

# Glynn A. Green

## School Advisory Council Minutes

November 3, 2009

**Attendance** - Sandy Giancarlo (Principal), Jennifer Currie (Vice Principal), JoAnne Caldwell, Jim Turpel, Bonnie Cramp, Cathy Froese, Sheridan Houghten, Marey Martin, Gary Stickles, Dianna Dudzik

**Regrets** - Bob Higenell, Cheryl Taylor

### **Traffic Calming Update**

JoAnne Caldwell opened the meeting at 6:35pm with updates on the Traffic Calming Issues that GAG is currently dealing with. It was confirmed that Traffic Lights are being installed at the corner of Pelham Street and Port Robinson Road and that the sidewalk on the West side of Pelham Street will be continued from Elizabeth St. to Brock St. There will be a Town Budget meeting in November regarding the rest of 2010 in which SAC will continue to ask for sidewalks on Pelham Street to the South of the school.

### **Greening Update**

Jim Turpel presented an update regarding Greening with specific mention of an outdoor classroom and planting of trees near the soccer fields. Two quotes were received with Dekorte's Landscaping providing the better of the two quotes coming in at \$4,200 including GST. The outdoor classroom would be composed of 2 semi circles of arbour rocks (2x2x4) with 2 rows set 7-8 feet apart. This was determined to be a safe distance between the rows to inhibit from students jumping between them. There would also be a large rock as the focal point for the teacher. The placement of this outdoor classroom would be in or around the small hill just above the soccer fields providing an amphitheatre type setting.

Jim has been in contact with Guido Mueller of the Pelham Soccer Club regarding the placement of the soccer fields and the planting of trees around these fields. The cost to rotate the fields, moving goals posts and preparing the fields will be covered by the Properties Department and the Pelham Soccer Club. 20-22 Maple trees have been purchased, currently waiting at Mori Gardens, to be planted in this area once the soccer fields are rotated. The trees were purchased at a cost of \$89/tree which is a savings of more than \$200. A note will go in the November News Letter regarding the tree planting and informing the

parents that the trees have already been paid for and of where the money came from to purchase the trees. Jim will likely know by the next meeting what the Board will allow SAC to do with regards to the outdoor classroom and will have more information with regards to the trees at the soccer fields.

### **Principal's Report**

1. H1N1 update - DSBN monitors attendance levels for all schools. Public Health makes an inquiry once the absentee rate reaches 20% for any one school. GAG has not yet reached that level. If absentee level reaches 20% stronger cleaning methods are put into practice; the schedule of cleaning changes with more focus placed on surfaces that are most touched throughout the day. Normal daytime cleaning routines already include door handles and other surfaces as well as the night time cleaning routines. Few DSBN schools have reached this 20% level. GAG attendance levels have been average for this time of year. Teachers monitor the students and inform the office if a student is ill and needs to go home. Parents, when contacting the school with regards to a child staying home should specify symptoms so that the office can more closely monitor possible cases.
2. EQAO results are broken down to find out the areas of weakness in our school. GAG has been able to narrow its focus on Reading by studying the 2008-2009 results. It is recommended that a school continue its focus on one area for one year. On the *Item Info Report* results are shown per question with each student listed individually. This allows the staff to uncover areas of weakness per student and weak areas school wide. Areas of focus for GAG are *inferences, making connections, and analyzing text*. Grade Partners have been implemented throughout the school and Anchor Charts are being used so that the students can see what is expected of them in these areas. It was asked that Anchor Charts be copied so that the students can bring home the information they are learning at school better equipping the parents to provide knowledgeable support in these areas.
3. Teacher Moderation - teachers bring student work samples from similar assignments and all gather to mark the work. The work is marked by several teachers and conflicting marks are discussed. This exercise supports consistent grading throughout the grade levels. Teachers are better able to communicate to the student what type of work is required to produce the required grade. Use of Anchor Charts aids in this understanding.

**Career Day for Boys** - The possibility of a Career Day/ Job Fair for the Grade 7 boys was discussed. This event would take place while the Grade 7 girls participate in a Work Fair at Brock University. A request for Volunteers will go out in the December Newsletter. This event would consist of information tables and 10-15 minute presentations (optional handouts) from our Volunteers to provide the Grade 7 boys with information/ ideas of career options.

**School Fundraising** - was discussed and will be discussed further at the next meeting. SAC hopes to commit to another Fundraiser of some sort at the next meeting. Dianna Dudzik and Jennifer Currie will speak to their respective contacts regarding Poinsettia Fundraising. Dianna Dudzik will provide information regarding a possible Music Trivia Night.

**Walk-a-thon Update** - Mr. Macpherson is collecting quotes for the purchase of Laptops from the funds raised from the walk-a-thon. Close to \$7,000 was raised during this Fundraiser. The possible purchase of the ACER laptops from Wal-Mart fell through as that specific laptop is being discontinued.

**Digital Picture Frame/ LCD Monitor** - This picture frame would display/promote school activities/events in an effort to promote school pride and to help keep students and parents informed. Dianna Dudzik will look into the cost of a Monitor from Costco and report back at the next meeting.

**Christmas Food Drive** - was discussed and Pelham Cares will be contacted to see if Adopting Families would be an option for GAG. GAG would be able to adopt 16 families, with each class taking a family and providing the food/toys/clothing required to fill their family's basket. This may be more successful than the traditional food drive. Cathy Froese to contact Pelham Cares for further information on what is needed.

**Homework Club** - Homework Club is underway and taking place on Wednesdays during recess. A note will go out to parents to keep them informed of this club.

**Foundation Account** - The ending balance from last year not matching the beginning balance for this year has been corrected. The error was due to all figures not being provided to the Board until October. Only one laptop was purchased to go with the Smart Board - not two as discussed last year. The 2<sup>nd</sup> laptop was not purchased due to the fact that a desk top computer would be sufficient to work with the Smart Board and much cheaper. The staff did not want to make any further purchases without consulting with SAC first. The Smart Board arm has

yet to be installed in Mr. Khan's room. They are waiting for proper wiring configurations. This Arm still needs to be paid for from the Foundation Account. The Technology Committee will need to meet regarding this issue. A \$1,000 grant from Bank of Nova Scotia has been received and has yet to be designated for a specific use. An amount of funding needs to be decided on to hold for the Fun Fair.

**Process with Regards to Illness** - was discuss in the Principal's Report.

**Items to bring forward**

1. Fundraising
2. Outdoor Classroom/ Tree Planting update
3. Digital Picture Frame/ LCD display
4. Christmas Food Drive/ Family Adoption
5. Career Day for Boys

Meeting was adjourned by JoAnne Caldwell at 8:10pm. Next meeting scheduled for December 1, 2009 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the school library. All welcome to attend.