

**COLONEL BY SECONDARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL 2009 -2010**

**MINUTES
2009 - 2010 SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING #4
Tuesday, December 8, 2009
7:00 pm – 8:10 pm**

Attendees: Alfred & Mira Alvares, Bob Benwell, Mandy Brady (Recorder), Dan Burke, Janet Evans (Treasurer), Liza Godbole, Linda Harding, Peter Harding, Jennifer Harris, Lewis Harthun (IB Co-ord), Sandeep/Anu Hemmady, Katie Holtzhauer (Co-chair), Alice Jacobsen, Delia Kecskemeti, Nicolas Kecskemeti, Patti Keller, Mike Lachapelle, Gail Lyon (Principal), Jane Mahoney, Jenny Ong, Heather Pierscianowski (IB Rep), Evelyne Power Reid, Martine Rheaume (Teacher Rep), Jim Rickards, Liz Stanich (Co-chair), Louise Stephens, Ann Thacker, Tim Tierney, Joy VanderZwan Simpson, Alison Weir (Communications) (31 attendees)

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

School Council Co-chair Katie Holtzhauer chaired the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion (J. Evans / J. Mahoney) to approve the agenda was carried.

3. Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2009 meeting

Motion (J. Mahoney / L. Stanich) to approve the CB School Council minutes of November 17th, 2009 was carried.

4. Reports

a. Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Janet Evans presented the November Financial Report.

Opening balance:	\$4,808.21
Income:	\$1,465.50 (School Council portion of Student Fees)
	0.04 (November interest)
	=====
Closing Balance:	\$6,273.75

Motion (J. Evans / J. Harris) to approve the November Treasurer's Report was carried. Janet raised a concern about declining revenue from student fee contributions. Although enrolment at CB has remained about the same, student contributions to the School Council portion of fees (currently set at \$3 per student) has declined in recent years (2006 - \$2085; 2007 - \$1700; 2008 - \$1686; 2009 - \$1465), for a total drop of over \$600 or ~30% in 4 years. Principal Lyon reminded parents that Student Fees were voluntary, however she expressed concern at the declining participation rate as collected fees are an integral part of covering the increasing costs of school activities and materials. **BF to February agenda:** issue of declining school fee receipts.

b. Student Council Report - no student rep was available for this evening's meeting.

c. Principal's Report - Principal Gail Lyon presented the appended report, and thanked everyone for the privilege of working with CB students, staff and parents.

d. Staff Report - The Staff Report was provided by Mme. Martine Rheaume, who described some of the preparations underway by staff and students for the upcoming Holiday Assembly, and provided a list of 32 Colonel By clubs and councils for the information of interested parents (copies available upon request).

e. IB Co-ordinator's Report - Mr. Harthun updated Council members on the success of the IB Information Night held in November (largest attendance to date, ~1000 people), and thanked the numerous parent volunteers, in particular Annie Deutsch who coordinates all of the volunteers for IB activities. The deadline for application for the (Grades 9 & 10) Fall 2010 IB Program is in two days (December 10), and 365 applications have been received to date, so the final number is expected to well exceed the average of about 400 applications. Mr. Harthun also provided clarification regarding the Board's IB transportation policy: if IB students live >21km from school, they may be eligible for some form of transportation assistance (not door-to-door, but could be from a central pickup location).

5. Colonel By 40th Anniversary

Co-chair Katie attended the November meeting of the group co-ordinating CB's 40th Anniversary celebration. The event will be held on the May long weekend (May 21 - 23, 2010), and a website has been set up at <http://www.colonelbyreunion.com/>. Tentative plans include a Saturday evening social function (2-3,000 people expected), an afternoon of sports and game events, and the possible establishment of a Legacy Fund for graduating students. The weekend is largely being organized by two retired teachers and student alumni, and Katie is seeking a role for current students and staff as well as the Colonel By community, particularly considering the last 18 months of ARC and Board turmoil. Evelyne Power Reid indicated that the BHNCA would also like to have an opportunity to rally around the school to show their support, celebrate successes and 40 years in the community, promote school-community ties, and demonstrate to students how integral and important the school and community are to each other. Principal Lyon indicated that it is also important for current students to see themselves as future CB alumni. Ideas discussed that could involve current students and the community included a Sunday Family & Community Picnic Day, with family races and games which could be organized by current students, and fundraising for the Legacy Fund. The Council gave their support for the Co-chairs to bring these ideas forward to the 40th Anniversary Committee.

6. OCASC

Heather Pierscianowski attended the last OCASC meeting. Their calendar committee has endorsed September 7th as the expected start date for the next school year (this date will not be confirmed until Trustees debate and vote on the issue). OCASC is also presenting a community forum on "Assessment and Evaluation in the OCDSB", focussing on Grades 9 - 12, to be held on Thursday, December 10th at Canterbury HS.

7. Beacon Hill - Ottawa East Accommodation Review

Co-chair Katie updated parents on last night's OCDSB Special Committee of the Whole meeting (December 7th). The debate centred on a motion by Trustee Funicello that espoused the recommendations of the ARC, including no closure of schools included in the study. Trustees debated and voted on this motion, with the (unprecedented) outcome that the Staff Recommendation to close Rideau HS was turned down. (Since the Staff Recommendation was defeated, there would be no Board vote on this issue on December 15th as originally anticipated.) Trustees also directed Staff to develop a comprehensive plan to address long-term enrolment issues and the needs of students, and come back with a report in early 2010. A Trustee also raised the question of timelines under which schools under ARC review could be reconsidered, and it was

stated that the “5 year” reprieve indicated by the Ministry was only a guideline. Dan Burke and Evelyne Power Reid reminded parents that there were other positive outcomes to this process, including raising the profile of Colonel By as a whole to trustees, and across the city.

8. OCDSB Review of Student Transfer Policy

The OCDSB is continuing its review of the Designated Schools / Student Transfer Policy, and Co-chair Katie and others attended last week’s debate in which trustees continued down the path of restricting student choice. December 17th will be a continuation of this meeting, as revisions are to be put in place before February 2010 for implementation for next school year. Trustees appear to largely feel that “freedom of choice” is causing declining enrolment in certain schools, and the new criteria are intended to stem this. Sending and receiving principals are expected to be required to consult together to determine “student needs” for transfer, the wording surrounding non-semestered options for students is expected to be removed from the policy, and transfer caps will likely be put in place to better balance enrolments. Evelyne Power Reid stated that these changes to the policy are dismissive of community input, create an institutionalized barrier, do not demonstrate what the Board values, and disadvantage those who are new to the system / Board / country. Co-chair Katie suggested that the Board needs to change the way it does business, and reminded parents that there is an upcoming municipal election next October. Katie also mentioned that the Ministry is updating its policy on ARC processes, and that members of previous ARCs would be invited to provide feedback.

9. New Business - Thank yous

The co-chairs extended their profound thanks to the numerous people who supported the school throughout the ARC process and current Board policy reviews. A token of appreciation was given to core participants, including: Dan Burke, Evelyne Power Reid, Tim Tierney, Louise Stephens, Mandy Brady, Mike Lachapelle, Liz Stanich, and Katie Holtzhauer. In addition, heartfelt thanks for the time, energy and outstanding contribution of Ms. Gail Lyon as stand-in Principal were recognized.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned in favour of enjoying some delicious holiday treats and refreshments brought by participants. Happy Holidays to all!

Motion (J. Mahoney / J. Evans) to end the School Council Meeting #4 was carried at 8:10 pm.

Principal's Report to School Council
December 8, 2009
(Gail Lyon)

1. School-wide Events in the past month:

- Parent-Teacher Interviews – went well; any feedback?
- IB Night - A packed gym, with approximately 200 people standing
Thanks to Lewis for the tremendously organized evening
- Music Night – Wow!
- UCC Gala (United Cultures Club) and Coffee House – both wonderful opportunities for students to develop their leadership and their talents. Thanks to the coordinating committees and to our many staff members who facilitate and supervise.

2. Arts Curriculum

- Training is underway for the revised Arts curriculum. CB staff is on the board-wide committee

3. ASAP:

- SST has been working with teachers to identify students in grades 9 and 10 who may benefit from extra academic support
- With help from Continuing Education, we now have Math and Science support in our after school program
- Program runs in Library every Thursday after school

4. Athletics

- Pat Lacasse is once again applying for the Sun Life grant to support our intramural program (Last year: \$2500). Phys Ed rocks!

5. As we start to plan our 2010 – 2011 School Year:

- Exciting new two year program: Environmental Leadership Programme
- Will be built around the following four outcomes: Leadership Skills, Environmental Education, Investment in Community, Outdoor Skills
- Interdisciplinary approach, integrating curriculum of Geography, Outdoor Physical Education, and Science; being developed through next year, implementation following year
- Will include classroom studies, outdoor ed trips, geography field studies and science labs
- Possible trip to Costa Rica and the Bay of Fundy

6. Upcoming Events:

- Christmas Holidays! (December 18 - January 4)
- Friday, December 18 – Shortened classed in morning, followed by Holiday Assembly; 12:45 dismissal (1 pm buses)

7. Principal Position at Colonel By:

- We should know by the end of the week if Kevin Gilmore is returning in January
- If not: contingency plan: I will work the first week in January; retired principal, Pat Irving will then join you.
- Heartfelt thanks to our entire school community for the privilege of working with you.