

Minutes
NORTHLEA HOME & SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday November 24, 2011, 6:45 pm, Library

Present – Erica Lewis, Erica Robertson, Kara Pearson-Kane, Claudine Lukawesky, Lisa Peirce, Jeannie Sit, Julie Brown, Sue Brookes, Gina Fortsas, Lynda Debono, Amy Carter, Sarah Dawson, Wilmar Kortleever, Jacqueline Frazer, Rachel Chernos-Lin, Christy Lockington, Sharon Krieger, Charlene Kalia, Sandra Whittaker, Andrew Smyth, Mike Wilkes, Kathy Murphy, Kathy Ribeiro, John Ellis, Lindsay Borden, Barbara Robson, Taggett Cornish, Guy Lariviere

Regrets – Tracy Spence (NCCC), Sue Thurow, Lisa Howarth, Sarah Stevens

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION – WILMAR KORTLEEVER

- Northlea is nominating Jake, one of our crossing guards, for the *Crossing Guard of the Year* award and a sheet was sent around about this award.
- Wilmar noted that, with the funding proposals being tabled in the Home & School part of the meeting, we will be pressed for time this evening.

2. MOTION Lynda Debono, Claude Lukawesky
APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COUNCIL AGENDA CARRIED

3. MOTION Gina Fortsas, Julie Brown
APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES, SEPT.29, 2011 CARRIED

> Claude Lukawesky asked about the date for the remaining lice check as noted in the previous minutes. Kathy Ribeiro reported that the date will be in the spring. Lisa Peirce recommended a date close to the end of March when the weather changes.

4. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – KATHY RIBEIRO

- Kathy reported that she gave a similar report to the NCCC board earlier in the week.
- Once again, Northlea has done very well in sports including cross-country, baseball, and volleyball. For the 8th year in a row, Northlea has brought home banners for rugby. While it's not all about winning, banners in the gym inspire students to get involved.
- Kathy also acknowledged the efforts of so many Northlea teachers who volunteer their time as coaches. Parents can also get involved and Claude suggested that it would be great to let parents know that they can coach. Sarah Dawson confirmed that she will put up a notice about this on the school site.
- A representative from the Toronto Fire Department recently came in to speak to the students. This presentation complements the visit from the Police.
- Northlea has a strong partnership with OISE and we've just finished having a group of teachers in training in the classroom. For 2012, thirteen Northlea teachers have signed up to have a student teacher in their classes.
- Northlea has had their first Eco Schools Audit (out of a total of three) for this year. This is our third year going for this certification – we are striving for the platinum level once again. It's a full school initiative. A walk about was done to look at revamping the garden – specifically looking at the area on the south side of the school, near the kindergarten.
- The Northlea 5/6 Choir performed at Queen's Park. Currently, the Choir and Band are rehearsing diligently for Holiday Concert which will take place at Northlea United Church on Dec. 14.
- The Kindergarten Holiday concerts are scheduled for Dec. 21, in the morning and afternoon.
- Once again this year, Northlea will be participating in the holiday sharing project. Each class will create a "Holiday Hamper" for donation to a family in need. This year, we will be donating 35 baskets to the YWCA.

- The *Vow of Silence Day*, organized by the 'Me to We' Group (Intermediate students), will take place next week. This initiative helps raise funds for a well in Africa. Students who are participating take a vow to refrain from communication for that day including texting, talking etc.
- There was a Second Safe Schools Committee Meeting today. The mandate of this committee is to address safety issues. There will be 6 meetings this year. At this meeting, a number of issues were discussed and they will be addressed in the next school newsletter.
- Kathy reported that the lunch room tables (18-20 years old) are falling apart. Unfortunately, it's very costly to replace them all at once so they will be starting the process. Kathy hopes to get the first new one in the next couple of months and noted that our head caretaker may put in a request for Home & School funds in the spring.
- PSP program – Word has spread about the success of this new program. Parents from Maurice Cody have come to find out more about how it works. Coordinator Erica Robertson (at Maurice Cody) and Principal Ribeiro together with Wilmar (at Trustee Gershon's Ward Forum) have made presentations about the program.

5. QUESTIONS

> Julie Brown thanked Erica Robertson for leading the organization and implementation of the PSP program.

6. SCHOOL GROUNDS UPDATE – JULIE BROWN

Julie reported that she has been working on this initiative as part of a group with TDSB staff, parents and the head caretaker. They looked at three areas: staff parking lot, childcare parking lot and kindergarten area. Following is a summary of what is being considered:

Staff parking lot – Currently there are two driveways and unused space in the parking lot. Proposed change is to close the north driveway, slightly widen the middle driveway and get rid of the cement islands and basketball nets. The plan will increase the number of parking spaces from 57 to 65 and make snow removal easier.

Childcare parking lot – This area has been historically problematic for student safety. The proposed change is to remove the cement island and widen the handicapped parking spot. In addition, they would like to move the gate between childcare lot and school grounds forward so that there is no room to park cars there (which blocks the fire route).

Front of School and Kindergarten area – The proposed changes include some soft landscaping – removing overgrowth which has created some security issues. The plans also propose removing the curbed area around dogwood and increasing the curbing over to the fence line. This change will allow for one continuous play area (without a walkway). They would also like to add a gate into the area to create more real estate.

> Lisa Peirce asked about the current play structures. Julie said that the TDSB will not replace the equipment unless it's a safety issue. There are plans for new equipment but this is a separate fundraising initiative. Julie also said that she hopes that the TDSB can be pushed to do more when they are here. Other changes that she'd like to see include removing more of the vegetation around the school which would not be terribly expensive but would increase the budget and timeline slightly. Timing for this project depends on funding. The TDSB always plans for this type of work to take place in summer to avoid disruption to students.

7. CORRESPONDENCE FILE – WILMAR KORTLEEVER

Wilmar passed around a Correspondence File which contained a collection of recipes (provided to the teachers, from the successful Teacher Appreciation Lunch), information on People for Education, a form for TDSB insurance, a flyer for "home work help" online and a copy of *Leaside Live*.

NOTE: *Leaside Live* is a new local publication. This issue references Northlea twice - once for our cross country results and once in an article about the size of local schools.

8. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The PSP programs needs more parent volunteers. Interested parents should visit the website for contact information. The website will soon have more information on the volunteer opportunities at Northlea.

MOTION: Claude Lukawesky, Lisa Peirce
TO ADJOURN THE MEETING CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Minutes NORTHLEA HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION MEETING Thursday November 24, 2011, Library

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 pm.

1. **MOTION** Lisa Peirce, Lynda Debono
APPROVAL OF THE H&S AGENDA CARRIED

2. **MOTION** Claude Lukawesky, Gina Fortsas,
APPROVAL OF THE H&S MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 29, 2011 CARRIED

3. SUE BROOKES – TREASURER’S REPORT

- Sue took the group through the statements for the period ending Oct. 31, 2011, our second month into the fiscal year.
- She has just added revenue from the Welcome Back BBQ. Marketplace continues to do well this year.
- Our current closing reserves are \$50,401. This amount does not include any monies raised from new initiatives.
- Sue also took the group through the budget for this year and noted that the amounts forecasted for different line items are based on historical results and tend to be conservative.
- Our closing budgeted reserves for 2011/2012 are \$77,612.

MOTION Claude Lukawesky, Gina Fortsas
THAT BUDGET FOR STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCH BE INCREASED FROM
\$200 TO \$300
All in favour. CARRIED

MOTION Julie Brown, Claude Lukawesky,
THAT BUDGET FOR GIFTS AND DONATIONS BE INCREASED FROM \$250 TO \$350
All in favour. CARRIED

MOTION Gina Fortsas, Julie Brown
TO APPROVE THE CURRENT BUDGET
All in favour. CARRIED

4. FUNDING PROPOSALS: SUPPLEMENTARY ROUND – WILMAR KORTLEEVER

- Wilmar noted that, as per the March Minutes, this is our second round of funding proposals. Tonight we have \$20,000 to disburse.

- Members of the school community were asked to submit proposals on October 31, 2010 and fifteen (15) proposals were received.
 - The Home & School Executive met to review the proposals and, at that meeting, two proposals were taken off the table. One of these proposals was for funds for ITLC - already a line in this year's budget. The second proposal was for changes to the school grounds. It was removed as it was not consistent with current plans – part of this proposal may come back in March (spring funding proposals).
 - In addition, there were two proposals that created a passionate debate. These proposals were for funds for a second ice pad at the Leaside Arena. The Executive was faced with a number of procedural guidelines from the TDSB. These guidelines centred on our mandate that funds raised by the H&S should be used to enhance school programs or support school initiatives.
 - Support for the Leaside arena could potentially be considered under our Community Disbursements line (7% of our proceeds), however, Community Disbursements for this year were decided in January 2011. Funding was provided to People for Education and to support the Thorncliffe School Snack program.
- > Andrew Smythe spoke to the group as a member of the Arena Committee.
There's an urgent drive to finish this project off. They have raised \$2.3M but need \$2.5M and the committee would like to see some H&S funds put towards that goal.
- Julie Brown noted that in all the funding proposal communication it clearly states that the money should go to support the school.
 - Sue Brookes spoke as both a parent and as member of the Home & School Executive. She believes it's a dangerous precedent to give money to what is essentially a fundraiser. Our current Community Disbursements are not fundraising initiatives.

FUNDING PROPOSALS 2011/2012 – WILMAR KORTLEEVER

- Wilmar noted there's not enough money to support all the submitted proposals still on the table. Requests total \$37,395 but we only have \$20,000 to allocate.
- There will be a maximum of 3 voting rounds:
- The first round is an info round to talk about the proposals – facts or clarification.
- The second round lets those in the room indicate if they support the proposal in principle – i.e. if they think that it should get some funding. (Wilmar noted that only paid members of the H&S are allowed to vote.)
- The third round looks at the remaining proposals. They will be put in order of the support they receive and we will decide on whether they should receive full or partial funding. If it's decided that it's just partial funding, we'll then need to decide on the amount through motions.

List of proposals and funds requested:

1. Musical Instrument - \$1,000
2. Claude Lukawesky – Portable AED - \$2,000
3. Funds for Eco Club – Greening on south side of school - \$1,000
4. School Yard Improvements in Kindergarten area - \$12,050
5. Team Gym Uniforms - \$3,700
6. Math Manipulatives for all 3 divisions - \$6,300
7. 15 Netbooks - \$5250
8. Esteem Team - Presentation to Grades 4-8 - \$495
9. Dr. Karyn Gordon, Ultimate package of materials - \$450
10. CD Recording of Northlea Music program - \$3,650
11. Staff Appreciation Luncheon - Catered foods - \$1,500

Results:

After a 'Yes' or 'No' vote, the following five proposals were left on the table, in order of support:

#4, #8, #5, #1, #6

After the second round, the following four proposals were supported for full funding:

- **School Ground Improvements**
- **Esteem Team**
- **Gym Uniforms**
- **Musical Instruments**

The motion was made to confirm partial funding support for the Math Manipulatives proposal.

MOTION Sue Brookes, Mike Brown
THAT \$2,755 BE GIVEN TO SUPPORT THE MATH MANIPULATIVES
PROPOSAL.
All in favour. CARRIED.

5. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Fundraising - Lynda Debono

- We've had a very good start to the year – QSP has been very strong. Lynda thanked Sandra Whittaker and Nancy Baillie for managing this initiative.
- Mables Labels – We just got our first cheque and plan to do new campaign in spring.
- Thanks to Jacqueline Frazer for all her hard work on Marketplace. It looks great.
- The Fundsript program was launched a few weeks ago and has brought in just under \$500 so far. This program is a gift card campaign and we will soon be putting in our third order. Lynda thanked Kennis Kim and Sharon Krieger for managing this program.
- Lynda noted that we will soon be starting a holiday campaign and they will suggest that the gift cards be used for teachers' holiday gifts.
- Family Fun Night 2012 – Last but not least, Lynda reported that Family Fun Night will be run this year under the great leadership of Gina Fortsas and Erica Robertson. They just had a meeting last night and make a great team!

Community Events – Claude Lukawesky

- Staff Appreciation Luncheon – There are details on the website but Claude reported that it was a huge success and thanked the two coordinators, Cathy Sturdee and Laura Piccinin.
- There's a new chess and math strategy centre in the library. The items will be bar-coded so that all Northlea kids can take them out
- Welcome Back BBQ – We are still looking for a Co-ordinator for 2012.
- Yearbook – Claude is trying to coordinate with someone to head up the Yearbook for 2011/12.

> Kathy Murphy noted that she would like to contribute to the Staff Appreciation Lunch but it's difficult as she goes to work in the morning. She asked if it's possible to contribute money. Claude said that parents are welcome to do this.

6. NEXT MEETING – WILMAR KORTLEEVER

- We're still trying to schedule upcoming meetings. At this point, we know that there will be one in January (EQAO), March (Spring Funding Proposals), April (School Model), and the AGM (June)
- There may also be one on the overcrowding issue and to look at how we are going to fit full-time Kindergarten classes into Northlea in 2014.

> Julie suggested having separate meeting for Fundraising (with no Council meeting) and one on the spacing issue (with no H&S meeting)

MOTION: Sue Brookes, Kara Pearson-Kane

TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.