

ATMS PAC Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2008

Sherry Reimer – moved to approve the previous minutes
Pam Robinson – seconded the motion

Principal's Report Mr. Greg Sharpe – informed us that we have had a beautiful start. No glitches and no speedbumps. The students are being proactive about meeting him and introducing themselves.

Jessica Holsima (Tuesday and Thursday afternoons) has just been hired to join the grade six team. Greg is currently working on the band issue. We have 32 children interested in taking band. Band will be for grades 6, 7 and 8. We've had interest from Miss McColl from ATSS and we continue to work through solving this. The administration will attempt to find a time within the day (rather than early morning or after school) to incorporate Band.

The Meet-the-Teacher night went very well. Mr. Sharpe estimates about 300 parents attending. One parent appreciated the time flowing nicely with the ATSS Meet-the-Teacher Evening.

Mr. Sharpe is not content with the Track in its current state. He's withholding payment until things have been improved.

If you intend to attend the Pro-D day on the 19th, please RSVP. Mr. Sharpe encourages everyone to attend. He says that there are some healthy tensions between what traditional looks like and what parents want to see traditional looking like. He's encouraging his staff to really "hear" what the parent community says.

He talked with us about WEB, which is a program that transitions new students to Grades 6, helping them to feel comfortable. He would like to begin practicing this program.

He talked about the Board of Education's Policy Review update. It reminds us that the school principal is responsible for granting final approval of a learning resource for use in the classroom.

Under the code of conduct, a revised statement needs now to be included in each child's agenda code of conduct. It can be found on page 2 under #3 (District Code of Conduct).

#5 The basic thrust is to ensure student safety and to ensure that communication is clear between school district, school administration and the parent community. Teachers are now required to carry student information sheets with them on fieldtrips, as well as file a copy in the office. The safety of children is the first

priority. Accountability is essential. Parents brought up concerns with this policy as it is too hard to regulate such as – What if I am running late and I phone another parent to take my child to a game. This would not be allowed under the new policy. What about those kids that parents have asked them to get a ride – not allowed either.

Cell phones are basically allowed to and from school or outside the school property. They are not to use cellphones in the building. They need to then store the cellphone during school hours. These are brought to the school at the student's own risk.

Anaphylaxis – 9 students have been identified as being allergy risks this year. They have been identified to the staff. Mr. Sharpe is the safety representative. Their pictures, contact information and appropriate medical supplies are stored onsite.

Yearbook – Mrs. Sillzer from ATSS will work with kids to create the yearbook for this year.

Chair's Report Mrs. McPhedran – we want the fitness stations out and ready (8:30 Wednesday morning, the fitness committee will meet to decide what equipment to buy) asap. ordered and installed by the end of December. Our \$15,000 will be matched by a government grant. This will not be playground equipment, but will be fitness related and will be incorporated into the walking track.

Classroom communicators – in each class, one parent will be the liason to the parent community and will help and support the teacher, primarily via email. A letter will be coming out very soon, enlisting help. We hope to also enlist two class phoners (separate position), so as to communicate especially with non-English speaking families, and for those without email access.

SPC – we need two more members, ideally people who are prepared to commit to more than one year. Rhonda estimates that last year the SPC met eight to ten times for the year. There are also two Inservices per year, where participants receive training.

October – PAC elections (Vice Chair, Secretary, BCCPAC, DPAC and 2 SPC members) will be held at the next PAC meeting.

September 19 – ATMS parents are heartily encouraged to attend this District Pro-D

TAC (Traditional Advisory Committee) Mrs. Lori Toews – Founding traditional parents band together to decide as a group what “Traditional” looks like. Principals, teachers and parents come together and help define what traditional is on an inter-school level. Jason Parker chairs this group. There were approximately seven meetings last year.

Treasurey Mrs. Lori Toews - \$37,000 thus far. We are expecting an additional \$9,000 in the form of a gaming grant, which we haven't yet received. We have roughly \$7000 that isn't earmarked for various things. Our year-end is August 31. Next month is the budget committee meeting. We have open books, though the entire balance sheet isn't published. We have financial fact flashes on the website, though anyone who would like is able to request further information.

Fundraising – ATMS cookbook? Gymbags? Photography – family photo evening? The big one we've done in the past is a raffle, where for last year, we made just under \$10,000. We need to create a fund-raising committee and we need to get prizes donated for the raffle. English Bay cookie batter and muffin batter? Grade 8 Leadership is considering a Garage sale where you rent a table and a Clothing Drive will be happening. The Grade 8's are also selling Entertainment Books and Pizza Days. Unless someone comes forward to take over the weekly samosas, it will be given over to the Grade 8's as this was never a fundraiser but a service to provide food for students as we did not have the Snack Shack originally.

Next month we will be deciding on the budget. Please come forward with any ideas that you may have that you'd like to see the PAC provide for the kids.

Questions Raised to Principal: How does the healthy kids mandate affect our students, Grades six to eight? It varies from teacher to teacher, because our kids don't have 30 minutes of PE per day. It has to come out of the regularly scheduled day. We need to begin to think of how we monitor this. One idea is student journaling. The teachers will be asked to account for the opportunities that they provide for the students. Each child needs physical activity EACH day.

Are there certain instruments banned from band? No, guitars and percussion instruments have to be limited. There is the expectation that students have some rudimentary skill ability with the instrument they choose. The teacher's role is not to TEACH the individual students the individual instruments. This is a concert band model. The band room is in the high school.

Earthquake safety kits? They're stored away and not very accessible. Mr. Sharpe is going to look into these. Our first drill is on the 25th. Pam Robinson will forward an email pertaining to updated safety rules to Mr. Sharpe. Evidently some of the rules have changed.

Meeting adjourned 8:25pm