

Regency Acres Public School Parent Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 7-9pm

*Amended April 22, 2015

Participants: Joan Lash, Becky Knowles, Lisa Leoni, Sandy Kennedy, Pat Morton, Elena Siriopoulos, Gwen Al-Kas, Laura Parkin, Kim Davies, Gayle Palmer, Leah Clark, Dina Paraskevopoulos, Kathy Duncan, Karen Eriksen, Susan Roy

Regrets: Lynn Pearson, Jo Greig, Sheena Murphy, Kristy Damtsis, Chris VanderPloeg

Welcome Comments from Lisa Leoni

- Lisa provided a background of her educational career. She is excited to work with an active group of Regency parents.
- Lisa talked about the principal entry survey that was issued by Becky. Lisa likes to work in a way that includes all voices (parents, teachers and staff). This same survey was sent to Regency staff. Becky will also be distributing to grades 4-8. In 1.5 months, Lisa will import the data and review the trends.
- Lisa closed her welcome message by addressing her style: open door policy, no appointment required, email and phone also works should you need to reach her.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was put forward to approve the agenda by Gayle and seconded by Kathy.

Adoption of Minutes: A motion was put forward to approve the minutes by Kathy and seconded by Leah.

Technical discussion - decision amongst the group that a "motion carried" will imply that a decision was approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Joan advised that our ski night volunteer, Deb, will be retiring from her role at the end of this year. The Fraser family and the Mooy family will be taking on this role in 2016.

STUDENT COUNCIL:

- Alex McLeod and Karsen Roy are working with Mrs. Walsh on introducing Me to We to Regency Acres. The girls are working on a presentation that will be delivered to grades 6-8 students. The goal is to encourage students to become involved in leadership opportunities. Alex and Karsen explained how Me to We is not only a global initiative, but one that can be applied right here at Regency. Ongoing work here but Council was impressed! Lisa advised that her previous school had a Me to We program and offered to facilitate connections with other schools.
- Lisa is keen on building leadership within our school and will be working with teachers on instilling leadership opportunities/values within students. Lisa shared her vision for next year's Student Council election. She would like to see students tied to portfolios

(e.g., Justice, Finance), and to invite other students to tie into a portfolio (e.g., Me to We can be an offshoot of Justice portfolio). The goal is to provide a space for students to lead, and to entice all students to become involved.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- Elena reviewed the latest *Financial Report. Milk ticket sales are declining. We will be adding a reminder in the newsletter to parents to purchase tickets at the office.
- Projected closing fund balance has been lowered with input from Lisa, who explained that generally, schools keep a closing balance of between \$6000 - \$7000.
- Kathy motioned to approve the report, seconded by Joan.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- Report cards go home Feb. 19!
- We reviewed school travel planning and the new signage that will be implemented (no u-turns at Kiss and Ride station). To promote and educate parents on the new rules, we will be designing an education piece that will communicate the following:
 - Advise parents that a change is coming (no u-turns)
 - Include a detailed map that outlines the change and how you can comply (parents may not understand how they are to approach/depart Kiss and Ride)
 - Kathy will provide maps and Leah will work with Lisa on the communication piece that will be sent home to parents.
- YRDSB Parent Symposium
 - Will be held the evening of April 15, 2015. Three parents may attend this with Lisa. Joan will be attending. If 2 more interested, please forward your name to Joan **no later than Feb. 19, 2015.**

FUNDRAISING:

- Pat provided an update. This year's Spring Fundraiser will include Zumba, Karate, Basketball and an Obstacle Course. Students will be motivated to raise funds. Every \$10 blocks gets them a ticket to enter into a prize package. Anne Ross is the lead. Projected funds to be raised: \$7000
- General call for prize donations (sports tickets, gift cards, items you no longer use etc.).
 - Lisa to give Subway tickets to Pat.
 - Call for prizes is in newsletter.
 - Pat to also ask teachers to send out via Remind (teacher text service).
 - Email blast to parents who are on authorized distribution list.

NEW BUSINESS:

- We have \$2161.24 remaining in the budget for technology purchases. The Board will match our spending. Becky has issued a survey to staff to determine technology needs. No. 1 request is for laptops; no. 2 is for iPads. Funds will need to be used by spring. Council motioned to set aside \$2161.24.
 - A motion was put forward by Kathy to approve the spending of \$2161.24 for new technology and seconded by Karen. Motion is carried.

- The survey results from the surplus spend vote were confirmed and will be respected. Lisa thanked Becky for conducting the survey. Future surveys can include conversations about methodology and participants. *Survey Monkey does provide weighted average results; however; survey monkey was not used for the surplus spend survey. Lisa also clarified that in her experience with the Board, surveys generally do not use weighted averages for school-based practices. Joan mentioned that choice no 3 may have been impacted by the change in administration; however; that will not be the case and Lisa supports it completely.
- Survey results are as follows:
 1. Water Filling Stations. We will install 2 stations (upstairs and main floor). Each station is \$2500. Total cost: \$5,000. Gwen has agreed to be the point person for the water filling stations.
 2. New Sport Team Uniforms. Total cost: \$4520 (note: there was discussion around getting sponsorship to offset costs. This becomes complex as sponsors must comply with Board approved list). Susan & Dina have agreed to be the point persons for the production of school uniforms, working alongside Mrs. Moffitt.
 3. Front Entrance Enhancement/Upgrade: Total cost \$3500 PLUS Lisa will contribute from her budget \$3500 for a total of \$7000). The project will involve students, teachers & parents. Lisa has had a company come in for a consult. Final work will reflect the spirit of our school and community. Examples of consultant work may be found on www.paintalifestyle.ca. (see education tab). A committee has been established to oversee this project. Members so far include Pat Morton and Lisa Leoni.

A motion was put forward by Sandy to approve 2 water filling stations at a cost of \$5000 and approved by Elena. The motion was carried.

A motion was put forward by Sandy to approve the sport team uniforms for \$4520 and seconded by Elena. The motion was carried.

A motion was put forward by Sandy to approve the front entrance enhancement for \$3500 (plus match from Lisa) and approved by Elena. The motion was carried.

A wish list will be maintained on the other surplus spend ideas that were not voted in.

Discussion around the repainting of the games area. We are wondering if students and volunteers could take this on. More investigation will be required here (board approved paint, etc.).

A committee was established to address the outdoor play area: The Outdoor Play Committee. Leah and Karen have signed on as members, along with Lisa. Lisa will put a call out to the school community (incl. students & teachers) to sit to the committee.

Lisa invited a contractor in to examine the practice mats and general state of gymnasium. The suggestion is to upgrade mats that are in need of repair and purchase new ones. The cost will be \$5500 plus HST. This will also fall under "wish list" items.

BAG TO SCHOOL:

Leah will lead this program again. She will call the organization and request a date in April.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm