

**Suzuki Charter School  
School Council Meeting  
Thursday Nov. 17, 2011**

**Call to Order:** 9:00 a.m.

**Attendance:** Dave Schenk, DeLee Foley, Karen Spencer, Beata Zitnansky, Shannon Eskow, Pamela J. Vidal, Olu Rojuginbokan, Diane Cummins, Lelana Jensen, Kerry Crawford, Dale Szalacsi (attended briefly on behalf of teachers)

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Approval of Sept. 1 and Oct. 13 2011 Minutes:** Motion to approve by Lelana. Seconded by Shannon. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**1. Dale Szalacsi – Teacher Representative**

- Debriefed on the history of the extension of lunch recess using the 15 minute afternoon recess.
  - Pros noted: increase time available for clubs, extended time for physical activity, 2 hours of uninterrupted learning, reduced behavior incidents – Mr. S or Mrs. Spencer are assisting with lunch supervision, increased eating time
  - Concerns noted: snacks – time is allowed in class to overcome this, restlessness – teachers can offer physical activity breaks as needed, French and Choral adjustment - has been overcome
  - PAC feedback was positive. Students will be surveyed next month. All feedback will be presented to the Board.
- Math Basic Facts – Gr. 1 and 3 will be piloting a new supplementary program that will focus on mastery of basic facts. This program is music and game based. So far, feedback has been positive.

**2. School Education Report – Karen Spencer**

- Karen reviewed the P.A.T. results and Annual Educational Results Report. The complete document will be available for review on the website.
- We have received awards for Excellence in Science and Language Arts from the Frasier Institute.
- Some recommendations resulting from the Results Review included:
  - Musical Excellence: continued teacher training, technology integration ( ie. compositions distributed to parents), music objectives distributed in advance through use of a term newsletter, matching performance descriptors with the S.A.A.
  - Academic Excellence: Reading intervention beginning in Kindergarten using the RRST Screening tool, beginning and end of year reading assessments using the Jerry Johns Assessment Tool, Empower Reading Program for at risk students – grades 2 - 5, Educational Assistants, Differentiated Instruction training for teaching gifted students, programming for English Language Learner students, pilot program for

basic facts, the creation of a cumulative math assessment should the P.A.T.s be removed in the future

- Personal Excellence: Early Identification of At Risk students, use of ESHIP services, continued PLC for unified teaching

### **3. Principal Report – Karen Spencer**

- Feedback on the extended lunch period has been requested.
- Dave asked how the extra money given by Alberta Education will be used. Karen reported that it still needs to be approved at the Board level, but ideas such as part-time personnel to assist the Secretary Treasurer, additional time for Secretary to organize /close the school year, and increasing technology (ie. I Pads for early years to enhance interactive learning). Nothing has been approved to date.

### **4. Excellent Teacher Nomination: closes Feb. 3, 2012.**

- Information can be found at [www.education.alberta.ca/teachers/excellence.aspx](http://www.education.alberta.ca/teachers/excellence.aspx) Kerry will look into this and bring the information to the next meeting.

### **5. Old Business**

#### **5.1 New Parents Support**

- Karen will send out a survey to new parents asking their opinions regarding the transition into Suzuki School.
- The comment was made that some parents found the entry into the associations confusing when entering the school. Karen will bring this comment forward at the next association meeting in search of a more effective way to disseminate information to parents.

#### **5.2 Classroom Reps.**

- DeLee will draft a letter sent home to parents in search of classroom reps. in order to enhance the effectiveness of School Council.

#### **5.3 Dogs**

- Signs have been requested from the City.

### **6. Capilano Community Correspondence**

- Most community members are pleased with parking.
- The League is supporting our requests for dog signage.
- An initiative to redevelop the playground is being brought to the Board.

### **7. New Business**

#### **7.1 School Photos**

- Discussion occurred around whether or not parents were satisfied with the school photos. Most parents present were happy. It was suggested that we look at online ordering as an option.

#### **7.2 Halloween Parade**

- Clarity was sought regarding the format for this year's parade. It was noted that details in advance be given to the parents for next year.

### **7.3 Hot Lunch Supplement – Pita Pit**

- Lelana will bring back more information for the next meeting.
- Karen suggested doing this lunch for September and June.

### **7.4 Healthy School Communities Award**

- Information can be found at [www.healthyalberta.com](http://www.healthyalberta.com) (closes Feb. 1, 2012)
- We are still in need of someone to look into this.

### **7.5 Website**

- Deferred

### **7.6 Review of School Council Goals**

- Deferred

**Next Meeting** – Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011 at 8:45 am in the school library.

**Adjournment:** 10:35 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**