

JICS Parents' Association (PA) Meeting
6:00 p.m., October 17, 2017
Jackman ICS, Toronto

1. Beth opened the meeting with introductions of the PA Executive, and asked the parents to review the minutes of the last meeting. She asked that two people approve the minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PA ASSOCIATION MINUTES FROM MAY 1, 2017.
Deepta made a motion to pass and Malik seconded the motion. Minutes unanimously approved, unamended.

2. Beth discussed the goals of the PA for the 2017/18 school year. She emphasized that they wanted every family to feel that they belong at the school. She highlighted six big budget items in the PA Plan for the year with the hopes that with additional fundraising more could be done.
3. Karin then spoke to the budget. She thanked everyone for all of the fees and donations to date. The average payment is \$160 and currently, the primary source of revenue are the fees and donations. Karin introduced the stretch budget, which is new to the JICS PA. She also spoke about United Way Corporate Giving Campaigns. Many parents can direct these donations to the school and offer the employer will match the donation. She advised parents if they would like to contribute in this way but need assistance that Beth can guide them.
4. Beth shared with parents that, while revenue is slightly higher this year than in previous years, the available cash balance is less than the previous two years. Last year, the PA spent a lot on technology for the school using surplus dollars that were available.
5. Karin expressed that we get feedback from parents that they don't understand what the fees and donations are for when they pay tuition to the school. She explained that the tuition only covers the operating costs of the school. The fees and donations enrich the classroom. One of the main items of the budget is teacher grants. Ask you child's teacher what they have done with or plan to do with the grant. Thus far, Nursery, SK, Grades 1, 3, and 4, as well as the VP's office have made use of their grants. (NTD: There is also a gallery of teacher purchases on the parent website at <https://www.jicsfamily.com/teacher-grant-purchases>)
6. Beth welcomed questions about the budget and plan. Francois asked how that fee and donation figure was calculated. Karin responded that the \$25 was determined long ago and the suggested donation had been \$100 for many years but because costs (increase in amount of classroom grants along with other items), the suggested donation is now \$150.

7. Deepta then presented the results of the 2017 parent survey and some of the efforts to address the comments of the 2016 survey. She explained that the 2016 survey had a lot of comments about communications and most of these are being addressed by the new family website. There was also a lot of criticism of the Indigo Book Night so that was changed to Book Day last year with Another Story setting up a Book Fair at the school.
8. Parent participation and time restrictions were frequently mentioned on the 2017 survey and as a result, we now offer babysitting at our events. There was also an emphasis on discussion with the principals which now follow the PA meetings in the form of a Community Chat. The highest attendance was at Family Fun Night so we are trying to have more family focused events.
9. Richard provided a construction update. The construction will be ready on November 15. We will use the gym and lunch room immediately and then we will phase into the other areas. The fold down tables in the lunch room will arrive soon. Any parent with steel-toed boots and helmet is welcome to come and have a tour. UofT has planned a "Kick off" celebration on January 26, 2018. Parents and donors invited along with the children.
10. Malik then spoke about Parent Education. He is currently soliciting volunteers for the committee because they are in a growth phase. The first Parent Ed event, Coffee and Conversation went very well and he is looking forward to the next Parent Ed event on October 24 when Alyson Schafer will come to JICS.
11. Esther from the Dean's Advisory Board described that with Nadia Thomas, they meet with the Dean twice per year and try to bring forward one large issue. This issue of late has been how OISE determines the value, which it attributes to the lab school relative to the operating expenses that they attribute to the school. The last meeting was March and the next is in November. Agendas are provided one week out. There has been slow progress from OISE.
12. Nicos introduced the daycare board and explained that they provide oversight to the daycare. All are welcome at the meetings that are often not very well attended. AGM is forthcoming soon.
13. Amy and Awet provided an update for volunteers. Parents are not using the website to sign up so class reps are encouraged to direct them there (<https://www.jicsfamily.com/volunteeropportunities>)
14. Grant spoke about the Patrick Harvie Arts Fund and Night. He noted that the PHAF's contributions to the drama, music and visual arts curriculum have been highly accretive and lasting for many years giving specific examples in each, including the Artist in Residence program, a kiln, software and hardware to create digital music, and image capturing technology to store and preserve children's art work. Grant used a mixed media painting he created in 1968 and a clay head he sculpted in 1970

(...a likeness of Richard according to Grant) to speak to the advances the PHAF has since provided emerging artists and to underscore the wonderful lasting value of art in grade school to provoke happy memories of time and place. He refers to it as a likeness of Richard.

15. Chriss announced that Kelly Jazvac is a Canadian artist who will be the artist in residence this year.

<http://canadianart.ca/tips-and-advice/2012/02/23/kelly-jazvac-sculpture-and-installation-artist/>

16. Beth talked about some exciting new events for this year. Kelly Weaver will bring a holiday market to the school during book night and is also working on other gear. Thanks to all the parents that came out tonight. Questions are welcomed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7pm subsequent to a short Q&A.

17. Richard announced subsequent to the meeting that the final gala numbers are in. Gala net profit at \$131,000 (net of all expenses, at approximately 18K). Recent years' revenue has been between \$25-35K.

President
Beth Corcoran

Communications Officer (Meeting Minutes)
Casey Dabiet