



Joint Educational Parent Advisory Group

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Visit us at <http://www./jepag.ca>

2010/2011 Executive

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MINUTES

February 3, 2011

Meeting called to order by co-chair Angel Vecchiola; JEPAG Exec introduced and all participants welcomed. Meeting opened in prayer.

The HWCDSB Superintendents were invited to share an overview of their individual portfolios and to address specific questions as prepared with input from JEPAG parent membership.

Detailed outlines of each Superintendents portfolio are available on-line at www.hwcdsb.ca. Please visit the website to see for yourself the valuable resource available to parents in our Superintendents.

Corrado Ciappana

- Shared the highlights of his portfolio, which includes Catholic School Councils; noting a new item "Transportation, Planning & Statistics (new schools)"
- Shared highlights of Jackie Bajus' portfolio who sent her regrets

Mary Ciopolla

Shared the highlights of her portfolio, including, but not limited to:

- the Adult Education – PSW and chef training programs
- Section 23 – Notre Dame House and St. Martin's Manor
- Night school and summer school
- PLAR – Credit for Prior Learning
- After hours credit course - open to Gr 12 students Tutoring in Literacy and Numeracy in secondary schools
- Literacy and Basic Skills – open to any adult
- ESL and LINC – offer a test of English as a foreign language and CELBA for professionals who need to apply to an association such as doctors, dentists. Child minding also available for adults who are in LINC.
- Athletics – eligibility applications

Ivana Fortino – newest member of the Superintendants team

Shared the highlights of her portfolio, including, but not limited to:

- New report card for Elementary - which went out today and was very well received
- Before- and After-school program – which will be reviewed on a school by school basis as need be.
- New to the Secondary Registration – parent authorization for the Secondary school to share information with Elementary regarding student success – not name specific

Gus Hubbard – primarily deals with Religion and Family Life

Shared the highlights of his portfolio, including, but not limited to:

- Religious Renewal - Each teacher must take a Religious Renewal Update a minimum of every 5 years, more often is suggested
- Equity and Inclusion – new Board policy on this subject just approved in late November
- Friends and Advocates for Catholic Education (FACE) – plan special activities to promote and retain our wonderful provincial Catholic education
- SERE – Social and Ecological Responsibility in Education – green bins coming soon to the schools

Q & A

Transportation - What factors into transportation?

- 1.6 km is the approximate distance from the school, “at the Board’s discretion”
- At elementary level we transport students outside that limit
- At secondary level, if HSR is available, students are expected to provide their own transportation
- This is the general criteria, and there are special circumstances, i.e. safety: crossing major roads (Hwy.53), constructions zones, etc.
- Transportation is reviewed on a regular and ongoing basis

Funding for Schools – renovation and renewing old schools?

We’ve done such a good job maintaining our schools, that sometimes the Ministry will give more money to other Boards because we’ve kept our schools in good physical shape, we sometimes don’t get the money. Renewal = usually 3.5M to fix all of our schools. Sometimes this needs to be used for amalgamating schools to offset the borrowing costs – sometimes the Ministry gives money, sometimes they don’t. Can get Energy Efficiency Grant, but only for improving energy efficiency.

How does the government decide who gets what?

Mostly based on student enrolment numbers. Secondary schools maintain and increase (retention rate 108%) but elementary is declining (approx. 300 students/yr in last 5 years.) Still trying to maintain the same support staff in schools, but that may have to change.

RE: Uniforms Items have to be comparable –

At the initiation of the uniform policy, the Board identified what the minimum items had to be; during the supplier selection process, each school community was provided opportunity to see the items. This is what the items have to look like. Board perhaps was not specific enough in clarifying the standard. Because the school community decided on the supplier, it is not the Principal’s job to decide. The supplier has the right to decide whether it is a comparable item or not. Corrado has recommended to the principal to have a mannequin with a top and pants from the supplier.

a) Where is there any official statement or policy that has amended the policy? – Board has said that every policy goes through a review cycle – there has been a revision in 2009 – embroidered wanted mandatory and prefer have bought from supplier Board on 03/02/10 – 3 resolutions – those schools that had mandatory embroidered cresting – revert to mandatory cresting. 2) Change implemented Sept 2010 (asked for deferral) 3) asked for committee to be struck and a survey go out to parents. Committee was struck and survey has now gone out.

b) By whose authority was it determined that cap sleeves aren’t part of the uniform policy? They are not consistent with the established norm. Mrs. Cipolla – sometimes suppliers will add an item without checking with the Superintendent.

c) Question regarding affordability? McCarthy charges \$30 for pants. Can the Board ask the suppliers to make it more affordable? That is why the parents were able to choose for themselves what supplier they

wanted to use. Swap shop, and rebates are available to help parents who need help. In addition, social justice, no sweat shop policy – need to have certain suppliers that we can ensure are staying within the guidelines. Generally with Bombardieri 3 or more students will get a discount – ask McCarthy?

School Council tried to organize a skating party offsite on a weekend – a lot of resistance from the Board regarding liability issues?

Any after hour's activity – parental permission is first and foremost. So, if not a part of school day – principal was in touch with Mrs. Cipolla – is the school sponsoring this activity? If not, parents can do whatever. If the school is sponsoring, then due diligence is a must, i.e. parental consent. Must they ensure that helmets are worn? If hosted by the school - YES.

RE: Expulsions/Safe Schools:

Expulsions are on the rise, due to more individuals who keep an eye on the activities that are happening in the school.

Violent incident report required when there is physical damage.

Bullying? - 20 day suspension – within first 5 days, principal will investigate if they will go forward with an expulsion hearing.

Please Refer to the **Safe Schools Document** as it lists all of the activities that could require expulsion. Where can parents be heard if they feel nothing is being done? Situation is same in Public board – hasn't been to school for a year because he is afraid. Where can the parents go to be heard? Some parents write to the Ministry themselves. Our Board takes bullying very seriously; however cannot divulge names or consequences due to the privacy act. If you write to the Ministry they are required to respond to you.

Our Board is bringing in **Restorative Justice** this year to help deal with situations. Has there ever been a bystander expelled? No, but the situation is being looked at. Minister will be attending OAPCE conference

Angel thanked superintendants for coming.

OAPCE Update – Helen gave a brief overview of the OAPCE – flyers and info will be given to the Chairs at the annual breakfast tomorrow. May 13-14 \$40 to attend – remember: PIC is available through your school. Dinner with conference is an additional \$25 = \$65 total with dinner

Housekeeping Issues – May 5 Dr. Jean Clinton – “The Adolescent Brain” = children ages 12-26. Schools that have paid JEPAG dues will get two free tickets, and another 2 @\$5 each to sell – use your PIC money so each school can send 4 parents. Check out the website or your JEPAG rep.

Meeting closed in prayer

Coming Meetings:

Thursday, March 3, 2011 = Lenten Retreat

Thursday, April 7, 2011 = Annual Trustees Meeting

**Thursday, May 5, 2011 = Special Event
“The Adolescent Brain” with Guest
Dr. Jean Clinton**