

Merton Home and School Meeting
5554 Robinson Avenue
November 18, 2009

The meeting began at 7:40 PM in the teacher's staff room.

Present at the meeting were:

- Joanne Whitty – President
- Ida Di Stefano – Vice President
- Franco Sauro – Treasurer
- Harvey Caron – Assistant Treasurer
- Debra Friedlansky – Activities Chair
- Tracy Cartwright-Wani – Secretary

Also present at the meeting were:

Raizel Candib, Sandra Gianfelice and Richard Kirsch

Joanne Whitty chaired the meeting and Tracy Cartwright-Wani took the minutes.

Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved by Debra Friedlansky, seconded by Tracy Cartwright.

Approval of the past minutes of October 21, 2009

Approval of the amended minutes by Harvey Caron, seconded by Tracy Cartwright.

New business

No new business.

Reports

- ASA

There isn't too much to report. There was a brief period where two of the ASA staff were absent so Joanne and Frank arranged for some extra help in Pre-K. A planning day with the Pre-K staff was supposed to take place on the upcoming ped day (Nov. 20th) but it will be rescheduled.

- Enrichment

A survey was sent out for winter enrichment. The enrichment night sign-up will take place on Dec. 9th at 7 PM. There are still a few details to confirm with Mrs. Candib.

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- Pre-K

Fernanda resigned. All Pre-K duties are being taken care of with the utmost care by everyone on the executive. In the spring at elections a new Pre-K coordinator will be elected. Ida might take it over once grad planning calms down a bit. There are currently 21 children in the program; there is one spot open because a child left the school. A suggestion was made to send out an email to advertise the open spot. Presently, there are 16 children confirmed for next year and there are 6 spots left to fill. One parent from open house registered their child.

- Bake sale/book sale

The class moms were given their lists and have started calling parents to volunteer to bake pies and send in food. The volunteers will start preparing pies on Nov. 27th that will be sold frozen. On Dec. 2nd, the day of the bake sale, a few pies will be baked and they will make fudge. This year will be strictly a baked goods sale; no other kinds of food will be sold. The ASA kids will make posters. Ida mentioned the lack of volunteers this year and the lack of good will and helpfulness from a lot of the parents who were contacted. Some of the parents who volunteered at the beginning of the school year for the bake sale withdrew their support because they said they thought they were signing up to bake something and didn't realize they might be asked to bake pies or help out the night of the sale by setting up or selling goods. Mrs. Candib suggested that if arranging the pie-baking is becoming too much of a hassle then perhaps we should abandon the idea and do a straight bake sale next year. Mrs. Candib also addressed the issue of the negative reaction of some of the parents who were contacted to help out for pizza day /bake sale/Halloween haunted house. She suggested the Home & School reach out to them, particularly the parents who came to the first Home & School meeting of the school year and invite them to the next meeting to get them more interested in school activities and make them feel welcome.

- Grad

The fundraising is going slowly but surely. A total of 120 tickets were sold for movie day. A profit of approximately \$400 was made. The chocolate bars are due this week. To date almost 100 boxes have been sold at a profit of \$1,300. The Zukacise program isn't going well. We need 10 people per class to break even because the teacher is expensive but there aren't enough people attending. We need to publicize. The next meeting is Nov. 23rd.

- Treasurer's report

ASA revenue is down by \$1,000 a month. Expenses are up \$3,000 from last year. Frank expects things to change in January. Tax season is approaching, Frank is preparing for it. There are 3 parents who still owe ASA fees from October. There will be no ASA for these parents if they don't pay and the next step will be barring their kids from pizza lunch. There is still an outstanding amount of \$5,000 for AEF fees. Invoices and letters will go out shortly. The new system regarding sending invoices by email is working well.

Question period

- Question: Were parents happy with re-shoot day for school pictures?
No. Parents blasted Home & School because they said they didn't know about reshoot day. It was in the newsletter.
- Question: Harvey and Frank want to know if the bulletin board at the entrance of the school can be used to advertise Home & School activities/news.
Mrs. Candib said this would be fine. Harvey suggested that we section off the board to post new announcements, current events, the Governing Board minutes, etc. Harvey was nominated to oversee the bulletin board.

Governing Board report

No report as the next meeting is only on Nov. 25th.

President's report

- Emergency Phone Chain: We are still missing some forms back from parents. The form is available up on the web.
- The grade 5/6 school trip to Boutin En Train will be happening again this year. As Home & School did last year we are donating \$1,000 to help bring down to cost per child for parents.
- As mentioned in the Bake sale report, we can't stress enough how important is to help out for this event in some way. In the past we have had the sale over both nights of parent/teacher interviews but we decided this year to only have it the day and night of Dec 2nd. Last year we found the second day was the leftovers from the first night and we really did not sell much. All leftover items will be brought to the NDG food bank as Joanne did last year.
- The playground proposal was given to the school board, we will now have to wait and see.
- With regard to the court date of Nov. 30th it has been officially changed to only start in April as the lawyer for the unions is still ill. Our lawyer feels this is good for our side. Joanne will keep us posted.

Principal's report

- The homework program for grade 3 – grade 6 starts in January.
- On Dec. 10th the Olympic torch will be passing through Cote St. Luc on Cote St. Luc road. The teachers want to bring their students so Mrs. Candib is going to find out the route from the city.
- H1N1: The Ministers of Health and Education will be handling the H1N1 vaccination of students. The school boards asked for vaccinations to be done on site at schools but were refused. Their request for teachers and staff to be vaccinated at the same time was also denied. High school

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students will be vaccinated first and then elementary school kids. A letter and consent form will go out with report cards. Once the number of kids requesting the vaccine is confirmed, Mrs. Candib will call the school board and she will be given a date for the vaccinations. A bus will bring the children to Cavendish Mall and parents can meet their children there to accompany them.

- The senior concert will be held on Dec. 9th at 12:45 PM.
- The junior concerts will be held on Dec. 17th: Pre- K and Kindergarten at 10:00 AM and Cycle 1 at 12:45 PM.

There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by Tracy Cartwright-Wani
Secretary