

Minutes

Blythwood PSA General First Meeting

Monday, October 18th, 2010 7:30pm

Blythwood School Library

ATTENDED:

Susan Fisher, Kathy Dingley, Sandy Hutchison, Paula Hamilton. Anita Mancuso, Kathy Jauernig, Alison Smith, Nick Nikita, Andrea Mozas, Kerri Torrey, Batia Bibas, Nicole Nixon, Lesley Steven, Nancy Whittman, Sarah Kerr, Bonny Cheng, Sylvia Cooper, Connie Rosenblatt and Dave Hilborn

- 1. Susan Welcomed the Blythwood parents to the first meeting of the year.**
- 2. Approval of May 25th minutes:** Connie moved to approve the minutes and Alison seconded it.
- 3. The Principal Report:**
 - a)** Good start to the year. First morning of school ran smoothly. Staffing changes but managing.
 - b)** 250 students are running for the Cross Country team. Jennifer and Andrea are helping this year so they can take over from parent volunteer, Donna Dorland next year.
 - c)** Blythwood's athletic teams are currently competing in Division 1, which includes larger school populations than Blythwood. Fighting to move to Division 2 to make it more competitively fair. Both Soft Ball, coached by Mr. Calford and Football, coached by Mr. Haywood teams did not advance after tournament day. Student Teacher was great assisting Mr. Haywood coaching football.
 - d)** School budget is the same as last year at \$56,000. \$419 of the budget goes to Council, which covers photocopying and insurance costs. This year, parents were asked to pay \$20 for consumables.
 - e)** EQAO results were lower for both grades 3 and 6 compared to last Year. There are explanations for the dropped scores. For example, in grade 6, there were 4 students in the home school program, writing the test, which brings the overall average down. The gender situation (male heavy in both grades) also brings the overall average down. To correct this situation, more books that interest boys will be added to the library. Grade 6 students tend to score lower because they realize the scores do not influence their personal average so they do not try as hard. For detailed results, please refer to the web site.
 - f)** Spirit Day a success. Spirit-wear to continue, students can order it if they want.
 - g)** Lunch Supervisor is working out. The "Lunch Lady" program is great. Lunches are offered Mondays and every second Wednesdays. Pizza lunch is running smoothly. New secretary, Linda Stockdale is working out great and Giftie is training her well.
 - h)** Terry

Fox run was held and a success. **i)** Photo retake is November 17th. **j)** Teacher/learning continues. **k)** Jump for Heart will be held April 15th

- 4. Susan Fisher reported:** Susan introduced and welcomed Gerri Gershon, School Trustee to the meeting. **a)** The Book Fair was a huge success. Organized by Jill, Nicole and Leanne, \$9,000 worth of books was sold. This gives Blythwood \$1,784 to spend for our library, which Mr. Zamora is already spending. **b)** The Fun Fair was great fun and it also made a small profit. The grad committee raised \$3,000 at the fair. The PSC helped the grad committee raise this much by donating the dunk tank. **c)** Cathy Martin is working on the community drive. She will also follow up with Carrie from Sunnyview to see if there is an opportunity for us to help there. **d)** Budget for lice squad is \$900. They will come in three times per year. They found 13 cases in their first visit. A parent crew follows up once the cases have been identified. **e)** Susan was able to secure \$1,000 for the school's web site! **f)** Parent handbook was distributed to each family at the beginning of the year. Any updates can be found on the web site. **g)** Safe Arrival volunteer is still needed. Traffic continues to be chaotic. **h)** This council sits for two years. Looking for volunteers for next spring. Please approach Susan if interested.
- 5. Treasurer Alison reported:** that the 2010/2011 Approved Budget of \$57,000 have the teachers thrilled with the new Math Kits, Nelson reading series, sporting items, etc. To confirm, Alison is the Treasurer for the PSA which is the charity side and reports to Revenue Canada.
- 6. Kathy Jaurnig, Treasurer reported that:** To confirm, Kathy is the Treasurer to the PSC and reports to the T.D.S.B. Kathy motioned with the extra funds in the account that we purchase \$600 worth of additional student chairs bringing the total to \$2,700 for chairs instead of desks. Susan moved to approve the purchase and Andrea seconded it. Kathy will also work on a proposed budget from the pizza lunch profits.
- 7. After Four Program: Connie** reported that it is a great fall program! Continued growth with 26 programs running and 175 kids enrolled in these programs. This accounts for 66% of Blythwood students in After 4. In addition, most people on the waiting lists were accommodated.
- 8. Fundraising:** Anita reported that the QSP raised \$3,700. If you missed the QSP deadline, you can still order your magazines on line by using the Blythwood link throughout the year and the school will benefit from your order. The same goes for "lovable labels". Anita would also like to thank the pizza lunch parent volunteers.
- 9.** A parent brought up a web service, Survey Monkey that the school John Fisher uses for class lists, forms, etc. Susan said she would look into it.

- 10. Catchment Area:** Dave brought up issues concerning the current Blythwood catchment area. Under the current boundaries, there are 3 streets south of Lawrence west of Bayview that are not included within Blythwood's catchment. Now that Blythwood is a "closed" school those students will have to go to school outside of their neighborhood. Gerrie Gershon said that unfortunately these catchment areas were drawn under the old North York boundaries. Therefore, Gerri requested a written form identifying the issues and she will look into it. Gerri also encouraged parents to join her at the monthly WARD meetings.
- 11. Spring Fundraiser:** Some ideas are a pub night at the school including a silent auction. An Art night displaying the students' artwork, etc. Looking for more ideas.
- 12. Future Expenditures:** 1) High Jump mats. \$800 for the crash mats. High jump for grade 6 only, however can include all grades. Add high jump costing \$1,700 on the donation board. 2) Christmas donation
- 13. Speaker Nights:** Wendy Craig on the topic of bullying. Follow up with Sue Austin.
- 14. Food Policies:** Changes will take effect September 2011. The changes are to enhance the health and well being of school children. A "green light" code will be used to classify foods that are allowed in the school. Foods that are not allowed fall under "red/yellow light" code. Red/yellow light foods will be allowed in schools for 10 days only throughout the school year. Currently the pizza we serve on pizza lunch days falls under the red light. Pizza Nova is making a green light pizza. Will look into it. Other food areas to consider are birthday celebrations, fun fairs, lunch programs, etc
- 15. The next PSA General Meeting will be held Monday, November 29th.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.