

## **School Council AND Home & School meeting**

**on November 22, 2010 - Minutes**

**In attendance:** Mrs. Scime, Principal of Dalewood; Mrs. Simpson, School Vice-Principal; the following parents: Paul Agar, Jeremy Abrahams, Sue Hawthorne-Bate, Wendy Leadbetter, Jill Macintosh, Sharon Ricci, Kim Newcombe, Heather Losy, Phillis Connelly, Marie Garber

Regrets: Louise Adam

**Welcome and introductions** – The Principal and the Treasurer Sue Hawthorne welcomed the participants who introduced themselves.

### **Review and approval of the previous meeting's minutes**

The previous meeting's minutes (Oct. 26) were not available. The participants agreed that going forward the minutes would be distributed via email and also posted on Dalewood Web Site.

### **Treasurer's report**

Home & School membership cards will be sold at the next meeting.

Citrus fruit fundraiser: organization details for delivery were discussed.

### **Principal's report**

**Progress report** - The principal asked for parents' feedback about the new progress report. She indicated that while she likes the new report, it presented some challenges for the teachers due to the new format and the time constraint to prepare it. It will take time for the teachers to be completed comfortable with the new format. High achieving students missed seeing their marks.

Parents and teachers should not wait for the progress report to discuss students' difficulties. It can be challenging for a teacher to write comments about 250 students. It would be easier if students had a main teacher like they did until Grade 5. The students would also benefit from having more time with a main teacher.

**Update about facilities/plant** – The caretakers has worked very hard to clean the floors of the hallways. A team will clean the gym on the week-end. Despite the Prohibitive to Repair (PTR) status of Dalewood, efforts continue to improve the overall cleanliness of the school.

### **Safe Schools – Lockdown**

The full lockdown that took place on Friday Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> brought out issues about the building and its safety. The PA system does not work properly in the change rooms and in the gym. There are too many keys; some do not work well. An estimate of the cost to rekey the whole building has been requested.

Visitors will be required to wear a visitor's badge and the recreation center staff will need to be more vigilant about people coming and going. Perhaps the recreation center door should only be

opened when staff is on duty. The possibility of locking the main front door of the school was also discussed. The school is far too “open”. Staff will be consulted and the students will be made aware of the role they can play to keep the school safe.

The School Council could provide input regarding the process to follow if the students are outside the school during a lock-down. e.g.: how to take the students from Dalewood to G.R. Allan in an orderly manner. An evacuation kit could be created.

Lockdown drills will take place on December 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be an announcement and some explanations prior to the drills.

The principal handed out a document about the Lockdown Procedures at Dalewood and presented the new protocol (including new terminology) from the Board.

Cell Phone Policy – The use of cell phones at Dalewood is “out of control”. Students use them at lunch time, to take pictures, to chat on the playground, etc. A policy will be put in place requiring that all students leave their cell phones, their ipods and MP3 players in their locker until dismissal time at 2:35 pm. The principal has the discretion to make such a decision, which is related to the Code of Conduct.

Code of Conduct – The principal is looking for volunteers to update the Code of Conduct. There is a provincial Code of Conduct and a model at the Board level. Each school has its own Code of Conduct.

### **School Council**

School Council Regulations and Responsibilities – These will be presented at the next week.

New co-chairs: Kim Newcombe and Wendy Leadbetter have volunteered to be the new co-chairs of the School Council. The principal will meet with them shortly to discuss future initiatives.

Principal Placement at Dalewood – A decision will be made in December. The name of the new principal will be announced in January. Mrs Scime will remain at Dalewood until the end of January. The Board is looking for 12 new principals.

The School Council can draft a profile of the qualities that the school is looking for in a principle and send this profile to the Superintendent.

Teacher’s report – The Vancouver Band Trip has not been approved yet.

Best Buy Grant Submission – No news yet regarding the submission that was sent in October.

Fundraising – The Dalewood account at Holland Park Gallery has over \$ 1000.00, which entitles the school to a \$ 40.00 voucher to be spent at Holland Park.

E-link – Sharon Ricci provided some details about the way E-link works. It costs \$ 15.00/month. Pictures can be included. The principal will go and check it out at G.R. Allan.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> FROM 6.30 TO 8.00 PM.**