



APPLEWOOD HEIGHTS SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

**Thursday Sept 17, 2009
MINUTES**

PRESENT:

Parent Members: Jan Yousef (Co-Chair), Annemarie McKay (Secretary), Ella Dicker (Communications-E-Mail), Dianna Bittner, Nicole Sells, Diana Johnson, Lisa O'Brien, Nancy Bonus, Vida Stripinis, Klara Redford, Nesta Wilson, Mashkoor Sherwani

Staff Members: Ted Byers (Principal), Patrick Tannahill (Teacher)

Student Members: Rachel Myers, Anser Abbas

WELCOME: Ted Byers and Jan Yousef welcomed all present, and introductions were made.

MINUTES: Minutes of meetings held June 11, 2009 were approved.

STUDENT REPORT: Anser Abbas and Rachel Myers

- Grade 9 Orientation went well
- Sold SPC Cards so far in the amount of \$110.50
- Sept 25th - Terry Fox Run
- Quite of few Grade 10-11 Students have signed up as Apple Leaders
- In October: Pumpkin Pie Slices for sale
- Spirit Week-Dress Up in Costumes for Oct 30th

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

1. Last year

- EQAO Math (grade 9): scores increased between 12% and 24%
- EQAO Literacy (grade 10); scores increased 6%

Why these strong positive increases?

- School-wide literacy focus through the Literacy Committee
- Consortium and GAINS projects in Math
- School-wide focus on credit accumulation, assessment for Learning, student success

2. Goals for 2009-10

- Continued focus on 4 School Success pillars:
 - Professional Learning Communities
 - Transformational Practices and Literacy
 - Student Success
 - School Climate
 - Student Leadership

- Anti-bullying
- Character Education – 3R’s

3. School Opening

- PD days Sept 2, 3: Staff worked ahead on school goals (as above)
- New procedures for lockers – feedback indicated there were areas for improvement in the process
- Common Lunch – initial feedback very positive; Teachers love it
- 'Flu readiness' processes – details about the Board and school plans. 5 Sanitation Stations will be set up in the school
- Enrollment: Last Count was 988.00 (need 14 more to meet criteria for not losing teachers)

4. VP Profile: What are the skills and qualities that the Applewood Heights School Council would consider being important in a Vice Principal at our school? Notes and ideas from this meeting will be recorded and then added to at the October Council meeting. This profile will be useful in the placement of a new Vice Principal, as part of our consultation process, should one of our Vice Principals is re-assigned to another building.

5. Semestering

- Reviewing the responses from last year
- Input for continued discussion

6. Upcoming Events

- Oct 15 – Progress reports
- Oct 22 – Early Release
- Nov 4 – Take Our Kids to Work
- Nov 6- Awards Night- Commencement

CHAIR’S UPDATE: Jan Youself, Co-Chair

2008-09 Accomplishments

Last year was a busy year for the council and I’d like to quickly review what we accomplished.

Goals	Accomplishments
Guest Speakers	Guest Speaker - Raza-Qureshi, Teacher AHSS Learning Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained to us how the Learning Centre works to help at risk students within the school environment
	Guest Speaker – 4 student leaders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Leadership Program
Staff Appreciation Breakfast	We also hosted a Staff Appreciation Breakfast in January for teachers and staff to show our appreciation for all their hard work in providing a positive, safe, and rewarding learning environment for our children.
Newsletters	The School Council sent out 4 newsletters to parents in December, March, June, and August containing information about the school council, how to

Goals	Accomplishments
	get involved, and included student success stories and updates on Project Mosaic.
Project Mosaic	<p>The School Council applied for and again received a Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant to continue our 'Project Mosaic' initiative that we started in 2007-08. We used this and council funds to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to expand our parent/family email database and used the system to increase communication between home and school community • Launch the new School Council website • Organize a series of workshops in partnership with the Guidance Dept. on key topics of interest as identified in the 2007-08 school surveys, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning for the Future - March 12/08 at Parent/ Teacher night ▪ Careercruising.com - Dec./08 parent night ▪ My Career, My Future – May/09. Guest speakers included: Ontario Government, Engineer. Physician, Nurse, Social Worker, Accountant, Investment Advisor, Entrepreneur, Producer/songwriter/musician, Fire Fighter, Lawyer, Teacher, Computer Industry – Software Development Engineer. Graphic designer, Armed Forces

Thank You for Your Support Last Year!

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support last year. Last year we accomplished a lot, and we should all be proud of our accomplishments

Goals for 2009-10

We'd like to get some ideas from you about possible goals for the council for this coming year. For example guest speakers, continue with workshops for parents/students, etc.

Next Meeting: October 22, 2009

Minutes Prepared by A. McKay