

**E. L. Crossley School Advisory Council
Minutes of Meeting
September 14, 2010**

Attendance:

Ed Goerzen, Susan Hawkins, Andrea McCollum, Jane Houlden, Sherry Frost, Stephanie Menicanin, Terri Steingart, Therese Czychun, Melissa Wright, Rick Tarajas, Corrine Grant, Karen Gemmel, Bhavna Sehgal, Shari Pearson, Emily McCollum, Kristine Canniff, Tracy Borisenko, Kristin ten Brinke, Ralph ten Brinke, Michael Hrycusko, Marie Saint-Ivany, Catharine Wark
Regrets: Natalie McIntosh

Call to Order/Welcome:

Jane called the meeting to order at 7:05

4. Approval of Agenda:

Moved by Tracy Borisenko, seconded by Therese Czychun

5. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes accepted -Terri, 2nd Karen

6. Business Arising from June Minutes:

- (a) Parents Reaching Out Grant - do we still want to put this towards the Grade 9 Parent Info guide?
- (b) Gift Card Sales - only 55 sets have been sold so far

7. Elections:

Jane Houlden and Andrea McCollum to co-chair the council
Sherry Frost – Recording secretary
Election of a treasurer postponed until needed.

8. New Business:

(a) Effective School Councils - The purpose of the council is to improve student learning by getting parents involved in the school. What can we do as a council to provide informed advice to augment the school improvement plan?

(b) Financial Report - Jane reported that the negative balance was \$2824.00 - printing cost of \$1500 for the note cards

(c) Parent Involvement Committee - The DSBN has a workshop, New dimensions In Learning, November 3 from 4:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. – all council members invited to attend

(d) School Council Website -Ed Goersen will forward updated information to IT board personal

(e)OSSLT - Literacy practice tests are not completely marked yet. When finished, students will be ranked as being “okay, at risk or in trouble”. Strategies will be developed to help the struggling students. The Grade 10 Literacy test will be held in the spring. In order to graduate high school, all students must pass this test or take the literacy course.

(f)Scholarships/Awards - Many scholarships awarded through universities and the communities are not always accessed. The graduating class is told about these in advance and it is up to the student to apply. The bursaries awarded by the school are always used. Should this info be more accessible for parents? The Grade 11 university night is an excellent way to get more information .Students need to keep track of their community service hours even after the compulsory 40 hours. This information may be required on scholarship applications. Ed Goerson asked if we would like to invite guidance counselors to speak to the council more about the process. Council was open to the idea.

(g) Parent Outreach - This is a Ministry of Education initiative to get parents more involved in schools. Each council is allotted \$500. There is \$50-\$1200 available for guest speaker, etc... Application would be through the Parent Involvement Committee of DSBN

(h) Student Representative on SAC –

Emily McCollum mentioned that a Grade 9 rep was needed and that next week students will campaign to be elected to that position. The Student Council plans 90% of the activities that happen at school including spirit weeks, the Grade 9 barbecue, dances, Terry Fox amazing race etc. Other important dates: September 21 is a Grade 9 retreat at Burgoyne Woods. September 22 is the first dance of the school year. September 30 is Terry Fox events.

Other

A question was posed to the new council members as to why they came to the meeting. Some responses were: for ongoing information regarding resources and activities at the school, wondering about a monthly newsletter, the phone calling system re: special events, absenteeism. Ed Goerzen will be sending home 4 newsletters a year. He apologized about the technical issues and will update the sign as soon as possible. The Ministry Of Education website suggests a survey go out to parents regarding how they would like to receive information.

October 7 - early progress reports go home and Parent's night is Thursday, October 14. The topic of "Beach Day" (a day when students go to the beach which is not sanctioned by the board) was discussed. It was agreed that this is a Board issue.

9. Principal's Report:

Ed Goerzen provided his background in education and expressed how thrilled he is to be the new principal of this wonderful school community. "The school has a wonderful tone and breadth of program". He commented on the beautiful gardens recently worked on by Miss Keller. September 24 is Early Release Day - staff will be trained in how to use a defibrillator. Susan Hawkins has established a study group during junior lunch for 40 minutes. Tutors are available to help students who are struggling. The study group can be accessed through the subject teacher.

10. Committee Reports:

(a) Grad Breakfast & Fundraising - Do we want to continue to fund this breakfast?

(b) A committee needs to be formed for fundraising. Ed Goerzen suggested for the time being to focus selling the remaining note cards on Parents night. We will look into selling advertising for placement on the gym walls.

11. Question Period:

Discussion arose around an alumni association

Are laptops common? Not particularly, but students should have memory stick/flash drive.

Is there a late bus for students involved in extra-curricular activities? No.

Ed asked about the way Parent/Teacher Interview night is run. Can we change the way it goes this year?

12. Agendas Items Next Meeting:

Scholarships, goals, grad breakfast, fundraising

13. Meeting Dates - Tuesday, October 12/10

14. Adjournment of Meeting