

**Minutes of CSS Parent Council  
April 12, 2006**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:09 by Jackie Benoit in the school library.

**Present:**

Jackie Benoit (President)  
April Toyota (Member at large)  
Carol Berlin-Miller (Co-secretary)  
Karen Miller (Member at large)  
Latrice Lehman (Board Member)  
Ron Sweet (Principal)  
Debra Pylypiw (Board Member)

Cathy Kurio (Teacher Rep.)  
Tammy Willerth (Member at large)  
Laurie Hirsch (Co-secretary)  
Karen Barlow (Member at large)  
Claire Herringer  
Sherry Badior (Treasurer)  
Anne Marie Fryer (Member at Large)

**Absent:**

James Cameron (Board Rep.)  
Denise Kitagawa  
Ann Ahern (Member at large)

Margaret Mills (Vice President)  
Jackie Stewart  
Theresa Lor

**1. Approval of Agenda**

The motion to approve the Agenda of April 12, 2006 was brought by Carol B. and seconded by Karen M.

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

The motion to approve the minutes of March 1, 2006 was brought by Latrice L. and seconded by Carol B.

**3. Guest Speakers**

**(a) T-Shirts - Claire Herringer**

The school would like to offer t-shirts and hoodies for the children to buy. The colours are navy blue with bright green writing on the front. The back has the slogan "its never just an ordinary day". There was a discussion last year about offering different colours. Claire H. suggested we keep the colours the same as it makes the colours easily recognizable. Can we get smaller shirts for the smaller children? We tend to order shirts medium and up as the smalls are too small. Best Cap is giving us the "end column price" Last year the school sold 350 pieces. Everyone is on board with keeping the colours the same. Ron said the Communication Committee has come out with a new tag line

“science and so much more” Should we have both lines or change to the new tag line? As it is late in the year, it was decided that we leave the colours the same as last year. A motion to keep the shirts the same as last year was brought by Sherry B. and seconded by Deb P.

**(b) Snack Days – Leslie Schmid (Absent)**

Leslie S. was unable to attend, but she did provided the following information:

Booster Juice - they seem very well organized and work with lots of school. The 12 oz. cup costs \$2.50 and the 24 oz. cup costs \$4.00. We could certainly at 50 cents on to each order and make a bit of a profit. Nadine Jones suggested this may be a way to raise some funds towards the new outdoor play structure. They require a week’s notice when ordering.

Kernels - they have a snack size bag of approximately 3 cups of popcorn. The prices are from \$1.25 to \$1.50. Again, we could add on 50 cents to make a little bit of money. They also require a week’s notice for school order.

Do we want to make money on this? If we paid the increased price, we can supply treats to less fortunate kids. We should only have one size of booster juice to avoid waste. Motion to go ahead with the snack program was brought by Karen M. and seconded by Latrice L.

Leslie has volunteered by do one snack day a month for the entire 06/07 school year.

**(c) Dare to Care Program – Ron Sweet**

Should we do this program? The school will survey the students and parents and ask for their input. The survey will be anonymous. Ron S. would like to see if the school’s perception is the same as the children’s and parents’. Ron S. feels this will be good information to collect. The survey is quite long. The children’s survey is more detailed. This program teaches kids how to handle situations. Dare to Care is a highly regarded program. Latrice L. feels it should go to children on the bus. Most of council feels there are no problems at CSS. The CSS students were insulted by the Earthkeepers Program as many of the concepts did not relate to their school. Some kids are too shy to ask for help. CSS is larger now and there could be more problems than we used to have. Claire H. asked what the teachers think about what is going on in their classrooms. The majority of Council feels that we should do the survey to collect information.

**4. Reports**

**(a) Chair - Jackie Benoit**

Christina Marcil is doing the teachers' appreciation lunch. Latrice L. will forward information to her. Annette Dewaal will do the parent social. Tim Horton's would be an easy choice for coffee and donuts. Perhaps there should be some fruit trays as well. Motion for \$500 to be provided for the first day of school social was brought by Karen M. and seconded by Carol B.

Jackie thinks we should have an email data base to make contacting families easier. The emails should be on the directory. Make sure it is the parents' emails and not the children's. We should have a notice attached to the Spectrum asking for families' email addresses. Laurie H. asked if we could have a spot on the website where families could coordinate carpools if they choose not to use the bus. A parent chatroom may be set up in the future. First Class is an expensive programme that would allow us to do this. Ron S. was concerned about undermining the bussing system.

**(b) Principal's Report**

Professional Development Activities

On March 9<sup>th</sup> a group of us met with Candace Saar from Galileo to discuss how we can go about assessing the level of inquiry being done within our school's classrooms. Galileo has developed a n "Inquiry Rubric" to be used by schools and teachers in tracking progress in this area. We will begin this evaluation process at the Retreat on August 14<sup>th</sup> after introducing it to our Inquiry Group in April.

Outreach

Columbia College student Nathan Gray started his 100 practicum working as a teacher assistant in Cathy Kurio's Math/Science classroom the week of March 6<sup>th</sup>. He is highly motivated and enthusiastic about being at CSS to complete this part of his course requirements. Kathy said the new teacher's aid is fantastic and she is really happy with him.

The principal of Urban Academy, Westminster BC, spent three and a half days in our school during the week of March 13<sup>th</sup>. He has since been back in touch with us letting us know how much he values what he learned here and how he wants to keep the lines of communication open.

Technology

Between March 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Scott Petronech and Ron Sweet attended a conference on one-to-one computer initiatives in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. Ron then visited schools and officials in the state of Maine where one-to-one computer initiatives have been taking place for four years. Maine deploys 36,000 laptop computers to grade 7 and 8 students throughout the state. At the same time as Ron's Maine visit was occurring,

Scott was attending a second one-to-one conference at Penn State University. A great deal of very helpful information pertaining to next year's one-to-one deployment was gathered during this trip.

In budgeting for the 2006/2007 school year we have protected enough funds to open the possibility of the 2007/2008 grade six class receiving laptops. The idea is that as the project unfolds we will be able to accurately judge its merits. Around this time next year we will make the decision of whether or not we will increase the number of laptops deployed to individual students.

Ron is very excited about this program. CSS is hoping that every student going into grade 6 will have their own computer. April T. asked about textbooks – will they all go to CD roms? Should we provide backpacks as well? April asked what kinds of responsibilities will be on the parents re internet access and printers. Everything is wireless. It is suggested that the parents pay for the insurance for the laptops. Ron is still looking into this. At the end of their time at CSS, there will be a \$78 buyout.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of March we met with Candace Saar from Galileo and Peter Malcolm from Alberta Education. The final result of that meeting was that Peter Malcolm's Accountability Department is going to provide the funds and personnel to undertake a four-year study of our one-to-one project in conjunction with Galileo. Previously, funds were provided for only one year of study.

Laurie H. asked about the kids learning how to type. Dan McWilliams is piloting a program in his class and the grade 4s are picking up the typing quite well.

Ron S. advised council that \$4,000 has been set aside for council's budget. Most council agree that is enough. So far we have not written any cheques this year. \$1500 will be going out for upcoming events. There is \$3,800 in the account right now.

### Outdoor Activity Centre

The OAC committee met on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March and each of the four sub-committees, Communications, Design, Fund Raising and Maintaining Existing Structure delivered reports. A second News Flash will be delivered to parents and the community this month and the next OAC meeting will be held in May. Work on Funding will begin this coming fall.

### Outdoor Education

The grade nine trip to Bamfield March 12<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> was a great success. Plans are now underway for a slightly expanded version of the trip to occur next April. The new version will be formulated into groups of 25 rather than 50. Grade five and eight trips to Fort Steele will occur from April 27<sup>th</sup> to May 9<sup>th</sup>. An information night for grade five parents regarding the Fort Steele History Lab was held in the gym on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. with around 150 people in attendance. The parent meeting for the grade eight Fort

Steele Apprenticeship Program was held at 7:00 p.m. on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Scott Doller is revamping the Bamfield trip. The kids will fly instead of drive. The cost will be \$1,050. Deb P. said the bus trip was brutal – it was too long. Every group will be away 5 school days. \$20,000 has been set aside for this trip; therefore, the cost will be \$850 per child. Ron thinks we should present this to the parents and not ask what their preferences are.

### Family Pizza Night

Mr. Tickle and interested members of the grade nine leadership class did a wonderful job of putting on a family pizza night on March 23<sup>rd</sup> (student-led conference evening). The response to this idea was very positive and they brought in over 100 pizzas. By all reports Luna Lasoria Pizza Emporium was a big hit. Council said the pizza night was great – for those who attended. The Grade 9s did great.

### Etiquette for Success

Etiquette for Success finished during the last week of school in March. It was a popular program with four sections of students graduating. The ladies running the program are willing to put on a special session for the grade nine students to ready them for their graduation dinner.

The ladies from Etiquette for Success offered to do a special program for the grade 9s. We could call it something else in order to attract more students. April said the kids will have their own tables at the grad dinner.

### Calgary City Science Fair

We had an exceptional turnout to the City Science Fair on April 8<sup>th</sup> with 32 students representing CSS. They brought home eleven Honourable Mentions, 5 Bronze, 11 Silver and 4 Gold medals. As well, Kelcie Miller-Anderson won the SemBioSys Award in Plant Biology plus \$350.00 and Jonah Wasylak won the Lafarge Science, Technology and Science Award and \$400.00.

### Staffing

Shannon Daisog began her work as Administrative Secretary on April 10<sup>th</sup>. As well, we have hired Gwen Fisher to take the grade 6.3/6.4 Math/Science position. Ms. Amy Hamilton is the new secondment from Foothills School Division replacing Sherene Schmidler in 8.3/8.4 Humanities whose two-year secondment has come to an end.

Gwen is taking over for Martine who is going on sabbatical. Martine will be in for .4 per week and will do various jobs.

### Habitat for Humanity

On Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 20 staff members, spouses and friends spent the day working in the construction industry. They insulated, dry-walled and did some framing in a Habitat for Humanities project home in the S.E. Heather Mayer was the organizer of this event.

**(c) Board Report - Deb Pylypiw**

There has not been a meeting for April. Claire, Denise and Deb went to a focus group meeting. Alberta Learning is doing a survey on chartered schools. There was a good discussion. The other chartered schools that were represented couldn't believe how well CSS does with funding. They cannot believe how cutting edge we are with the same funding. Westmount is going to community stops for bussing. They have been told that they have to raise money for teachers' supplies. FFTA is in the same boat. Deb said it was a real eye opener to see. A lot of their money is going to their high schools. FFTA is going to 8 campuses. The parents at the meeting agreed that chartered schools have a place in the system. They were overwhelmingly accepted as an option for education.

**5. Committees**

**(a) Playground**

Funding will not be started until the fall. We will do corporate funding raising.

**(b) Transportation - Deb Pylypiw**

Good response from the surveys. Basically, bussing is a strong need and it has to be offered. CSS will be adding a 10<sup>th</sup> bus in Westhills. Fees will go up. We have to accommodate the fuel surcharges. If people don't pay extra, the service will get worse. Tammy was asking how the stops are selected. The routes will stay much the same as they are this year.

**6. Discussion**

Nothing to report.

**7. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was brought by Cathy K. and seconded by Latrice L. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.