

Minutes for June 11, 2008

Fernwood PAC Monthly Meeting 6:30pm

at Fernwood School Library

Attendees: Carin, Tania, Petra, Shari, Marianne, Mardon, Kathleen, and Mr. Bennett
Agenda adopted and additions to agenda confirmed.

Minutes of May 14, 2008 AGM and monthly meeting adopted as written with no changes.

Principles Report:

Mr. Bennett advised that the track meet on June 5th was cancelled due to inclement weather and rescheduled. The student numbers for next year continue to be unsettled and therefore it is a wait and see in September before classes can be organized with the possibility of losing more teaching staff due to lower numbers. The swimming lessons went well and now that we have an indoor facility Mr. Bennett is talking with the pools manager Jim Raddysh to facilitated more flexibility around when the school offers its swim program next year. We are no longer confined to the warmer season for swimming!

The new software for the website is here but will not interface with the distract website. A temporary website is now up and staff are working towards fixing the problem.

Tania presented a working draft of the pamphlet that the PAC wishes to hand out at the spring picnic with the goal of educating Fernwoods parent body on PAC. PAC is also looking to include this information in the new student handbooks to be given out next September. Mr. Bennett identified some areas of confusion with the information in regards to the role of PAC, the planning council and how the monies are distributed. To ensure consistent communication Tania will work with Mr. Bennett and Marlene on honing the language and the leaflet will be ready for distribution as planned. Thank you Tania!

District Retreat

Unfortunately no PAC members were able to attend the Distinct retreat. Mr. Bennett explained that the focus for the retreat was on identify learning opportunities. The group separated into small groups to explore this topic with examples and activities. Mr. Bennett indicated that perhaps in the fall the planning council could revisit these tools to help determine Fernwood's educational strengths and goals.

Choir Proposal:

Tania has contacted Oona McOuat. Oona has run the successful fairy camps and has a choir program at centre school. The proposal that has been made for Fernwood school would include 2 concerts (Christmas and Spring) It would start late September and go until late June as a once a week lunch hour activity that students could volunteer for. The cost would be \$2100.00. We would expect that a further \$600-800 would be needed for an accompanist and a few hundred dollars for incidentals (eg music sheets, photocopies). Therefore the entire cost would run about \$3000.00. Oona McOuat will communicate with Mr. Bennett directly to set this program in motion. A suggestion forwarded by Petra was that we could run it in 2 stages. Stage one from September to Christmas and then stage 2 from January to prior to the Spring break. This would give PAC and the students time to evaluate how interested the students are in continuing a choir and how well this proposal will perform.

The PAC unanimously supports the choir proposal for the 2008/09 school year.

DARE:

DPak has offered \$200.00 to help with advertising Fernwood's PAC's attempt to organize an out of school DARE program. This program could be offered for any 10-13 year old child who has not been offered the program through regular school time. There is also a program for

parents to help talk to their child about drugs. Kathleen will get a registration form to hand out to the grade 4's and 5's to see if there is enough interest.

Fernwood PAC Pool nights:

The pool has a discounted rate for private functions hosted by school bodies. To this end PAC could rent out the pool as a courtesy to PAC parents and host a pool party for our school. This could be possibly done on the last Thursday night of September. Carin will talk to Jim Raddysh the pool's manager and see if this is possible. This item has been tabled until September.

Kiln:

Insurance will not allow for the kiln to be set up inside the school. The cost of keeping it outside the school in its own building is too high given that other cheaper options are available to Fernwood to run a pottery program (self hardening clay/ ship up to high school kiln for glazing) this idea will not be followed up on. The kiln was donated to the school by so and so. If anyone has a suggestion as to what should be done with kiln please forward it to PAC via the suggestion box or to Mr. Bennett.

Fernwood Gardening project:

The families with gardens have received their plots and keys. There has been a \$400.00 grant given by the farmers institute which may be used to buy needed supplies like bark mulch and upkeep of the raised beds etc. PAC would like to see a fall work party organized to help with weeding. There is still allot of interest in the Garden Club idea which would have the garden club teach the kids about gardening and redesign the classroom gardens. Ms. Lee will advise the PAC as information on these projects progresses. Thank you Ms. Lee! There has been a request that the garden club donate any extra plants to the garage sale that is being organized to support the basketball court at the high school.

DPAK Rep:

We now have a DPAK rep, thank you Shari Hambrook!

Sign Update:

The brackets have been fabricated and now need to be concreted into the ground. However, since this is a busy time of the year for the maintenance staff at the district we will be looking at having this work done over the summer. Raven Street Cafe has donated \$150.00 towards fixing our sign. Marianne has offered to write a thank you card on behalf of the PAC.

PAC Meetings:

PAC Meetings for the 2008/09 school year have been set for the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm in the Fernwood school library.

School Planning Council:

The information for parents who wish to be involved in the school planning council for the 2008/09 year will be available in the next newsletter.

Changing PAC signers:

We are just waiting for the 2007/08 PAC signers to sign off on the minutes of the AGM in order to change the PAC signers. As soon as this has been done we can then move forward with the 2008/09 executive.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40. Next meeting September 10, 2008.