

# MINUTES

*Roy H Crosby School Council Draft of Minutes*  
February 11, 2008

**In attendance:** Leeanne A, Deborah B, Laura D, Lisa D, David G, Megan H, Debra L, Dean L, Bianca M, Prahba S, Beth S, Vicky T, Gail T, Basil W, Ulya Y, Michelle N, Karen D

**Chair** Lisa called the meeting to order at 7:25. Megan motioned to approve December's minutes and Joanne seconded.

**Principal's Report** David thanked council for funding the two performances (COC – Brother's Grimm and Maori dance troupe) with special thanks to Bianca for organizing them. Please see attached for David's full report.

## **Chair's Report –**

- We're still working on getting high school students to provide free babysitting at council meetings to encourage more parental involvement.
- Lisa proposed that Council investigate doing a fund raiser where the parents are asked to make a contribution to "Investment in Education" fund rather than smaller fundraisers throughout the year. The Fundraising Committee will come back to council with a recommendation at the next meeting.
- Vicky brought in samples of ice cream to be used for a possible fund raiser. Fund raising will make a recommendation at the next meeting.

**Treasurer's Report –** Debra motioned to accept January's statements as presented and Megan seconded. See attached.

**PRO Grant –** Deborah Bullock reported that we were awarded \$800 to spend on parent involvement initiatives. A committee was struck to come up with recommendations. Vicky, Bianca, David, Ulya, and Deb all agreed to be on the committee.

**Band Proposal –** It was presented that Mrs. Colley would like \$5000/year for 5 years in order to make the Crosby Band a full program. Council doesn't have the authority to make financial commitments on behalf of future councils, but we agree to endorse the band program without attaching a dollar value to the endorsement.

## **Committees**

- **Fundraising –** Fundraising is going to look into the Investment in Education proposal, ice cream sales, and Fun Fair. Beth and Megan agreed to co-chair.
- **Health and Safety -** Debra has looked into getting St John's Ambulance training for the Grade 6 lunch room monitors and separate courses for parents who might be interested in a full day first aid course. She is going to forward the information to David who will look into financing the student courses. For the adult courses we will put something in the next Newsletter.
- **Playground –** Debra is going to call a meeting.

## **Parent Forum –**

We are going to be doing a survey soon. David would like to coincide it with his survey.

**Next Meeting –** March 17 2008 7:15 School Library



Roy H. Crosby P.S.  
Principal's Report to School Council  
February 11, 2008 (Black History Month, Honesty Month)



- 1) Literacy Focus: Reading Comprehension with a focus on Assessment for Learning
  - a. **Case Management approach:** teachers meet individually or in grade teams, along with the Literacy teacher (Mrs. Briggs), one of our Special Education Resource Teachers (Mrs. Purcell or Ms. Ford), and the principal every 6-8 weeks, focussing on a struggling student(s). Work samples are reviewed, analysed, and next steps are planned to help move that student forward. This kind of focussed strategizing has research-proven benefits for the whole class. (Douglas Reeves, et al.)
  - b. **Assessment for learning vs. Assessment of learning:** we are focussing on the use of assessment of student work to drive our next steps and instructional strategies (this is assessment FOR learning). Assessment *for* learning can take many forms, is often informal or anecdotal, and is purposeful and intentional. Assessment OF learning is the evaluation of specific examples of student work (assignments, projects, tests, etc.) for the purposes of reporting progress. This kind of assessment can also be used to inform next steps and instruction.
  - c. **Education Day, Feb. 1-** target setting. According to our YRDSB definition, "at-risk" students are students who are achieving below level 3 for their age and grade in reading. In October, we identified those students and set targets for moving those students along, including strategies to achieve those targets. Part of the day on Feb. 1 was designed to review those students, assess their progress, adjust our records, and set new targets for June, along with strategies. This kind of intentional focus has been creating very positive benefits for all of our students.
  - d. **Book Study group- *Strategies That Work***- all staff members are voluntarily participating in a weekly book study group to support their own learning in teaching students to read.
  - e. **Ontario Focussed Intervention Program (OFIP)- Literacy Club-** we applied for funding from the Ministry through YRDSB to run a before and after school Literacy Club for students needing support in literacy (reading & writing focus). We were awarded a grant and are currently serving approximately 20 students every week. 3 staff members are running the program.
  - f. **Crosby Chronicle-** literacy ideas for home are included every month
  - g. **Parent package-** board developed ideas are available and will be shared at the next School Council meeting.
- 2) Effective Schools
  - a. **Bill 212 Amendments to the Education Act-** Safe Schools (ppt)
  - b. **Restorative Justice training** for a school team. A member of school council could be invited.
  - c. **Literacy and Learning Centre** (ppt)
  - d. **Safety measures-** December incident, front door lunch time, traffic on the street, school access during the day
  - e. **Staffing additions-** Kim Ford, SERT; Justine Hunt, LTO for Susan Mayhue
  - f. **Staffing process-** projections for 08/09 have been submitted, staffing allocation is being assigned as we speak, school organization models are being developed to use our allocation and accommodate our students in as positive a way as possible. *A reminder that because of provincial regulations for a cap of 20 students in primary grades, and negotiated class averages for junior, together with tight staffing allocations, the possibility of combined grade classrooms is very real for next year. Teachers will be well-supported in teaching combined grades, choices of students for combined grade classes will done very carefully.*
- 3) Parent and Community Involvement
  - a. Union Villa
    - i. Primary and Junior Choirs performed for the residents of Union Villa on January 11, 2008
    - ii. Penpals have been established between residents and two classes in our school
    - iii. We are trying to set up visits by seniors to Crosby to read with students, and visits by students to Union Villa to play board games (looking for donations of used board games!)
    - iv. Cookie sales continue to support transportation and other expenses to facilitate this community connection.

- b. Character Conference- April 3
  - i. Opening Keynote- Claude Haggerty (illusionist and motivational speaker)- first timetable block
  - ii. Timetable blocks 2/3-
    - 1. secondary student character team working with primary or junior division
    - 2. a series of inspiring speakers telling their stories- smaller student groups- will debrief each talk with a focus on character traits (*more speakers are needed ... any ideas?*)
  - iii. Claude Haggerty will perform a 90-minute evening show for parents and students, with 5 tonnes of illusions, as a ticketed event. The school will collect 20% of the "door".
- c. Crosby Chronicle online
  - i. The school newsletter has always been posted on the school website. As of January, it will no longer be printed to be sent home. Reminder notices will be sent home for a few months. Parents may also sign up for an email reminder and link.

Other news:

Garfield Weston Award- dinner on March 19, 2008 at the Fairmount Royal York (Named a "School of Distinction").