

**Suzuki Charter School  
School Council Meeting  
Thursday, January 11, 2012**

**Call to Order:** 8:55 a.m.

**Attendance:** Dave Schenk, DeLee Foley, Karen Spencer, Beata Zitnansky, Shannon Eskow, Kerry Crawford, Colette Fluet-Howrish, Lisa Morris, Trish Ganam, Bonni Gilroy, Mrs. Fung (attended briefly on behalf of teachers)

**Approval of November 17, 2011 Minutes and Agenda:** Motion to approve by Shannon, seconded by Kerry. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**1. Principal Advisory – Karen Spencer**

- a. **American Suzuki Journal** – An article has showcased Madame Goulet and Suzuki Charter School in the January Edition of The American Suzuki Journal.
- b. **School Council Bylaws** – A copy has been given to the Council for review.
- c. **Book Fair** – Parent Council recommendations have been brought forth to the staff. Ideas will be considered when planning the spring event. School Council also suggested removing the erasers and pencils from the fair, to encourage children to spend their money on books.
- d. **Musical Group: Hoja** - Karen expressed a desire to have the musical group, Hoja, perform for our student and parent body. They are a Canadian Acapella group who both entertains and communicates positive messages to school groups (ie. anti-bullying) School Council was in favor of supporting this event. More information about this group can be found at [hojaworld.com](http://hojaworld.com). A date has not been set.
- e. **Registration and Feb. 9 Open House** - Karen reviewed the format for the Open House and highlighted improvements made in order to increase clarity in the registration process. Dave confirmed that a School Council table was needed.

**2. Suzuki Approach in Action– Mrs. Fung**

- Karen showed a short video demonstrating the Empower Program in action.
- Mrs. Fung explained and further demonstrated the Empower Program available for students in grades 2-5. This is a one year intensive, highly structured and researched reading program for students requiring extra support. The program's scaffold approach to learning aligns nicely with the Suzuki approach. We are the first school board in Alberta to use this program.
- It was asked whether or not this method could be used school-wide with all students. Unfortunately, this is not how the program was designed. However, Mrs. Fung is discussing with the trainers from the Toronto Hospital how principles can be modified for the regular classroom.

**4. Old Business**

**4.1 Excellent Teacher Nomination – Kerry Crawford**

- Letters from parents are due on Jan. 20, 2012.

#### **4.2 Classroom Reps.**

- The response to the December letter was good. Interested parents will be contacted.
- Karen is hoping that reps. can help with the Emergency Call-Out System.

#### **4.3 Scholastic Online**

- Unfortunately this is not available in Canada.

### **5. New Business**

#### **5.1 – Teacher Appreciation Day**

- Members shared ideas regarding how we can show appreciation to our fantastic teachers! Further discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

#### **5.2 Silent Auction – Bonni Gilroy**

- Bonni has agreed to help coordinate this project, but is looking for a successor. Preliminary discussions occurred. A planning meeting will be schedule shortly and all are welcome (bring fresh ideas and/or enthusiasm).

**Next Meeting** – Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012 at 8:45 am in the school library.

**Adjournment:** 10:30 a.m.

**These minutes are based on the writer’s interpretation and are considered to be an accurate recording of the items discussed. Any discrepancies and/or omissions should be reported to the undersigned in writing or brought up at the next regular meeting.**

**DeLee Foley  
Secretary**

