

**NORTHLEA HOME & SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 16, 2013, 6:45 PM, LIBRARY**

Present – Wilmar Kortleever, Sarah Dawson, Shelly Lowe, Sue Brookes, Sandra Whittaker, Sue Gray, Alexis De Castro, Amy Carter, Andrew Alberti, Cathy Amodeo, Claude Lukawesky, Dan Murphy, Frank Chang, Gina Fortsas, Jacqueline Frazer, Jeannie Sit, Julie Brown, Kara Kane, Kelly Nicol, Lynda Debono, Michelle Chue, Nancy Baillie, Rachel Chernos Lin, Sharon Krieger, Stephen Peirce, Sylvia Franklin; Mike Kennedy, Becky Jenkins (Vice Principals); M. Lariviere, Mlle. Larocque (Teachers), Gerri Gershon (Trustee).

Regrets – Kathy Ribeiro, Frank Chang, Sue Thurow

Meeting called to order at 7:06pm

**1. WELCOME – WILMAR KORTLEEVER**

- **Wilmar explained the School Council and the Home and School Association meeting format. Welcome to our Administration, to our Teacher reps, M. Lariviere and Mlle. Larocque, and to the members of the Executive.**

**2. MOTION        Claude Lukawesky, Stephen Peirce**

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL AGENDA

CARRIED

**3. MOTION        Lynda Debono, Claude Lukawesky**

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES, April 10, 2013

CARRIED

**4. CHAIR'S REPORT – WILMAR KORTLEEVER**

- **We have been focused in the latter part of this school year, following up on concerns brought forward by parents, on staffing. School Council, unfortunately, is very limited in what it can do about Staffing, unfortunately - much is even limited for Administrators.**
- **Many things are ramping up for next year. Yesterday was the Kindergarten Orientation Meeting. If anyone has suggestions on where Kindergarten parents can find daycare, please bring them forward.**

**5. ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE – MIKE KENNEDY**

- **There were wonderful choir performances recently at Massey Hall and Roy Thompson Hall. Congratulations to Mr. Bondy, Ms. Konjhodzic, the Grade 5/6 teachers – M. Larose, Ms. Robson, and other teacher volunteers.**
- **We have had a variety of teams playing in the last while. Grade 5/6 boys soccer is going to semifinals tomorrow. Girls soccer had a game yesterday and unfortunately lost, but had a great season. Grade 7/8 boys soccer and Grade 8 girls soccer continues. More details to come on Ultimate Frisbee. Ms. Cioban conducted an orienteering event – using compasses and maps, 35 children in Grades 7/8 participated. All teams did really well.**
- **We had two successful days of Track and Field at Northlea. Thanks to parents and staff for their support. Interschool meet will be on May 22 for intermediate grades and May 27 for Grade 7/8**
- **EQAO last week of May for Grade 6; first week of June for Grade 3**
- **May 24 movie night – you can still get tickets!**

- **Becky Jenkins updated the group on Silver Birch and Red Maple reading clubs. The Silver Birch trip was today – 14 students in Grade 5/6 attended. We also had one of our students introduce one of the authors. Another student was the presenter of an award. They did a fantastic job. “Making Bonds for Hitler” is a historical novel that won the award this year. Yesterday, a few students went to Red Maple as well.**
- **Science Fair is taking place right now – fantastic displays up in the library.**
- **Congratulations to Claude Lukawesky for a great Kilometer Club. We are 97 km away from BC border. Tomorrow, we start at 7:30am. Tremblets Valu-Mart will be there with fruit and coffee for parents.**

#### **6. PORTFOLIO UPDATES:**

- **SCHOOL SUPPORT – Grad planning is in full swing. . If there are other Grade 7 parents who could help with food for graduation, please come forward to help with the Food Committee.**
- **We are looking at next year, to see who will be on the School Support committee**
- **Safe and Caring School committee met in mid-April. We will not be getting another crossing guard, but we continue to lobby for it as well as more police presence on Broadway.**
- **The committee discussed bullying issues and talked about the messaging at our assemblies.**
- **Rolph Road bus issue – we now have a parent liaisoning with Rolph Road re the issues with where the bus is parking.**
- **Issue brought forward about buses running the stop sign. Please call into the office to record such instances.**
- **Question re signage on school property. The committee met in December – there were 63 signs looked at and a fair amount need to be replaced. Kathy has the list of signs to be replaced and we’re trying to figure out how to replace them.**

#### **7. NEW BUSINESS; QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – WILMAR KORTLEEVER**

- Welcome to Gerri Gershon, our trustee
- Sandra Whittaker – read a letter sent to Kathleen Wynne and Gerri Gershon regarding concerns on the the cut-back of .5 librarian staff at Northlea. See Added.
- Gerri Gershon responded to the letter. We spend more money on librarians than we get from the Ministry. It does have to do with formulas. We borrow from other budget lines to fund more librarians. It also has to do with equity amongst the schools. Gerri will give a more formal response, when she has access to the information. We’re dealing with a \$55M overspend in the TDSB budget, and have to look at several aspects of the budget to reduce.  
Q: What was the criteria of the 10 schools who kept a f/t librarian? The answer has been that they went to the largest schools.  
Remark: EQAO site issues with reading in primary classes, and the problem will be made worse without library resource.  
Gershon: the board cannot have a deficit and has to come in with a balanced budget at the end of the year. The Government also has mandated the contracts.
- Wilmar has represented council at various meetings, objecting to budget cuts. It was a TDSB decision to assign schools 0.5 or 1 librarian, instead of a more gradual scale. That realizes most budget cuts, but hurts large schools. A letter was sent a few months ago to Trustee and Superintendent on this issue, and we received the same answer. Still need to register that we are unhappy with this situation.

- Julie – was there a conscious decision to increase junior and intermediate class sizes this year? Gerri responded that the government funds the salaries of teachers and we have to abide by class size cap. We are not increasing the class sizes. Rauda Dickinson, our Superintendent, is in a better position to answer these questions. Wilmar noted that we get a certain staff allocation by number of students. A divider was indeed changed slightly, which does increase class size. The overall effect of the numbers on our school is - we lost 9 student and lost 2 teachers, in the junior/intermediate grades. Gerri Gershon will get answers to our questions. It is a process that is meant to be fair. This school is not being treated differently than any other schools.
- What is the projection for TDSB of getting the books balanced again? Gerri: We don't have an answer to that. Less taxes are going to the provincial government so less money is coming back to the Board. The economy has hit everyone.
- What is the protocol for booking fire drills? Mike Kennedy responded that we try to schedule them on an appropriate day/time. There also was a situation recently where a student pulled the fire alarm.
- Can we ask Northlea staff to use reasonable judgement on children's clothing, i.c. shorts? Mike Kennedy had an assembly with the Grade 7/8 students last week, and talked about dress code. No mini or ultra-mini shorts are allowed. Mlle Larocque commented that many girls roll their shorts up at school, and are asked to roll them back down, and everyone agreed that was a reasonable request. Some parents comment that some attire of the desired length is not, or barely available to buy, and they will not buy a second ward robe just for school.

**8. MOTION      Andrew Alberti, Sue Gray**  
MEETING ADJOURNED

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm

**Letter, read into the minutes, by Sandra Whittaker:**

I want to read into the minutes a letter that I sent out today to Premier Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education Liz Sandals, Trustee Geri Gershon and Superintendent Rouda Dickinson.

I am dumbstruck by the decision to reduce librarians in the public school system and personally affronted that we are losing .5 of our librarian, Kerry Millar, at Northlea Elementary and Middle School.

Many studies have been recently published in North America about literacy and linking literacy to success, success in school and in life. Reading, comprehension, computer skills and communication all stem from literacy and the innate belief that reading is important. Librarians are taken away and the message to the students, young and impressionable children, is that reading is not important.

Psychologist Wayne Martino, an American, “asked middle school boys why they were doing poorly in English and they said things like: ‘Reading is lame, sitting down and looking at words is pathetic.’ ... Another boy noted: ‘I find English hard. It’s because there are no set rules for reading texts... In English you have to write down how you feel and that’s what I don’t like.’”

A librarian connects to children in a different environment than the classroom and on a personal level. This connection gives students confidence in discovering empathy and linking experiences to inferences.

Our librarian knows all of the children in our school and has a love of reading that is infectious. How lucky we are... were.

How can a .5 librarian possibly connect to the 800+ students at Northlea? How can a .5 librarian possibly support the curricula of a primary school, elementary school and a middle school in both English and French? How can a .5 librarian teach middle school students the research skills and critical thinking that are essential for high school and post secondary education?

I work at a private school. Their libraries (yes, plural) are expanding because that school recognizes the importance of preparing their students for the future.

The future of my kids? I am not certain that my kids will be able to compete. As a parent and as a taxpayer I demand to know why we are handicapping our kids by taking away every opportunity to experience literacy.

**MINUTES  
HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION MEETING  
MAY 16, 2013, 6:45PM SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**Attendees and regrets: see School Council Minutes.**

Meeting called to order at 8:54pm

**1. WELCOME – WILMAR KORTLEEVER**

- 2. MOTION Kelly Nichol, Gina Fortsas**  
APPROVAL OF H&S AGENDA

CARRIED

- 3. MOTION Kelly Nichol, Gina Fortsas**  
APPROVAL OF H&S MINUTES, APRIL 10, 2013

CARRIED

**4. PRESIDENT’S REPORT – WILMAR KORTLEEVER**

- Congratulations and thanks to the Date Knight organizers – Gina Fortsas, Alexis DeCastro, Valerie Cook, Sandra Zambon Delgado and Sarah Dawson.

**5. TREASURER’S UPDATE – SUE BROOKES**

- Sue explained the recent statement of revenue and expenses
- Date Knight and Acorn are not included in the present fundraising amount
- Prelim results for Date Knight are \$9K

- 6. MOTION Nancy Baillie, Andrew Alberti**  
TO ACCEPT THE STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

CARRIED

**7. PORTFOLIO UPDATES:**

**• FUNDRAISING UPDATE – LYNDA DEBONO**

- It has been a tremendously successful year, especially considering the political climate of the school year. We’ve had very successful campaigns like FFN, Social Series, Acorn etc. We like to do practical events that we gain from, as a community. Lynda thanked all people involved in the fundraising event portfolios. Rachel and Kara have done a phenomenal job with FFN. QSP, Social Series, Fundscrip, Classified, Acorn – all continue to be beneficial to the school.
- Each year, we try to create new ideas....Shop Get Give still needs some clarity and work. It is a destination on our school website for purchase at different stores eg) Mabels Fables, Tremblett's Valu-Mart, etc. It is not an advertising tool, but is a fundraising effort that benefits our school.
- Tremblett's has been a success – brought in \$1500 so far this school year. They will be coming to school tomorrow for final day of Km Club, providing coffee, fruit, juice boxes, etc. as a way to say thank you to the school.
- Praise to Date Knight organizers. It was a wonderful night and event.
- Friday Movie Night featuring Wreck it Ralph – lots of space for next Friday
- Next year, there will be a lot of restructuring of portfolios and we will have openings for positions. Please contact Lynda, Wilmar or Sarah if you’re interested in a position.

- Stephen Peirce asked if we should we be highlighting the fundraising side of the chess club. It was never meant to be fundraiser. There is a section in the library, with a math and chess section, funded with part of the positive revenue. We've kept the price consistent, and we need to make sure we don't lose money. We've had an increase of students participating, and we've kept the teachers the same, so we've made more money. We sometimes need to use a surplus to buy new equipment. We can monitor on an annual basis. It is a program run by parents.
- **COMMUNITY EVENTS UPDATE – WILMAR KORTLEEVER / SARAH DAWSON**
  - Yearbook work is ongoing. Amy Carter is doing a lot of work with Sarah Brooks. Order forms will come out tomorrow. Pictures are still needed and soon! After next week, we will not be accepting any more.
- **COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE – SARAH DAWSON / FRANK CHANG**
  - No news.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS – WILMAR KORTLEEVER / SARAH DAWSON

- **FUNDING PROPOSALS REVIEW FOR 2013/2014 SCHOOL YEAR**
- A call went out April 13 to submit proposals and there were 2 weeks to respond.
- There are 12 proposals to review. You must sign in to place votes and must be a member of the H&S Association.
- May 10 – the executive council met to review the 12 proposals. Tonight, we will review and vote on them
- **Process will work as follows. Firstly, we will name the proposals, with a chance to ask specific questions (no presentations); Then there will be voting round s (first an up-and-down vote for all 12 – need 50% to move on; 2<sup>nd</sup> – proposals are ordered by voting support in round 1, and then feature one by one to how much money will be funded - full or partial funding.**
- **We reviewed the package handed out:**
- **1) iPads – Do we have carts to secure them? No. What is insurance coverage if they are stolen or broken? There is none. Is there a corporate buying package? Prices are quoted are from TDSB – means they are supported with TDSB Helpdesk. Who is responsible for them? The teacher needs to take responsibility for them. Notebooks come with carts and are secured to cart. When the teacher gets a grant, does the teacher track the assets? Who manages the inventory? The iPads would belong to the Grade 1/2 class, not the teacher.**
- **2) M. Larose – subscription to math website**
- **3) Stage Curtains**
- **4) Musical**
- **5) Piano accompanist**
- **6) Classroom assistance - \$250/classroom; same as the last few years; supplemental to school budget**
- **7 ) Field Trip Assistance – goes towards the money used and the money is always spent.**
- **8) Kilometre Club**
- **9) Lice Squad – question re the frequency of visits in previous years**
- **10) Technology proposal – what is plan and vision for technology? Long range plan is to continue to purchase Smart boards for every room. Ensure that when we get Smart boards, we are providing PD to the staff so they are appropriately using them. We are slowly building up our supply and PD. Also working on laptops (proposal asks for 20 – goal is 30). Ultimately we'd like 2 carts of 34 laptops, one for each floor. We would like to see in next year's committee request, to give us a 3-year strategy and view to the plan. Request for this year is ration of 2:1 . Question re**

use of the technology across all classes. Some classes have Smartboards in the class and some that are shareable. Laptops on a cart make it easier to share. Maintenance questions – how many will need to be replaced this year? Are we replacing to backfill or getting new? This technology proposal is to augment the school budget. The committee didn't have time to orchestrate a new comprehensive vision this year.

- Statement made that the Laptop proposal and iPad proposals are not proportionate.
- Question asked why the iPad request was not part of the technology committee request? It wouldn't have fit the mandate for this year. Where do we want to focus? Technology vision is of Smart Boards and laptops on carts.
- Becky Jenkins commented that teachers aren't necessarily familiar with the technology. More PD will help that issue. With respect to DD program, Becky has worked with DD teachers to put in a successful application for Promethium boards, and to give the Smartboards to other classes. iPads have been used in other DD classes.
- Frank Chang asked how much money there is in the school to maintain technologies. Mike Kennedy commented that we don't have numbers in front of us.....it is not enough. Computers are warranted for a number of years ie)5.....services are covered by TDSB Helpdesk. By the time they come off warranty, it is time to replace them, and that is often what school budget is used for.
- Julie Brown asked about PD for teachers. It is not in the proposal. Permanently mounted smartboards – how do we determine where they go? Where they are today, they will remain and we will look to put them where it is feasible. Are they equally distributed between English and French and divisions? Mike will get an answer on that. Point made that they need to be spread equitably. What happened to the netbooks purchase with H&S money? And why the decision for laptops (vs ipads, as an example)? Ipad is more suitable for primary (no keyboards) but laptops appropriate for rest of school. One MAC request is to bring it up to 15 – M. Larose class – wrote a proposal re how they would use them – they are shared amongst teachers.
- 11) Kindergarten Play Structure – are we proposing to fund the most expensive option? Yes. Installation is too late for this year. Stephen Peirce suggested checking on pricing updates, as this quote is outdated . We will have to get a re-quote.
- 12) Replacing mobile cafeteria tables. Last year we paid for 2. They are to be set up every day
- We moved to the first round of voting– up or down vote on all proposals – majority will go to next round
- All proposals had a majority vote, with the exception of the iPads
- 2<sup>nd</sup> round – all remaining proposals are ordered by # of votes they got
- Next vote for full funding – if not a majority decision, we will entertain motions for how much partial funding it will get
- It may or may not get to 3<sup>rd</sup> round – we can take motions to re-discuss options if there is money left
- Total requested funds - \$125k and we have \$70K of funds to allocate.
- The following is the order in which the proposals were voted on:
- 1) Classroom enrichment – received full funding for \$8750

- 2) Km Club – received full funding of \$2000
  - 3) Musical – received full funding of \$2500
  - 4) Field trip – received full funding of \$2000
  - 5) Piano Accompanist – received full funding of \$5000
  - 6) Lice Squad – received full funding of \$5400
  - 7)Technology Proposal – received partial funding of \$21,000
  - 8) Cafeteria table – received partial funding of \$10,057
  - 9)Curtains – received full funding of \$2867.94
  - 10) Kindergarten Playground – received partial funding – will use funds left over from our allocation
  - 11)Math site – received full funding for \$199
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- Rachel Chernos Lin pointed out that we only have 21 voting members for a \$70K allocation. Should we think about how we can get a better turnout? Everyone agreed that communication was very good about this meeting and the funding process we would follow.

**9. NEXT MEETING – WILMAR KORTLEEVER**

- Not discussed.

**10. MOTION to Adjourn: Claude Lukawesky, seconded by Lynda Debono**

MEETING ADJOURNED

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 9:29pm