

AMC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 20, 2025

PRESENT: Karley Chaffee (Staff Representative), Denise Minardi (Principal), Caitlyn Araya, Jordan Neudorf, Sarah Drake, Michelle McIntyre, Amanda Faulkner, Chloe Richer, Abby Zaitley, Rachel, Mike

ONLINE: Victoria Baranow, Laura Deboer, Madeleine Elton, Laura Mulder, Vanessa Dunn

REGRETS: Katie Moisse, Melissa Garey

Call to Order

Introductions

Attendance

Approval of minutes:

- Minutes approved from December 5 meeting; moved by Chloe Richer and all approved.

Trustee's Report:

- Thanking everyone for the support during the campaign. Abby plans to stay on unless there is a Board meeting conflict. Abby plans to take a back seat while she figures out what her role looks like. Abby can't be Co-Chair or vote but would like to remain as a resource and support.
- Some parents want agendas or requesting organization methods beyond sheets of paper. Something to think about for older grades. It can be teacher dependent. Karley will ask staff about them.
- One child named Abdurrahman passed away last May, but not much was done for the family. A GoFundMe was started, but wasn't initiated by AMC. Some of the children think that he has gone to another school. An info sheet was sent home and a social worker visited the impacted class. Perhaps a memory book with photos of memories of the student. Plant a tree/bench/rock with a plaque, garden. Denise will follow up with the social worker. There was concern in the aftermath determining what the family wanted/needed and how to respect their boundaries and privacy. Classmates had no idea what had happened and a lot of speculation about what happened and the school offered no context or followup. Let's discuss the steps the school takes and how it is communicated.

Vote for Co-Chair:

- Caitlyn Araya has been elected as a Co-Chair.

STANDING ITEMS**Treasurer's Report:**

- No follow up from Veronica yet. Income for the year: \$11300 including fundraising from last year. \$765.80 from the holiday market.
- Green Initiative \$5000
- Decoder texts \$1000 - purchased and received - Thank you!
- \$2800 blacktop project
- \$1931.44 remains, potentially \$500 more from the Board to be confirmed.

Principal's Report:

- Ms. Olivetti and Ms. Allen (EAs) are away for a few weeks, there are job postings but not completely filled.
- Ms. Belivary and Ms. Butler continue to support as DECEs in FDK
- 448 students, 100 are kindergarten
- Staff meeting last week. Discussed funding and teacher requests. Voted on what SC could fund, and having a plan. Art supplies and recess bins were discussed. Graphic novels have been ordered but not yet arrived. Changes to nutrition breaks: moving to everybody outside then inside eating. More bodies outside to make better use of the space. This will start as soon as weather allows, with the exception of Pizza Days.
- Excursion planning with Patrick a Program Organizer from Boys and Girls Club. Initiative to connect with BGC. Students in Grade 3-5 to begin but 2/3 splits will be accommodated. Insurance has been sent and approved. They are creating a schedule of activities to occur just after first nutrition break and will be walking there and back.
- Outdoor ed funding, creating an online trip planner to prevent conflicts.
- Read-a-thon: next Thursday we will receive a sheet explaining it: it is one week, with motivational prizes. The materials are wide-open to include all kinds of readers and their interests. Monday January 27th-Friday January 31st, with a Comfy Cozy Reading Day on the 31st. The top readers from each class will be celebrated at the beginning of February. A ticket will be given each time they meet their reading goal. In the past it has been connected to a fundraiser and it can raise money.

- Reading and math specialists will be here part time. The math specialist is supporting Grade 3 classes and the reading specialist is supporting the Read-a-thon.
- Emergency drills: lockdown in the next few weeks, with date TBA.
- Upcoming renovations: meeting rooms for SLP, nurse, vision testing. An elevator is being added beginning of spring/summer. Gym is almost done, line painting will occur by March Break. Volleyball nets installed after sound system is set up. Learning commons (Library) and learning resource rooms will receive partitions over the summer.
- Emailed Creative Playground for Easter or Victoria Day - we are on the list and we will get a date. CP will do the lines on the blacktop.
- SC can submit info by end of day Wednesday to be included in Principal's Report emails.
- 4 bags of Lost and Found items. Pictures will be taken at end of meeting. Items will be donated by end of day Thursday. Place a tarp outside on Thursday for pickup then leftover items will be donated
- Hold the date Grade 5 June 24 1-2:40pm. Last year it was a social event for Grade 5s and families: refreshments, photo booth, called Grade 5 Farewell.
- Volunteers for excursions. Please get VSC. Next is a meeting discussing expectations, protocols, reminders of respecting privacy.
- \$500. General Ledger and School Generated Funds. Principal at the beginning of the year submits a plan for how much will be fundraised. The \$500 is given to the GL account by the government for parent engagement. We also won't see the \$900 PRO Grant.
- Request by staff to know if we are doing a February Dance event.
- Principal's Fund for items needed for children in-need (pizza, boots, field trips, etc).
- Finding a local organization to partner with to foster long-term connections. Partnered with BGC eg PE, science, info on what BGC offers to the community. The hope was teachers could foster conversations about giving back to their community in a more personal and meaningful way.
- YMCA after care list was long, how can BGC support after care. BGC was raised last year about an after-school sports program using the gym. It's not licensed care but an activity with adults there for 2 hours after bell time. The principal needs to contact BGC and perhaps get it going for the fall. Denise

has emailed Lisa at the BGC. Abby will resend email to Denise with BGC contact.

Teacher Requests:

- Mdm Burrows: has requested 24 plastic containers for *cahier de jour* \$117
- Ms. Pierroz requested various instruments (handrums, maracas, tambourines, sticks) \$290
- Mrs Barker: earphones and alcohol wipes \$15
- Mrs O'Marra \$32 for pencil grips
- Recess bins \$500
- Art supplies \$400
- M Kiely: \$1000 for Grade 4/5 bike safety and learning new skills - postpone approval until after Big Box of Cards is complete.
- Outdoor equipment drive to supplement recess bins.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fundraising:

- Big Box of Cards keep pushing it! We will need volunteers for when the boxes come in. Manually enter the order then 1-2 weeks they will be delivered. Email blast before the deadline is requested. PINK SHEETS NEED TO BE COLLECTED

Events:

- Valentine's Day Dance during the school day, but many people may be going away for Family Day weekend. Some teachers are concerned about disruption to learning BUT there was a lot of communication with the teachers about the ideal time of day. Classes had a set time. Having an opportunity to release the energy was nice. Friday is ideal, but having a set time with a time limit is great. Vanessa will update on Slack to share a Dance Prep meeting.
- Vendor Market Feedback: bring to Slack channel.

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE	TASK
Laura Mulder	Finish and circulate minutes

PERSON RESPONSIBLE	TASK
Abby Zaitley	Request Facilities walkthrough
Karley Chafee	Gather teacher thoughts on agendas
Denise Minardi	Follow up with Social Worker re: Abdurrahman
Karley Chaffee	Send photo of class with decodable texts
Abby Zaitley	Send BGC contact to Denise
Denise Minardi	Contact BGC regarding afterschool activities in gym
Denise Minardi	Email school with reminder of Big Box of Cards
Vanessa Dunn	Update on Slack regarding Valentine's Day Dance prep

NEXT MEETING MONDAY FEBRUARY 24 6:30

MEETING ADJOURNED

APPENDIX ITEM: VOTES FOR TEACHER REQUESTS VIA EMAIL

On Tue, Feb 11, 2025 at 6:21 AM Caitlyn Araya <caitlynaraya@gmail.com> wrote:
We (A.M. Cunningham School Council) have recieved a time sensitive Teacher Request.

I move to vote by way of email on this request, in advance of our next meeting. Please cast your vote to approve, deny or postpone before the end of the day.

TEACHER REQUEST

Mrs. Randazzo, Mrs. O'Marra and Mrs. Cooper are asking for funds for the Indoor Soccer Team. 19 students in Grade 4 and 5 from both French and English. They are participating in a tournament on March 3rd, at Redeemer University in Ancaster.

The total ask is \$462.50 which includes transportation and registration: 287.50 for bus and 175 registration fee.

"The indoor and outdoor soccer events are run by individual schools, therefore the cost is shared amongst those eligible/participating. There are limited opportunities for students in grade 4/5 to participate in team sports as they begin in Grade 6 (aside from track events). We do our best to give these opportunities! Thank you!"

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Considerations:

- We made \$4,000 through the Big Box Fundraiser
- We are actively working on the next fundraiser (Movie Night, Make It Sow)
- We received a request from Daniel Kiely for \$1,000 for the RideSmart Bike program and post poned our decision until next meeting (Feb 24)
- We also received a request from Sarah Szpak for a Grade 3 field trip to Battlefield, details pending, no review made of this yet.
- We are spending about \$500 on the Valentines Day Dance

Thank you kindly,

Caitlyn Araya

caitlynaraya@gmail.com

(416) 884-5954

RESULTS OF VOTES:

Feb 11, 2025, 1:48 PM (10 days ago)

Caitlyn Araya

to schuessler.katherine, Michelle, abby, Chloe, vanessadunn, Victoria, kate.p.janssen, Laura, melissa.l.leblanc, Sarah, katie, Amanda, jordanmckenzz, steve, amcunninghamSC, Caitlyn, me, Karley

This was sent to the 15 voting members of the council.

With 10 votes, this request has enough support to be considered approved