

Minutes for regular CVMS meeting on
Tuesday, May 8th at 7pm
Glacier View School Library

Presided by: Britta Neumann

Attendees:

Gail Herman	Kathleen Murphy	Mina Morehouse
Allan Douglas	Al Pullin	Andrea Stuchberry
April Brosko	Len Brosko	Susan Teasdale
Pauline Rae	Tracey Mantha	Bernard Guay
Dale Kuzma	Karen Silvester	Jeanine Fukui
Anne Buchanan	Ellie Grant	

Called to order at 7:00:

Special Guests Allan Douglas and Al Pullin are in attendance tonight and have another meeting to attend so the reports will be put later in the line-up to accommodate Q/A with our guests. Introductions were made.

- ♪ Gail motioned to adopt the agenda, 2nd by Susan
- ♪ The date on the printed minutes is incorrect – this was amended and the motion to adopt the amended minutes was put forward by Susan and 2nd by Bernard.

Allan Douglas is here tonight to clarify the teacher/TOC situation for us. He gave us a handout outlining what the SD has done so far in the search for a qualified teacher. Since our last meeting Mr. Douglas has met with and had a number of phone conversations with concerned parents.

The district is struggling with this situation and although there are a couple of prospects in motion they have failed to find a trained TOC. Montessori teachers are few and far behind but the administration has been meeting with the CVMS (who have been looking for prospective teachers) and SD71 human resources. The other meeting that Mr. Douglas and Mr. Pullin are attending tonight is the COW meeting where Dr. Jordan Tinney will be announcing that the Montessori Pilot will come under review to address whether it will continue beyond the 3 year pilot BEFORE the original 2009 date. Probably next year.

Mr. Douglas has been in touch with 3 people who are interested: One is a retired Montessori teacher who is interested in returning to work as a TOC – she is currently doing the paperwork to reinstate her licence.

Mr. Douglas clarified the 3 round hiring process that is strictly enforced. The union has made an exception for the Montessori program by allowing the district to post the Montessori position as if it were 3rd round (out of district) a month early during the 2nd round. It is advertised as a continuing position which makes it more desirable for applicants.

At this time of province wide declining enrolment when teachers are not getting rehired in their districts the union will step in to challenge the requirements of teachers (ie: 2 week online course could be considered to be Montessori trained in the Union's eyes).

Britta and Jeanine were sent out to investigate whether a grievance surrounding this matter has ever been won in BC and none have so SD71 will stand by the full certification. If a grievance had ever been filed or won the district would back down entirely since to fight it would cost a minimum of \$40,000. All attending were in agreement that this is reasonable.

At a recent board meeting Mr. Douglas spoke on behalf of the CVMS to the SD71 board of directors to clear up the misunderstanding of the letter that was sent by the CVMS to SD71 regarding the suspension of the program. Gail asked where the confusion came from and why the district thought that the CVMS who has no authority had suspended the program when clearly the letter read that were informing them that the program had been suspended by circumstance. Mr. Douglas could not explain where that confusion came from.

Senior management continues to be supportive of the program. The program will be reviewed regularly and will continue as long as teachers, funding and interest continue. In closing Mr. Douglas reminds us that not that long ago this whole program was merely a dream. It started from an idea and has come a long way so we must continue to hopeful that we will overcome the hurdles as they present themselves.

Q/A – Britta wonders if we are looking for 2 teachers every year that classrooms are added to avoid this problem resurfacing every year. Is this a solution or even an option? The collective agreement stipulates that TOC's are hired to cover ALL classes and having a Montessori trained teacher will help the program but that same teacher can and is expected to fill in for the regular curriculum too. There was no clear answer to this question.

Britta also wants to know where it is posted that the Montessori posting requires 2 year full accreditation as this is not posted on the website. Mr. Douglas says it is in the job description and Mr. Pullin concurs that at a recent staff meeting it was verbally discussed. Tracey wonders who in the district is qualified – there are none. There are 2 French immersion teachers who have some Montessori experience but no accreditation.

Bernard wonders if the SD might be prepared to put aside funds to train teachers locally. Mr. Douglas says that we could write a letter to Dr. Tinney and propose this but the attending CVMS board members pointed out that we are seeking a teacher who chooses the Montessori philosophy out of belief and passion for this form of education. To choose it as a means of NOT losing one's job might not be the best for the program in the long run..

Mr. Douglas explained the layoff/rehiring process.

Jeanine came in from the COW meeting to confirm that Montessori discussion was brief and that Dr. Tinney did indeed announce that review of the program would come sooner than originally planned.

Britta asked if the CVMS should submit a letter of proposal to continue past the elementary level and A.D. says "yes".

Before departing for the COW meeting Mr. Douglas pointed out that when Education Minister Bond came to see SD71 the board chose the Strong Start and Montessori programs for her to visit and she was impressed.

Britta asked if the wait list for September 2008 was still open and Mr. Pullin confirmed that it is. Gail will email him for a list of classroom registrants to update our mailing lists and keep parents informed and participating.

Members' Reports

- ♪ **Britta's report is attached separately** – Britta has done 3 years as president and will not be running for another term.
- ♪ **Lisa Purchasing report** – and she intends to run for another term as purchaser
- ♪ **Jo for finance:** is preparing year end and this will conclude her Treasurer's duties.
- ♪ **Jeanine** nothing to report for Volunteerism as teacher situation has dominated all spare time of board. Jeanine will be stepping down as volunteer coordinator to focus on other things.
- ♪ **Gail for membership** – 0 new, 0 unsubscribed but 3 email addresses are continually rejecting emails. Gail has been stepping down since December but will hold out until the AGM ☺.
- ♪ **Mina** has nothing to report for PR & Public Awareness
- ♪ **Natalie (not present)** nothing to report but asks us to email her with feedback about the kids dance. This will be her last event with us as she too is moving on.
- ♪ **Pauline for Fundraising : the cookbooks are on the way.**

Unfinished Business

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New Business

- ♪ There is a new type of gaming licence that we might be eligible for called a D licence. We have already established that we are unable to apply for the same gaming licence that PAC's and non-profits that are NOT affiliated with public schools but Kellie Sagadore will look into whether the same rules apply to this one. With a D licence your group can host raffles etc... as long as the profits are less than 5000\$. Open discussion re: PAC, Gaming and the "Montessori-ness" of earning \$\$\$ by bingo.
- ♪ Gail will send reminder out for AGM.
- ♪ Mina will do a press release for the AGM and announcing the need for volunteers in the CVMS. She will be in touch with BOTH newspapers.
- ♪ With Britta stepping down Gail has volunteered to continue manning the email until the new secretary takes over. This is fine with the board.
- ♪ Gail will send out an email with the Job Descriptions for new board members as written in the constitution AND will compile a voters list for the AGM.
- ♪ Andrea Stuchberry offered up her resort (Coastal Trek) for a potential venue
- ♪ Meeting dates for the fall – revolving dates for 06/07 did not accommodate like we had originally intended so recommendations to stick with Tuesdays on a date that didn't overlap with GV PAC or SD71 board meetings were considered. The 3rd Tuesday of each month was agreed upon. Gail will post these on the website.
- ♪ Jeanine recommends to amend the voting structure in the constitution at the AGM so that all members present at monthly meetings (previous was only board members) can vote. This will coincide with other changes to be made like new directors etc...

- ♪ Jeanine will talk to Erin Brillon to see if she is game to do the tie-dying booth that was offered to us by Valley View School in May. Erin and Jeanine will determine if this is an economically smart move for us.
- ♪ Gail has had several unqualified (in BC) teachers contact us re: the ad in the BCMA newsletter and website. Information was passed along to the interested parties with contact info for SD71 and Allan Douglas as well as a link to the job requirements. Preschool age was described as “entrepreneurial” (ie: move here and open your own school if you’re inclined)
- ♪ Dale had a question about last year’s budget and next year’s projection. Gail will email a copy of the budget to Dale.
- ♪ Andrea is doing Feast of Fields for CV and will keep an open mind as to how the CVMS can participate and fundraise at this venue.
- ♪ The junk food issue was re-discussed tonight as Karen Silvester pointed out the Mrs. Murray was feeling terrible about some comments made by the classroom parents about her giving the children cupcakes. Summarization: junk food is prevalent in the public school system and we all need to lead by example to raise the nutritional bar – without hurting feelings along the way whenever possible.
- ♪ Bernard expressed concerns about the program not being fully Montessori. Britta and Gail both expressed that the program is a hybrid, has never claimed to be otherwise and the long term goal was that as classes were added the “strength in numbers” theory would apply and we could strive for purer curriculum. We must continue to strive for this.
- ♪ Discussion around lengthening the school day and shortening the week will elp in a subtle way but this must be recommended to the SD by Allan Douglas. Britta suggests that parents send the CVMS their input of what they want from the program for their children, for themselves.

30 minute open discussion about philosophies & experiences before **Adjourning at 9:00**