



New Learning Society Parent Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 18th

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Location: Pacific Spirit School

Present: Kerry Elfstrom (chair), Tracey Miller, Eric Edwards, David Grindlay, Tova Grindlay, Russ Hawkins, Monique Home-Douglas, Jennifer Aikman, Kim Frank, Jeff Miller, Gretchen Quiring, Hebaaq Pascal, David Rawsthorne, Lisa Eckmyn, Kiem Schutter, Meredith Schutter, Rosalee Prepchuk, Jennifer Aikman, Heidi Anderson, Ingrid Price.

Parent Meeting Minutes

- Kerry requested that a parent (or parents) take on the responsibility of scheduling and identifying topics for future parent meetings
- Blog on web site for members:
 - Member sign-in
 - May get ideas for meetings through discussion here
 - Tracey offered to get the blog discussions going and to think about the possibility of hosting an informal monthly (or otherwise) drop in session for parents at her home
- Orientation to philosophy and program outcomes:
 - Heidi directed parents to the parent handbook (posted on web site) as well as the policy handbook (copy on Heidi's desk at the school)
 - Play-based in younger years, become more structured & disciplined as children age – always holding the social-emotional/spiritual well-being of the child at the forefront
- Roles & responsibilities:
 - Will articulate through e-mail
- Future planning:
 - Looking to increase enrolment
 - We are a society that runs the school
 - Contemplating developing a preschool, if possible we would like to have this open for September 2010
- Kerry requested that parents take some posters & school business cards to distribute in the community

- Interest in staying on past grade 7:
 - Several parents are interested in having their children stay into Grade 8
 - Concerns relate to having only two classes
- Bursary:
 - Possibility of creating a fund that could be available on an individual as needed basis
 - Board to establish criteria
- Need to attract donors to establish a fund
- Sibling rate:
 - Discussion regarding creating a sibling rate
 - 50% off for the second child was mentioned as an attractive rate for families with more than one child
 - The Board will discuss further regarding viability of this option for budget
- Home school program:
 - Develop distance education aspect of elementary school
 - Look into ministry requirements
- Internet marketing and fund raising:
 - Rosalee will start to look into analysis of our website to see if opportunities exist
 - Monique suggested Alec to work with Rosalee
- New location:
 - Discussions regarding whether this is the best location for the school:
 - Demographically it may be better if we were in a more central location – then could attract families in that area without losing the families we have now
 - Mount Pleasant Community Centre (new one built, what are they doing with the old one?), Stratford is moving its school (maybe too far east), another community centre Ontario & 15th
 - Tracey, Meredith, Gretchen mentioned an interest in helping find a new location; Ingrid will e-mail them to follow up
 - Could start the preschool in a new location that could eventually house the entire school
- Advertising:
 - Consider placing an ad in West Coast Parent magazine; need funds for this
- Parent Education Program videos on PSS web site:
 - Kerry pointed out that parent education program videos are posted on the PSS web site and announced that phase two has begun with the fund development committee preparing sponsor proposals