

Merton Home and School Meeting
5554 Robinson Avenue
October 21, 2009

The meeting began at 7:30 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:

Hayo Paduhn, Cindy Itovitch, and Rose Di Mambro

Absent were: Raizel Candib , Fernanda Di Nezza and Sandra Gianfelice

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

Approval of the agenda

Motion made to amend the agenda. Approved by Debra Friedlansky, seconded by Rose Di Mambro.

Approval of the past minutes of September 24, 2009

Minutes were sent via email and were not read during Home & School meeting. They were approved unanimously with an amendment.

New business

a) Playground

Home & School are trying to get funding for a new playground. Merton will contribute \$5,000, the Home & School will contribute \$10,000, the EMSB would contribute \$15,000 and the Ministry of Education would contribute \$15,000. Frank Sauro will present to the EMSB a proposal for the playground which will be geared towards children 4 to 8 years of age. The Home and School will try to fund half of their contribution through fundraisers throughout the remainder of the school year.

Reports

- ASA

Daycare is running smoothly. Donna and Nikki are sharing responsibilities depending on the split of kids. There are no problems to report.

- Enrichment

A survey will be going out soon to parents to ask their opinion on the fall programs and to ask if they have any suggestions for new programs and/or if they know anyone who could teach a program. Joanne came up with a new idea regarding sign-up for winter enrichment courses. She proposed a registration night, possibly the same night as parent-teacher interviews in December. She will be sending out a letter with this regard shortly.

- Pre-K

Mount Sinai Hospital would like the pre-k children to make Chanukah and Christmas cards for their patients. The co-chair person from hospital's auxiliary will be visiting the kids in November to explain what they need to do.

Registration for the 2010-2011 school year is open. Many parents have questions regarding the curriculum so Fernanda encouraged them to attend the Open House Information Session on October 28th where Harriet will explain the program and they can give in their registration package.

Many grade 5 and 6 kids have volunteered their time during lunch hour to help the kids with their lunch and to read and play with them.

We have ordered pinnies for the pre-k class to wear on their class trips. We ordered 25 pinnies , 4.50 each (total \$112) from Mr. Molo's supplier Projel. When we receive the pinnies, Jadon will do the printing of the Merton logo for a fee of approximately \$150.

An interactive musical activity has been planned for sometime in November. The kids will get to play percussion instruments, sing along with puppets and dance. This was a great success last year. The cost was approximately \$150 for 30-45 minutes. The date and cost to be confirmed.

- Uniforms

Jadon is coming on October 22nd to drop off orders and take new orders. Rose will set up a meeting with Pam Rudie in November to discuss our survey results particularly the main comment from parents regarding there is no option to order sweatpants with a straight bottom and no choice of a size XS. The issue was raised as to why the pre-k class are not obligated to wear the red Merton uniform on class outings for safety reasons and why the kindergarten kids are not obligated to wear white and navy blue on non-gym days. Frank said he will bring up the issue with the Governing Board.

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- Grad

Everything is going well so far. The chocolate bar drive has started and so far approximately 40 boxes have been sold. The dance/exercise fundraiser program Zukacise starts October 27th. It's a hour class that will run every Tuesday at 7:30 until May. Tickets will cost \$6 each or four tickets for \$20. Children 10 yrs and older can also participate for \$3 a ticket. Preparation is also underway for movie day which will be held on November 15th.

- Photos

An email will be sent out to parents to ask their opinion on the photos because so far it seems many are not happy with the quality, especially concerning the group photos which look like they were over-exposed. Tracy will call the representative to set up retake day after discussing with Mrs. Candib.

- Treasurer's report

A letter will be going out to all parents with an outstanding ASA bill from October. With regard to AEF, to date \$14,000 has been collected.

Question period

- Question raised again concerning the big hole and rocks on the junior side.

Once the work on the roof is finished, the hole will be fixed and the debris will be removed. Hopefully this will happen before winter starts and it starts to snow.

- There is a lot of trash on the junior side and surrounding it. Why is this and couldn't each class take a turn cleaning up?

The caretakers are supposed to clean to take care of this. Frank will discuss this at the next Governing Board meeting.

- The parking issue was raised again, why is CSL security there every morning, isn't there a better way to handle this, especially on the junior side where many parents don't want to just drop off their kids because they are young. Harvey Caron mentioned a drop-off system he heard about at another school whereby there is a drop-off zone in front of the school doors and there is a security guard who comes to the car and escorts the children into the school. He wondered if it would be possible to have some kind of a system like this at Merton. An issue was also raised regarding the lack of supervision in the morning on the junior side.

Frank will discuss the issue at the next Governing Board meeting.

Governing Board report

The field trip policy was reviewed and approved. The school fees policy was discussed. The next meeting is November 25th.

Merton Home & School minutes

President's report

- First pizza lunch went well, there were a few bugs which were taken care of.
- Terry Fox was great, it was nice to see so many parents.
- Magazines subscriptions have gone off, Joanne should have a total for how much was made in profit.
- Open house is next week, looking for volunteers some time on October 27th and October 28th, the shifts are from 8:30 to 11:30 or 12:30 to 2:00.
- Hepatitis A shots for grade 4 are on October 28th. Grade 4 parents have volunteered to come in to help out. Home and School will be providing juice for the children.
- Halloween and the haunted house is next week. Parents who volunteered on the volunteer forms were called today. We need parents for set up at 2:30 on October 29th and parents for the day of the haunted house which is October 30th. Parents are encouraged to dress up.
- Emergency Phone Chain - a form went out yesterday encouraging parents to please make sure they fill it out, it is important.
- Bake Sale/Used Book Sale this year will be on Wednesday December 2nd. Notices will be going out soon asking parents to drop off any books. We are also looking for a parent to be in charge of calling all class mothers to make sure they are making their calls.

Principal's report

Mrs. Candib was absent – no Principal's report.

Next meeting scheduled for November 18, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by Tracy Cartwright-Wani

Secretary