

**Minutes of CSS Parent Council  
March 1, 2006**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:08 by Jackie Benoit in the school library.

**Present:**

Jackie Benoit (President)	Cathy Kurio (Teacher Rep.)
April Toyota (Member at large)	Jackie Stewart
Carol Miller (Co-secretary)	Laurie Hirsch (Co-secretary)
Ann Ahern (Member at large)	Karen Miller (Member at large)
Latrice Lehman (Board Member)	Theresa Lor
Ron Sweet (Principal)	Sherry Badior (Treasurer)

**Absent:**

Debra Pylypiw (Board Member)	Tammy Willerth (Member at large)
Anne Marie Fryer (Member at Large)	James Cameron (Board Rep.)
Margaret Mills (Vice President)	Karen Barlow (Member at large)
Denise Kitagawa	

**1. Approval of Agenda**

The motion to approve the Agenda of Mar. 1, 2006 was brought by Sherry B. and seconded by Latrice L.

**2. Approval of Minutes of February 1, 2006**

There is one change to the minutes from the February meeting, being on the 3<sup>rd</sup> page under Grant Proposals. It should be \$150,000.00, not \$150.000.00. April T. motioned to accept the minutes of February 1, 2006 and Karen M. seconded the motion.

**3. Reports**

**(a) Chair – Jackie Benoit**

The survey results are in – 165 responded (approximately 30%). It was suggested to do events on a per grade basis. The 4-5s are working on a dance at lunch time. Some families may prefer to have a social for the families. What about a year-end picnic?

Ron S. approached the leadership group about the pizza night at the parent-teacher

conferences. Approximately 120 pizzas would have to be ordered. Some grade 9s are working on this on their own. They are surveying several pizza places to find the best price. The whole thing looks like a go, but there are still some things to be ironed out. The Grade 9s are really excited about doing this. There could be some issues with timing. Mr. Tickles feels it should work. Order forms will be sent out soon where families will have to send in their money. Tables will be set up in the gym and music will be playing.

It was also suggested that on the first day of school the grade 8s or 9s arrange the social for the new parents.

The end of the year picnic is prepared by the teachers.

T-shirts and hoodies are good. Iris and Claire organized it last year. Carol M. said she would talk to Iris. Ron S. mentioned a change of colour (orange and blue). Most council members did not like that idea. Forest green and blue was suggested.

Many volunteers responded to the teacher appreciation lunch. Latrice L. organized it last year and she agreed to do it again. Fancy sandwiches were brought in. Jackie B. asked how much money is allotted for the lunch. Money is also given to the Grade 9s for grad night.

April T. motioned to give \$500 to the teachers' lunch. Latrice L. seconded. Karen M. motioned to give \$500 to Grade 9s for their graduation. Carol M. seconded.

Snack day was well received. Donuts or muffins are too heavy. Jackie B. suggested Booster Juice as they have a programme for schools. The biggest concern is how do the drinks stay cold. Jackie B. will call Angela about the Booster Juice. Some parents would prefer to stay away from junk food. Popcorn from Kernels would be a nice treat. Ron S. said the Grade 9s would like to get a healthy snack machine in the school. Jackie B. will discuss this further.

Since we have the Lunch Bell coming into the school, it was decided that we would not do additional hot lunches as it requires too many volunteers. Ron S. suggested the pancake feast. Jackie S. suggested that we have a company come in to do a pancake breakfast. It was done at Battalion School. Jackie S. will look into it.

Microwaves – some parents suggested that there be microwaves in the classroom. Ron S. feels that it is dangerous to have microwaves in classroom. Latrice L. suggested that we should send out something stating why some rules are in place. The Parent Handbook has been delayed and perhaps these issues should be put in the handbook. Ron thinks we should call the parents that asked about the microwaves and explain why it is not practical. April T. explained how the microwaves worked at Edgemont School. Since they have a full-time lunch supervisor watching the microwave, there are not too many issues. The Lunch Bell is a good solution for a hot meal. Ron S. stated that healthy snack days would be the way to go. It was decided that there will be no microwaves or

hot water available to the students.

Public speaking – Ron S. feels this would compete with debate. Debate is a good way to think on your feet and is a more valuable skill.

Some parents suggested having toques or water bottles with the CSS logo on it. Carol M. will take this one on with the t-shirts and hoodies orders.

Milk programme – Jackie B. called about milk cartons going into a snack machine (that has only healthy snacks). Students would like to have the flavoured water included. Ann A. suggested that CSS buy their own machine to make money. The Laser Shack was asked to make a return. One of the leadership groups from the Grade 9s is researching a healthy snack machine. Ann A. will check into the cost of a vending machine. Jackie B. suggested having milk Mondays. Perhaps we could rotate milk days for each grade. We are looking for a volunteer to organize this.

A parent complained about the length of time for eating. Some of the grade 4 classes are being sent outside before they finish eating. The teachers are having to guide the students more during lunch. Council feels that the time is sufficient for eating. Once again, the parent handbook was brought up. It needs to be finished. Jackie B. was going to find out who is working on it.

A parent asked for more learning activities. Council felt that we have lots of learning activities at this time and we do not need more.

Summary:

Carol M. will look into hoodies, t-shirts, etc.;  
\$500 for grad and teachers lunch;  
Volunteers needed to start snack days – Booster juice, Kernels etc. and milk;  
Jackie S. will find out about pancakes

## **b) Principal's Report - Ron Sweet**

### Professional Development Activities

The Teachers Retreat held at Entheos on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of February was very productive. Entheos is a very peaceful and quiet spot and is a sharp contrast to the extremely active environment of CSS. It was the perfect place for the staff to focus on professional development and planning for next year. Authentic assessment, next year's ed plan, the 2006/2007 calendar, and team planning were the main topics worked upon.

### Outreach

The Gender Smarts Parents night held on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. was a great

success with around 200 parents in attendance. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, there was close to 100 teachers in attendance for the Gender Smarts educator's conference. Our staff offered 10 different breakout sessions for conference participants, 5 in the morning and 5 in the afternoon. Barry and Therese MacDonald delivered a powerful session on gender differences and then four of our grade eight and nine debaters led by Mrs. Woodard argued the negative and the affirmative of the statement "Be it resolved that boys have more natural ability in math than girls". After Barry and Therese delivered the closing session in the afternoon, Barry interviewed these same students to cap off the day. This was powerful outreach for our school and plans are already underway for holding a conference again in 2007.

On Wednesday February 9<sup>th</sup> we hosted two Mount Royal education classes with three more being hosted during the week of the 13<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 120 student teachers were involved in the presentations and tours and, as always, showed a lot of interest in the approaches we take to teaching, learning and discipline.

### Technology

On February 8<sup>th</sup>, we met with representatives from Apple (hailing from Toronto, California and Calgary) to strategize in more detail the path we will take with the Emerging Technologies Grant. During this meeting, Apple's representatives indicated that they will offer us help in the area of PD and publicity, and will put us in contact with various school divisions that can help us to meet the challenges ahead.

On March 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> Scott Petronech and I will be attending a conference on one-to-one computer initiatives in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. We are also planning to visit schools in the state of Maine where one-to-one computer initiatives have been taking place for several years. Apple is able to help us set up these visitations.

### Outdoor Activity Centre

The OAC committee met on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February and examined an initial design for a new play structure that was conceptualized by the Design sub-committee and drafted by Habitat Systems Incorporated. This design has given us an idea of what is possible given our projected budget. Four subcommittees have been formed: Communications, Design, Fund Raising and Maintaining Existing Structure, and these committees are in the process of meeting. The next OAC meeting will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Expect another "News Flash" during the month of April.

### Outdoor Education

The grade nines are on their way to Bamfield on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March and we are gearing up for the grade 5 and 8 trips to Fort Steele that will occur from April 27<sup>th</sup> to May 9<sup>th</sup>. Fort Steele parent information nights are being held in the gym on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for grade five and March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for grade eight.

## Family Pizza Night

Mr. Tickle and interested members of grade nine leadership have proceeded to plan for family pizza night on March 23<sup>rd</sup> (student-led conference evening). So far the survey that was sent out indicates that a lot of families would like to participate. The survey says that from the interest up to this point, 120 large pizzas would be needed.

## Etiquette for Success

There has been a very positive response to this program. Students from grade four to eight have signed up for a total of 70 students in four separate sections. When the classes are running, the students are putting an excellent effort into learning proper manners. It may be imagination, but it seems that there have been more good manners displayed around the school in the past couple of weeks.

## Laser band

February 15<sup>th</sup> was the date of this years Laser band performances and the students and teachers did not let us down. What an incredible show of skill, talent and courage. The audience was, as usual, most appreciative. The enthusiastic audience response rivalled that which you would see at a rock concert. All in all, a great self-esteem booster for the performers!

## Calendar

We worked on hammering out a tentative 2006/2007 calendar at the retreat. Rather than form a committee this year, we decided to bring it to each constituent group for their response; the staff, the council and then the board.

## Staffing

Cindy Zahavich has left CSS after four and a half years and is now working for TD Meloche Monnex downtown. Jane Rizzoli is presently temping as administrative secretary. In response to a single ad in the Herald, we had 65 applicants apply for the position and have short-listed and interviewed many strong candidates over the past three days. We will have someone in place within the next two weeks.

## 2006/2007 Registrations

New Parent Information sessions were held on February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> with over 300 parents attending. Grade level testing has been progressing on Saturdays and it looks as if we will have a fine crop of new grade fours this August nearly half of which, once again, are siblings.

Outdoor Trips - there was a discussion about showers. Ron S. thinks the students should learn about “sponge baths” It is too time consuming for everyone to shower.

Etiquette for Success – this programme is a complete success!

Calendar – the teachers have now come up with next years’ calendar. It is tentative so changes may still be made.

Retreat - at the retreat, the teachers talked about opening a High School. This would be for students with a real “science” mind. There was also talk about opening a second campus for CSS as there are currently 1300 children on the wait list. Ron S. feels that the public high schools offer a good programme.

Ann A. asked about the DARE programme related to drugs. Ron S. says we use the PARTY programme. At this time, there are no issues with drugs at CSS, which is highly due to the fact that we have a closed campus. April T. said that the instructors from PARTY were amazed at how different our school is. CSS’s goal is to have the children prepared before high school. Jackie S. thought it might be a good idea to survey the graduating student that came from CSS to see how they have done.

**c) Board Report - Latrice Lehman**

Doug Rogan is still working on how to close in the area under the library. Jackie B. mentioned the climbing wall at the Science Centre and how it would be a great feature.

Do we need to have a tag line that CSS “is not just about science”. Jackie S. is on the communications committee. Latrice L. mentioned that Westmount has a brochure that communicates all aspects of their school to prospective new parents. It was mentioned that our prospective brochure should mention that we are not just about science.

**d) Teachers Report– Cathy Curio**

Nothing to report – Ron S. covered it all. We talked about Cathy’s roll on the council. She is really good about sending info to the other teachers about what council is talking about.

**4. Committees**

**a) Playground (AOC)**

Ann A. spoke about the update to the News Flash. She also showed the plan to council. Lakeview Community is on side and put a piece in their newsletter about the new

playground. They will be assigning someone from Lakeview to sit on our committee. The students will do a “park-hop” fieldtrip next year to see what equipment is popular.

**b) Transportation**

Laurie H. brought up the issues on Route 6. Perhaps assigned seating should be instigated. Also, the Grade 9 leadership programme could take on the busses. The Grade 9s could rotate being bus monitors on the bus so that the drivers could concentrate on driving. There will be another meeting of the students from Route 6 to discuss the issues on that route. Ron S. suggested that a camera may be installed on the Route 6 bus. Deb. P. forwarded news that the bus survey is going out late this week or early next week.

**c) New Committees**

Nothing to report.

**5. Discussion**

Ron S. showed us a copy of the Calgary Living Annual Guide to Schools.

April T. motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.. Karen M. seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next meeting of CSS Parent Council will be on April 12, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the School Library.