers from a list generated by the teachers. Jaspreet asked that this list be circulated to parents. Some more discussion ensued regarding how to know about the list of books teachers require.

MOTION: to use the fall allocation to buy two more of the shelves to hold the books.

Motioned by: Cynthia

MODIFIED MOTION: release the money to the school for use in the library (likely to use for book shelves), as needed.

Motioned by: Ken

Seconded by: Cynthia

Agreement by council (no formal vote)

MOTION: to change fund title from “library books” to “library needs” This change will better reflect the understanding that the it isn't always books that can be bought with the funds from council.

Motioned By: Cynthia

Seconded: Ken.

Executive member vote: All in attendance voted in favour (14 people).

Discussion brought forward regarding establishing a parent resource library. This was brought forward from previous Fall 2010 council meetings. There was some interest from the council in listing books on the web site that other school councils have, etc. There was some reflection on parents from other schools stating that it is not used in other schools. Pros and cons were discussed.

There was discussion about how much it would cost to equip classrooms with technology - computer and projector, or projector and laptop. It was explained by Katia that these purchases must be done through board tender and would cost 1,600 dollars per classroom. The council can't buy laptops for the classrooms because of support issues - the board needs to support it and they won't if school council buys it.

MOTION: take the parent involvement grant to pay for Rochin' Family Fun Fair. The profit from the fair would go to the smart sites, or other technology deemed appropriate.

Motioned by: Cynthia

Seconded by Wendy

Executive Member vote: 11 members in favour; 1 abstention.

OCASC (Andrea)

The last OCASC meeting was a “Schools of the future” meeting. Attendees were asked to reflect upon what people want schools to achieve in the upcoming five years along with what

they would change, what is working properly in the schools, and what would they fix right now if you had a magic wand. Everyone choose top three for each category and then saw the results across the schools.

Food (Christina)

Christina stated that food was progressing fine; no issues to raise. She needed to find out the profits for Mazzola and Lunch Lady and will report on profits for these programs at the next meeting. No issues with milk or other programs were raised.

Fundraising (Chantal and Cynthia)

The fundraising efforts overall went well even though it was less than projected. There may need to be some future discussion/thoughts around how we remind people about pickup for the items as there were some poinsettias and coffee that were not picked up that night at the meeting. For example, if parents put down their email addresses on the forms to allow for electronic reminder.

Upcoming fundraisers for the Spring 2011 - fundscrip, enchanted gardens, coffee.

At the end of the year, feedback will be sought on whether to repeat this year's fundraisers or select new ones.

Special thanks to Jen and cake walk crew as they spent the entire day.

New Business/Follow up:

Kanata ARC (Cynthia, Susan)

See additional document for the report.

may be boundary changes.

Q- Ken – Asked when/how decisions would be made as it is an emotional subject for people.

Will there be public meetings will be where parents can put their opinions in?

A- the public meeting with that agenda has not yet been set.

Q – will there be consideration given to those children/families who have gone through a previous boundary change already?

A- Katia replied that this exact scenario has happened before and parents provided the arguments, trustees still decided in favour of the boundary change without special circumstances being placed on those students previously displaced.

Katia stated that at the next ARC meeting there will be maps of boundaries for visuals. Parents will be presented with the options and then board makes their recommendations to trustees who make the final decision.

Ken stated that this would be a good thing to communicate to the parents through the school and council newsletter so they know how to get their voices heard.

General discussion ensued on how schools affect other schools, and how planning for school

enrollment can be difficult.

It was noted that parents/public can attend the ARC meetings as an observer until a specific time and then can speak/raise questions. This can occur at each meeting.

Council was reminded that there will be updates at every council meeting. Susan attends on behalf of WOM. Cynthia and Christina, for Roch Carrier. Cynthia and Christina can bring forward the information/issues to ARC meetings for us.

Council members were asked to spread the word to families that there is an ARC to raise awareness. And to ensure we communicate that all of Kanata is having reviews - not just our school.

Rochin' Family Fun Fair

There was confirmed interest with moving forward with the fair.

Head of the committee: Cynthia

Committee members volunteered: Chris, Wendy, Jennifer, Kathy Laviolette, Andrea

MOTION: Date proposed June 24

Motioned by: Cynthia

Seconded by: Wendy

Teacher appreciation Luncheon

The luncheon occurs in May. Call out for someone to organize the luncheon (the possible date, menu, and recruiting of volunteers). Susan volunteered.

School Supplies

Discussed that we did not do this last year but had done it in previous years. It is not a fundraising event, rather it is a program that parents can purchase schools supplies from – to help out parents. There was interest from the committee and it was asked if someone would take it on. Chantal volunteered.

Council Website and Blog Demo (Ken)

Ken briefly discussed the idea of the blog and how it could be updated as items come up. This would make it a current resource for parents. The newsletter can pull from the blog.

Discussion was taken off-line, along with a demo of the web site.

Round Table

A reminder was issued that the round table was not a venue for big agenda items, but rather, issues that could be discussed in less than two minutes or so.

Caroline - book drive is going on through Christmas. The book drive collects gently used books. She also informed us that Roch Carrier has been given a 3 year subscription to WILD magazine from the wildlife federation. This was established through the Starbucks connection.

Cynthia to send thank you to both Joe at Starbucks and the WILD magazine representative as well.

Ken – requested that we could also put wildlife federation information in the newsletter, as a thank you

Katia – announced that Lisa has been a successful candidate in the principals competition. This will be her last year as VP at Roch Carrier

Katia - suggested combining the council newsletter with the school newsletter. But, we do need to have our information in time for Katia. There was agreement from Wendy to do this. Coordination details taken off-line.

Jennifer – brought forward from a previous council meeting, the idea of thanking/acknowledging people who have donated to the school (money, other items) by putting a leaf on the tree (with their name?) by the kindergarten room.

ACTION: add to the agenda or the next council meeting.

Chantal – brought forward the idea of the council having a facebook page. Chantal stated that she will investigate the privacy issues, to do an invite online.

ACTION: add to the agenda or the next council meeting.

What to do with the poinsettias – this issue raised and decided to take the discussion offline.

Close and adjournment

9:12 Adjourned by Cynthia.