

**Cedarview Middle School Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Held November 8, 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Paul Churchill, Chair. Regrets were conveyed from Patty Stevenson, Pamela Manson and Karen Acton.

1. Agenda was approved, with the added items of Severin school, and school boundaries. Moved – Tina Norgaard, Seconded – Liz Verbruggen.
2. Minutes were approved as circulated. Moved – Paul Churchill, Seconded – Margaret Zafiriou.
3. Business Arising from the Minutes:
  - a) Allocation of Mr. Mozzarella funds \$205.80. After some discussion it was agreed that both the October and November funds would be put toward the Grade 8 field trip commitment. It was also agreed that the January fund raiser would go toward covering French magazine subscriptions from QSP up to \$200, February's would go toward the entry fees for students participating in the Math Olympics taking place in the winter, and that May would be left open for the present.
  - b) Rocks/Tables – Pauline McKenna circulated a flier outlining types of picnic tables which are Board approved along with a price list. This will be forwarded to the QSP committee for fund allocations.
  - c) People for Education – the survey has been completed and will be submitted.
  - d) Insurance for School Council – Karen Acton is looking after our coverage. The renewal notice should be received soon.
4. Treasurer's Report  
Paul Churchill reported on behalf of Karen Acton that there have been no expenditures yet, and that the money in the bank after the QSP sales is approximately \$41,000.
5. Principal's Report – Melanie Buchanan
  - a) Student of the Week program is continuing. Teachers submit slips per class and the student of the week for the school is chosen from these. Names of nominees are put up on the walls near the library. A personal letter is sent home with the child congratulating them.
  - b) Math Curriculum Night will be held on Thursday evening from 7:00 – 8:00 PM. Fliers were sent home today with Grade 6 students, and will be going home tomorrow with the Grade 7 and 8's. The workshop will be lead by former teacher, Beata Myhill and the format will be an overview of what the new developmental math looks like.
  - c) Parents and guardians were invited to attend the Remembrance Day Assembly taking place on November 11 at 10:15 A.M. Mme. Girard, Ms. Hartnoll and Mme. Chivot are instrumental in putting together this assembly.
  - d) New vending machines providing healthy food choices have been installed free of charge from Bradley Management Services. Students can go into the Community room to access the machines before and after school, and during lunch and the two nutrition breaks.
  - e) A new reading room will be opened by converting the greenhouse located at the end of the gym hallway and to the left, into more usable space. Ms. Kraske is applying for funding to fix the room up a bit more through a program designed to enhance boy's literacy.
  - f) The Board has introduced a new system for doing report cards called "Trillium". It is being phased in with approximately one-third of the schools using it so far. It is web-based and there are many technical challenges to the system as this is the first year it has been used. The program is reported to be well-written, but

implementation is the challenge. Parents will see no difference in the appearance of the report card coming home.

- g) Early School Closures – Board schools will close two hours early on December 1/March 3/May 5. Parent-teacher interviews will now be held on Thursday, December 1 from 2:00-5:00 and 5:30-8:30. Friday will be used as the PD day. A question was asked regarding whether or not the OC buses dedicated to the school will accommodate the early dismissal. Judy Edwards will inquire.
- h) EQAO – Mrs. Buchanan presented a number of overheads showing the results of EQAO for Cedarview students as compared to other Board schools, and the province. Some statistics – 98% of the Grade 6 students at Cedarview participated in the testing process; we are above the board and province in participation. 39% were female; 59% male. 2% were ESL; 12% were special needs (not including gifted). Of the 17 ESL students in the school, only 4 are stage 1 or 2 ESL learners, which is encouraging when looking at English skills.

Although results in reading are up, the school continues to incorporate into its improvement plan ways to raise the results above the current 68%. Again, Cedarview scores above the board and the province.

Writing results are at 65%; the school has instituted a new test to assist them in raising the writing skills of students. The score is above the board and province.

Math results show the greatest improvement – up 14% to 67%; also above the board and province.

In all areas, boys scored lower than girls. The school's improvement plan will seek to address the discrepancy. Staff are being asked what can be done to raise the level of boy's literacy. Staff are always looking for ways to improve the student experience. The board is putting on workshops on literacy for staff. Ideas were shared around the table regarding literacy tips. Pauline McKenna will look into having some of these printed in the newsletter to assist the parent/guardian population.

## 6. New Business

- a) QSP
  - fund raiser wound up today
  - approximately \$82,000 has been brought in, plus today's sales; this does not include credit card sales
  - our profit will be approximately \$30,000 so far + \$5200 loyalty bonus from QSP
  - Council contributed \$500 toward additional incentive prizes
  - Jeff Wilson will coordinate the wish-list submissions from teachers
  - QSP spending committee: Pamela Manson, Karen Acton, Michele Nielsen, Ralph Frank, Paul Churchill, and Heather Sommerville.
  - Deadline for teachers to have the submissions to Jeff is November 15; Paul will pick up on November 18, after which time the committee will meet in order to have a list ready for approval at the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- b) Clothing Sale
  - Items have been received and distributed.
- c) Early Closures (covered under Principal's Report)
- d) OCASC
  - OCASC has extended an invitation to parents to Part 2 of the Special Education Review hosted by Gerry Clarke and Dr. Jean Hewitt on November 15, 7-8:30 PM, Earl of March cafeteria; November 16, 7-8:30 PM, Brookfield High auditorium; November 17, 7-8:30 PM, Gloucester High auditorium. More information can be obtained from [Lamar.Mason@rogers.com](mailto:Lamar.Mason@rogers.com).
- e) Web site
  - Parent volunteer Punam Bhargava has offered to update the web site. She will work with Melanie Buchanan.

- Having minutes/notice of meetings/agendas sent via email was discussed.
- f) Book fair
  - Michele Nielsen will coordinate this on December 1 for the whole day.
- g) Fire Relief – Pauline McKenna
  - Ms. Piche is organizing a Christmas wrap fund raiser to aid the family of a Grade 6 child at the school who lost all their belongings in a house fire. It was suggested that they also have a table set up at the book fair. Michele will look after this.
- h) Severn
  - Paul received a wish list from the school offering some suggestions of ways we could offer assistance in our relationship with them. Michele Nielsen is our liaison on council. Pauline McKenna is the staff liaison.
- i) Boundaries
  - Paul Churchill and Melanie Buchanan both attended an information session outlining proposed new board boundaries. There are currently 110 children from the Chapman Mills area attending Mary Honeywell. They will be attending the new school when it is completed, and therefore will not come to Cedarview. However, Mary Honeywell will be getting any children eventually living in the Temporary Road development, and they will feed to Cedarview.
- j) Liz Verbruggen generated discussion by asking if there is any way to emphasize again to children that they should not put photos of themselves on web sites. Liz also queried whether there was any way to support the gym facilities through our fund raising. It currently costs \$10 per child to participate in school sports.
- k) There will be a meeting on December 5 at Adrienne Clarkson for council chairs to participate in a discussion on vandalism of schools. People need to report incidents to the police whenever they see them happening. Also, the school board will be working with the businesses and community.

7. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

In attendance: 14

Melanie Buchanan  
Heather Chang  
Paul Churchill  
Carole Craswell  
Judy Edwards  
Ralph Frank  
Pauline McKenna  
Michele Nielsen  
Tina Norgaard  
Heather Sommerville  
Alysson Sproule  
Liz Verbruggen  
Jeff Wilson  
Margaret Zafiriou

Submitted by: Carole Craswell