



## Roch Carrier Elementary School

# RCES Council Minutes – 12/14/2011

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### Attendees

Jennifer Tackabury  
Craig Wells  
Katia Sioufi  
Susan Wehrman (left early)  
Lisa Bornstein  
Dave Miskelly  
Catherine Scott  
Carolyn Hammond  
Carl Bovell (arrived at 8 pm)  
Christina Huppe

Angalena Toman  
Cindy Dummitt  
Shauna Spearman  
Wendy Clee  
Melissa Dubreuil  
Jaspreet Harit  
Lisa Clayton  
Kristine Lilly  
Rhonda Boudreau, Recording Secretary

### Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm

- Council approved minutes from November 2011 and approved the agenda for the current meeting.
- Council agreed to not hold a January meeting.
- Enough members to have quorum

**Decision:** Next Council meeting will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup> (there will be no January meeting)

### Standing Items

#### Reports

**M Prud'homme** – A presentation was given to council by two students from the Grade 4 immersion class requesting that council donate five hundred dollars for an overnight field trip to an Ottawa museum. M Prud'homme fielded questions from the council. The field trip would be for fifty-seven students. The trip costs have increased and the increase is such that it is felt the cost cannot be absorbed by parents the full amount. This year, there was not enough money from the entertainment book to cover the cost of the buses. With a commitment of the funds, M Prud'homme can put down a deposit; the cost for the deposit is currently not known.

The costs are 92 dollars per student (85 per student without the extra teacher). The plan is to charge the parents 65 dollars with the remainder being covered from school levy, fundraising activities, and council donation.

Feedback from a couple of school council parents said that it was a great field trip; it is well organized, the kids learn a lot, and have fun.

The treasurer was absent from the meeting. The council discussed the possibility of moving 500 from technology fund temporarily and put it back later. The council thought it would be best to consult with Christina regarding the budget

**DECISION:** Council agreed to go forward with providing the \$500, provided the Treasurer feels there are funds.

**DECISION:** Email will be circulated and council will vote on where the funds will come from to support the class.

**ACTION:** Jennifer will get back to M Prud'homme ASAP with response, on behalf of council.

### Principal's Report

Chess'n Math association – A new activity offered the children in Grades 1 through Grade 6 on Monday's at second recess. The cost is 1,400 dollars for ten weeks. Some of the money used to pay for it is from the school generated funds. Felt it was money well spent given the enthusiasm from the students. The enrollment is at the 60 student capacity.

Will be offering Bridge as another activity – this will take place after Christmas (this announcement from a parent, not part of the principal report)

There is a blog that may be of interest, it is run by Chris Hared runs the blog.

On Friday, the results from the school improvement plan are due to Katia. The pre-assessment was done about six weeks ago with targets of % increase (26 to 40 per cent). Three classes or so have come in and all classes have improved and Katia is encouraged by the results. The results may be put in the January newsletter. Katia will provide more details of the results in February.

Hope everyone can come Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> for the concert.

### Staff Report

Teacher report is at the end of the minutes.

Shared three samples of work from Colleen Scott's grade 1 class, exemplifying,

- reading comprehension
- procedural writing
- point of view

### Committee Reports

**ARC** – Cynthia not present.

- Susan let us know that the final presentation tomorrow at 9 pm at the Board office. All information on the web site. Final decision not until April.

- Question regarding where to register kids for kindergarten was raised. It was answered that register your kids for Kindergarten where you would normally (don't anticipate the boundary changes)

**Decision** – clarification will come from the Principal (as not clear yet).

**OCASC** – Wendy

- Doing raffles (e.g., Sens tickets) - school councils can do it but the tickets have to be sold to parents (not children). May be additional rules as well.
- Advisory committee on the Arts – official committee to the board. Talks about arts education. Advises board on curriculum.
- Parent reaching out grants – should have received information in council mail box by now. Can apply in May/June for following school year. Some of the ideas are: parent resource library, speakers, translations, math programs
- Calendar set for 2012/2013 including PD days. Last day June 27<sup>th</sup> in 2013. Start date will be after Labour Day.
- Next meeting is December 15<sup>th</sup> – 7 to 9. Potluck. Fisher Park.

**Fundraising** – Shauna and Catherine

- Finished MacMillans fundraiser. Raised about 800 dollars (budget was 1300 or 1500). Only 44 orders. All orders have been picked up.
- Feedback/possibilities on why the fundraiser did not meet goals – parents don't want to support school b/c of ARC and may change schools next year; another school and hockey team did the fundraiser as well and was earlier than ours; or could be an outlier.
- Question about how this fundraiser's money shortage may affect what we support; for example, less for our partnership school, potential donation to M Prud'homme? What should be adjusted? Katia mentioned the school budget can be used to help out M Prud'homme.

**Decision** – Jennifer to ensure Christina is aware of order and ability to cover

- E-recycling fundraiser to go forward in the Spring 2012. Recruit the EarthCare group to help out in some way. This fundraiser will take place in April.
- Fundscrip will be done toward the end of the school year.
- Teacher's allocation of \$3,900 for Fall has been paid for by the school, however, the money has not yet been released by council (to repay the school). This should be corrected soon, delay was due to administrative issues.
- Issue with the one big cheque to the school was raised, discussed giving individual cheques to each teacher.

**ACTION:** .Give a cheque to each teacher in spring.

**Treasurer's Report/New budget** – Christina absent

- No update

**Earth Care-Dave**

- Using some of the funds already given by Council, four parents (Jason, Carl, Shauna, and Dave) and two teachers (Virginia Harrison, Tamara MacDonald) came together to discuss grants to get large shade trees. The tentative plan is to apply for \$3,000 grant

and put in three trees (half for tree itself and half to plant the trees). Need to build up the soil b/c the rock is too close and need to build a raised box. Boxes would be seats for students and would be angled along the side walk (can't make benches as Board gets involved) so can view the play structure. Four sided seating so people can always access shade. Part of grant process is to provide a longer term project. To add to this would be a nature walk or pathway. The application deadline was December 1<sup>st</sup>, Dave will provide more information when there is more news.

## New Items/Follow-up

### Review emails from month - Jennifer

- Council had agreed to purchase insurance (email vote). A cheque has been sent for \$185 which will provide coverage between October 15, 2011 and October 15, 2012.
- Headphones were purchased last year from Council and the kids are using them. Katia indicated they would like more.
- Web site is back up and running – thank you Carl! [www.rochcouncil.ca](http://www.rochcouncil.ca). forms for food orders on the site. Lunch area is not 100% complete and the forms may need to be updated.

<b>ACTION : those responsible for sections read the sections and provide feedback</b>
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- Snowhawks (after school ski group) is starting in February for grades 4 through 6. It includes ski lessons and equipment rentals. Need volunteers to help store equipment in morning, go on ski trip to supervise. The activity runs on Tuesdays from after school until 8/9 p.m. Need 3 or 4 parent volunteers.
- Many of the council projects require ongoing maintenance, what needs to be done and what has been done is summarized below.
  - Over the years, Dave and helpers have purchased (through council) the school's sound system, landscaping/trees, and playground painting.
  - The microphone feedback requires work, preferably professional from Wall Sound. Dave would record each setting and stick on the settings for future use.
  - Maintenance includes the time required to cut back plants and trees. Do need funds to purchase mulch. May need mulch next school year.
  - Lattice needs work. Metal lattice have been purchased and installed and should last many years.
  - Bird feeders (nut free seed from Rona) require seed, cleaning, and two bird feeders need replacing
  - Asphalt paint (\$500) is required to touch up the playground paintings, esp. the popular ones (require annual touch up).
- School council to purchase Katia a cordless microphone headset (not through council funds) from the needs list. Discussion regarding whether the microphones are digital. May not be a good purchase for the school as it may have limited value.

<b>ACTION:</b> Dave to price out digital headsets for Katia to use from the Teachers' Needs list.
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<b>DECISION:</b> Establish a maintenance fund (e.g., asphalt paint, trellis, sound system).
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**ACTION:** Clarify with Christina for more details, perhaps at next council meeting, we can agree as to how this will be reflected in the budget

### Revised Constitution – Melissa

- Went over the changes made to the constitution, indicating there were minor edits and formatting but there were four major items proposed/present at the meeting,
  - allow mid-term appointments and elections of officers (article 12)
  - inclusion of an article that addresses record management that says we will keep documentation for four years.
  - Detail who is responsible for the record management for items such as aenda and minutes.
  - For the record of amendments, to archive previous versions and keep current one
- Discussion regarding need for terminology – executives, members at large, officers, reps. And whether to add that council should have insurance every year

**DECISION** All major revisions were agreed upon by the council

**DECISION:** to have a council binder to add a hard copy. Needs to be kept and is transparent and accessible.

**ACTION:** Melissa to move the record of amendment to the back; add terminology definitions; add the suggestions that council purchase insurance every year

### Reserve nights for council led activities – Jennifer

Some possibilities were presented:

- Safety/information night on late April – would be booths from health unit, CHEO, fire fighters, first aid/CPR, nutritionist/dietician, public health nurse
- Guest speakers - Board will also help pay for this.
- 500 dollars for parental involvement and past 2 years has gone to family fun fair. However, due to sales from last year. We have a surplus of approx. 1,200 from last year. How comfortable are people with using 500 dollars to help fund the activities for the council night. Do we need to consider using the money for supporting M Prud'homme?
- May discus different day as education week a week or two weeks later. Multicultural night will be used during that time, possibly.
- Need a working committee to work on it. School will help with communication (e.g., help organize the RSVP)

**DECISION :** consensus to go forward with the idea of a council night

**ACTION:** establish working group

- Jennifer discussed the draft school council goals to help provide the council with direction and focus, and also away to evaluate our successes

- **DECISION: agreement ad consensus on the goals**

### Round Table

- Zumba fundraiser proceeds will go toward Earth Care. It's a community event and it will cost 10 dollars per person. The event will take place on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**ACTION:** The event will be advertised in the school newsletter.

- A Reminder about the cake walk tomorrow – December 15<sup>th</sup>
- Catherine to help out Kristine on Tuesday for the Quizno subs
- There may be an opportunity to get picnic tables free from city, may be useful for events like the Rochin' family fun fair.
- Circus delight Inc. may be another option instead of RunAmuck. Wendy will send info to Cynthia
- Thank you to Carl for the web site
- Lights out at the school in the evenings, used to be on – is this intentional?
- Question about the use of the piano at the school and whether it may be part of the increased funding/support for The Arts by the council.

**ACTION:** This will be proposed at a future meeting.

- On January 27<sup>th</sup> Grade 1 through 6 students will enjoy two performances from aboriginal experiences, a group that comes to the school and performs a story. This date is also literacy day and a PJ day.
- On January 31<sup>st</sup>, there will be two presentations for kindergarten students by the puppet theatre.
- In April, there will be another presentation by Salamander theatre for Grades 1 through 6.
- Thank you for 1000 dollars given from council as it is spent on these types of events just mentioned.

**ACTION:** Insert the use of the funds in the school newsletter.

### Adjournment

Jennifer adjourned the meeting a few minutes after 9:00 p.m.

## **November Teachers' Report**

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Teacher Representative: Carolyn Hammond

### **Kindergarten**

Mrs. Bannerman-We have been busy reading stories related to The Gingerbread Man. We read "The Gingerbread Mouse", "The Gingerbread Girl", "The Gingerbread Baby" and of course, "The Gingerbread Man". We are all excited to re-tell the Gingerbread man story with our favourite phrase "Run, run as fast as you can.....you can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"

Mrs. Kerwin-Can you smell the scent of Christmas in the air? Homemade, cinnamon Christmas decorations are being crafted in Mrs. Kerwin's JK and SK classes. WE are mixing, pressing, rolling sparkling ornaments to adorn your Christmas tree! All this preparation gives us the strongest muscles to learn to print and cut! Not to mention the beautiful Christmas cards, reindeers and candy canes that we are making to also develop our fine motor muscles and numeracy and literacy skills!

Mme Hole-We are wrapping up our unit on "Les trois petits cochons" with a focus on point of view. Some of the children have been reenacting the story with masks and puppets en francais during free play! We have started printing upper and lower case letters and are counting higher with the help of a tens charts.

### **Grade 1**

Mme Scott-We are working on a gingerbread theme. We are also working on reading comprehension through hamburgers (beginning, middle, end) and about main idea, setting, main characters, problems and solutions using hands. (Samples brought to share)

Mrs. Wood-We have been studying the beaver and the polar bear. We discussed whether our national animal should be changed from the beaver to the polar bear and our reasons why.

### **Grade 2**

Mme Lamarche -Throughout the month of December our theme will be Canadian celebrations and traditions. We will be discovering symbols and practicing dances from a variety of cultures and discuss how these are used in celebrations and the traditional stories they may tell.

Mlle Backstrom -The students are creating short presentations to share a holiday that their family celebrates.

Mr. Ridgeway - The children are designing a "marvelous toy" for the holidays in support of their science movement unit (and just for fun!)

### **Grade 3**

The Grade 3 EFI Team.

The Grade 3 EFI students have been studying Pioneers and on Dec. 9th they had a Pioneer Potluck. This event included letter writing and biographies, dancing the "Virginia Reel", making an orange pomander and sharing pioneer recipes. The students dressed up as pioneers and/or historic figures from Canada's past. They shared their writing pieces and portraits of historical figures. In Mathematics, the grade 3s are working on Geometry and in Science they are studying "Forces and Movement" Over the holidays, we will be designing toy cars that can move using stored energy.

Mrs. Levy-Rick - Students are studying the First Nation Communities during the 1800s and learning about the ways the Aboriginal people helped the early settlers survive. They are learning to write paragraphs to compare and contrast information.

#### **Grade 4**

The students in Mrs. Harrison's and M Prud'homme's classes are working as a team to develop a performance for the junior Holiday showcase on December 22. Using the help and expertise of Mrs. Jennifer Tackabury, Zumba instructor extraordinaire, we are blending Language, Music, Drama and Dance into a performance that we hope will please.

Ms O and Mrs Dillon's Grade 4/5 Class - The students created jingles to support the various charities being acknowledged at the school. We announced them daily over the PA system at the school. Students are now busy working on their play Santa's Court for the Christmas concert

Grade 5 EFI with Mme Laviolette -Students are working on their group research project on government. Their presentations begin December 19.

Grade 6 EFI with Mme Laviolette -Students are working on their group research project on Canada and their links to the world. Their presentations begin December 19.

#### **Grade 6**

This month, the grade 6's volunteered at the Kanata Food Cupboard sorting food and the end result is that 600 Kanata families will be helped.

The grade 6's will also be hosting their Flea Market on Tuesday Dec. 20th to help support their end of year trip.

Mrs. Gasperetti's, Mme Laviolette's and Ms Carew's class participated in a Statistics Canada workshop to solidify their understanding of graphs and data management.

Mme Shawna - In Core French, we will be working puppet presentations relating to our French plays.

As well, the Junior classes are having rich discussions about issues relating to the character wheel. The Primary classes are very eager to create exciting stories together based on the toys that they bring to class. We are also very busy practicing and preparing for our holiday presentations.

## **Sports Highlights**

### Bordenball Tournament

On Monday December 12, the grade 4, 5, 6 girls represented Roch very well at Glenn Cairn P.S. for the tournament. They made it all the way to the semi-finals. The boys played Tuesday, December 13 at Glenn Cairn and were undefeated in round robin and went all the way to the finals. Along the way, they over-powered Stephen Leacock, Jack Donohue, Huntley Centennial and WOM! They played well and lost in the finals by two goals against Katimavik. We'll start volleyball for the junior students next.

For the primary students, we have dodgeball for the grade 2 students and Bordenball for the grade 3 students during recesses.

John & Leah