

Faywood SAC Meeting January 9, 2007

Attendees: Goldman (Chair), Cathy Trajkovski (Principal), Nancy Goldstein (acting Secretary), Kiki Bianchi (Treasurer), Jeff Yolleck, Risa Worth, Sunnie Macfadden Curtis, Diane Bailey, Dafna Jalon, Karen Jendruska, Patricia DiNicolantonio, Susan Pearlston, Lynda Carty, Ruth Alexandor, Danny Conn, Cheryl Urback, Catherine Karahozitis-Del Bove, Nancy Wong, Angie Graci (Co-Chair), Paul Isenberg, Dolores Scandura, Ingrid Tanner

1. Opening of meeting: The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm.
2. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of November 14/06:
Nancy noted the misspelling of Cheryl Urback's name. Kiki approved the minutes of the last meeting, Patricia seconded.
3. Business Arising:
Cathy mentioned that now that our school website is up and running, we can post minutes from the meeting. It was suggested that the minutes be reviewed by Cathy, once they are approved, to ensure that no confidential information is released for general reading.
 - a/ Meeting etiquette: Alison asked that no talking or sidebars take place during meetings, as it is difficult for everyone to hear and concentrate on the matters being presented.
 - b/ Methods of submissions for agenda: Alison asked that all agenda items to be included for future meetings be submitted via email to Alison.
 - c/ Parents newsletter reviewing SAC meetings: A question was raised about whether we should resurrect the telephone hotline that has not been used as an info line since Laurie DiFederico last recorded the information more than a year ago – we could use the phone line to mention that meeting minutes will be available online on the school website. Because there is no one to regularly update the line, it was agreed that this information regarding the availability of meeting minutes will be included in the next parent newsletter.
 - d/ Meeting date for April (Passover). After discussion, it was agreed that the April meeting will be skipped because of the timing of Passover, and change the meeting dates to: March 27, no April meeting, May 8. Nancy motioned this change, Sunny seconded.
 - e/ Guiding Circles/Mono Cliffs Fundraising: Diane Bailey (gr. 8 teacher) brought forth information about a TDSB pilot project – “Guiding Circles” that focuses on student success, and looks at different ways of being successful. Both Diane, Jackie Gaistman and Ms. Dix are all receiving training in this program. It focuses on personal interests – taking into account career ideas and personal activities. The focus is on the 7/8 group of

students to promote highsecondary school success and making smooth transitions into secondary school.

On Jan 16 Michelle Vanderzon will be presenting the program “When I grow up” – a parent workshop that will look at different pathways to success. Not everyone chooses the university path and this will look at how to talk to our children about career aspirations. This meeting is open to all parents, but will be of interest particularly to parents in grades 6 and up.

There will also be a Career Day in mid April to be facilitated by Michelle Vanderzon as well. A letter went out to the parent community a while ago asking for interested individuals to share information about their careers/jobs. More information to follow.

Mono Cliffs Fundraising: Both Mono Cliffs trip and grade 8 grad are usually funded by the students, Mono Cliffs typically costing \$100/student, and the grad \$30 per student. Traditionally the SAC and/or the grade 7 & 8 parents have organized fundraisers to offset the costs of these trips. Last year’s grade 8 raffle raised over \$4000 with more than \$1100 being given back to the school. With the new fundraising issues being raised by the TDSB, Diane asked what they, the students, can do to offset the cost of these events for the kids? Patricia asked if there is the will on the part of the students participating in these trips/events, to participate in a fundraising event. Diane said yes.

Cathy noted that she has had parents in the office upset with the amount of fundraising being done by the school, and they had suggested that they would rather write one cheque at the beginning of the year than be constantly barraged for funds for the school events, trips, etc.

Diane asked if anyone would mind if the 7/8’s lead an initiative to raise for their own events. Could also use this exercise as a learning experience in managing a business. A discussion ensued as to whether we should look at a fundraising timeline from a cost perspective...what funds do we need to raise for the school as a whole, what charities do we choose to support, what trips are being taken...to balance everyone’s needs.

It was decided that the fundraising committee needs to meet to discuss this further. Diane agreed that the Grade 8’s would look into doing pizza lunch, at least for February as an alternative to the cupcake sale. More to follow.

4. Principal’s Report:

i/ There will be a change from EK Photography to Edge Imaging for the school photographs, and they have been booked for Oct. 11/07.

ii/ Quest for Excellence: Faywood is participating in this new program, a TDSB initiative-they choose the schools they want to work with. Cathy will be working with Gen Ling Chang, our Family of Schools Superintendent, on this initiative. We will be focusing on the arts and raising the bar in this area again. There will be consultants that will be made available to us. We want to be known in the TDSB for our arts programming, and to turn our good school into a “great school”. The other school in our family that has been chosen is North Prep and they will be focusing on the arts, as well as other areas.

iii/ February 13/07 is the start of our Kindergarten registration. On Feb. 6 parents of new kindergarten children can begin calling to set up appointments for registration on the 13th. We have received \$500 in Ministry funding for kindergarten materials, to be given to new, incoming kindergarten children, and we will be looking at putting a package together to give to these new families as they start at Faywood. Alison and Cathy mentioned that we should speak with Gayle Kirsh (Principal at Ancaster school), who is now involved with the Learning Partnership, to provide information on parent workshops and packages for kindergarten. Alison will follow up.

iv/ For any interested parents, Dellcrest Centre runs programs and workshops for parents on a wide range of topics. They are free and often run by social workers. Cathy will post information on the Community board.

v/ Sunni brought forth information from the safe schools committee. The committee had wanted to find out if our children would participate in a survey to find out what is going on in the school (ie where do they feel safe, bullying issues, etc), rather than setting up a box in the office for them to drop their comments into. It is important that we, as parents and educators, be more aware of what's happening with our children and give them a voice (anonymous) to share their feelings. Diane Bailey asked if there could be input from the Grade 8's for the survey questions. It was discussed that there should be different questions for different grades (there are different issues for different age groups). Sunni will also be putting up material from the Kids Help Phone Line around the school.

vi/ The North York Mirror featured Anny Sher and Marcie Buchanan in their weekly smile column...we all appreciate the cheeriness and dedication of all our staff! Cathy also mentioned that there is a form available to nominate teachers for an award of excellence.

vii/ Cathy has ordered and received the new Grade 5 math texts. She is also looking at purchasing "Bold Print", a high interest/low vocabulary reading series ...this in response to our focus on raising the bar of our literacy levels. She would also like to consolidate and coordinate textbooks in the school to make viable and complete sets.

viii/ Cathy is still compiling the EQAO data with staff and will share the results and recommendations at a later date.

Viii/ Regarding the changes to the fundraising policies, raised at a prior SAC meeting, Cathy has received some clarification: the TDSB has issues surrounding student names being given to companies that SAC's ally themselves with for fundraising (ie. Hiring external DJ's to run dance-a-thons, Jump Rope for Heart, etc). This is a breach of confidentiality for our families and students. In addition, Council should NOT be signing any contracts on behalf of the school. These should be passed onto Cathy for signing.

5. Chair's Report

a/ Pizza Lunch: Diane acknowledged that the grades 7's and 8's will take on Pizza Lunches but will have to decide on how long she will commit to doing this, with the proviso that profits from this fundraising will go toward offsetting the costs of the trips/grad of these students. This of course must be cleared with the Fundraising Committee.

b & c/ Safe Schools Committee and Curriculum Committee – Cathy asked that those individuals involved in these committees stay behind after this meeting to organize future meeting dates.

D/ Yearbook: Karen Jendruska, Alison Goldman and Angie are working on the yearbook. The media club is sharing photos with the committee. Cheryl Urback mentioned that at her school, the yearbook was put on DVD's as an option for purchasing – we need to look into the security of our photos in this format (whether they could be cut and pasted out of the DVD).

6. Fundraising Report: Bonnie was not present at this meeting.

7. Treasurer's Report: A correction was noted on the Report: under outstanding commitments – Class trips are allocated at 20 x \$100 .
As indicated in the balance of the G/L, SAC has \$5023.05 left to spend this year, of which some must be allocated to the Fun Fair to cover upfront costs.

8. New Business:

Karen stated that the Librarians Association of Ontario got a grant from the Government for 3/4 million dollars, which is for all school and public libraries. These funds will allow free access for the next 24 months, to 10 million websites, normally not accessible without fees. Schools will be able to photocopy and print the information accessed through these sites.

We will also be able to access this information from home as well. She will publish the sites in the next Faywood newsletter. Presently we can access the Faywood library site by searching on Google.

Cathy mentioned that our new school trustee, James Pasternak, has contacted her to say there is money for new trees for the school. She mentioned that she would like the students to participate in the planting process.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.