**Christina Gordon Inclusion Advisory Committee - Minutes**

**January 12th, 2022 - 7:30 pm via Zoom**

**1.0 Attendees:** Karla Power Cora Goodyear Gillian Holloway

Cagney Edwards Mary-Lynne Luco Marcie Falloon

Andrea MacPherson James Sedgwick Cara Payne

Rick Thorne Linda Mywaart Chrissy White

Barbara Rex Krista Saunders Michelle Nastuik

Barb Fitzpatrick Diana Amoah

**Apologies:** Kim Lemay Christa Fudge Kali MacDonald

Sandra Gomez Jenna Ferns

**2.0** **Called meeting to order:** 7:32 p.m.

**3.0** **Meeting chaired by:** Karla Power

**4.0 Minutes recorded by:**  Karla Power

**5.0** **Introductions-** Group members and guests introduced themselves. We had 6 guests attend the meeting.

**6.0 Explanation of Committee-**How we got started (We started in 2019 as a sub committee under our School Council), Review of Guidelines (We are an advisory committee that reports to the School Committee on a monthly basis), Review of positions (Chair-Karla Power, Vice Chair-Kim Lemay, Secretary-Christa Fudge).

**7.0 Review of projects:**

**-Purchase of** [**Inclusive titles**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IZ4WBx2g8xYfRFNCCBCLIWs9Popmp3LmiDAjzafQyiU/edit?usp=sharing)**-** Our Fundraising Committee has purchased these titles to go in our Learning Commons. We will share this list with the RMWB Library. Hoping to add more ASL/Braille books to our collection.

**-**[**Special Days Calendar**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1omr-XMnOxwgO_Wo5I3hzYbuDlEcmatm-/view?usp=sharing9ALg_MMz3xydcwpj-z7/view?usp=sharing)**/information videos** Our Special Days Calendar is a working document and dates can be added. We want to make people aware of special days and educate them on what the days are for. We share information and videos on our Facebook Page about the days as they come up.

**-Purchase of more sensory items/**[**swings**](https://harkla.co/products/compression-sensory-swing)**-**Our fundraising committee has purchased more fidgets, chewies, cushions, weighted snakes and sensory swings for our students who need them.

**-**[**Inclusive read-alouds/videos**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sMk8T7g2b2OckoYXqvNjZo1uRvCbiELm?usp=sharingMk8T7g2b2OckoYXqvNjZo1uRvCbiELm) **-** Staff members and parents have recorded videos and read-alouds on various topics. There is also a document in the folder with follow up activities and discussion points that teachers can use with their class.

[**-Autism Awareness Package in April**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Nf_rhces30FAYL6GH5NREd78KK4nm4Po?usp=sharing)**-**This folder includes information about Autism, read-alouds, suggested videos and Sensory friendly art activities.

**-**[**Fundraiser for Wood Buffalo You Can Ride 2 Program**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GVJGeiwsvLKN-JwpEE-Z7ukjBjf6UoHI/view?usp=sharing)**-** Our committee held a fundraiser last year with the help of our Phys. Ed teacher Mr. Wright where students attended a Sock Hop for one of their Phys. Ed classes. Glow sticks were provided and students were asked to bring in a small donation for the Adaptive Bike Program. We ended up raising $800 for the program.

**-**[**Inclusive Playground project**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cJUhbFzPlLcc2VF3kpiUjRW8t0NZ8W8LYl62Yc8yeQQ/edit?usp=sharingFzPlLcc2VF3kpiUjRW8t0NZ8W8LYl62Yc8yeQQ/edit)**-** Our committee started looking into building onto our current playground 2 years ago to make it more inclusive and accessible. We came up with a Wish list and applied for Grants, as well as asked local businesses for donations. We ended up raising $92 000. Karla attended an RMWB Council meeting last school year and received an additional $60 000 to complete the project. We are hoping to have the project complete by Summer 2022.

**-**[**Student Voice**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bnFLijGxoU_BjFWXIGajvsKCLXojB9MTYpovhefmY58/edit?usp=sharing) **-** Karla has spoken to the Grade 3-6 students about Inclusion to get their voice on the following questions. What does Inclusion look like/feel like/sound like? and How can we make CG more inclusive? The students have come up with great ideas so far!

**8.0 Old Business**

**8.1 Playground –** update on build: A meeting has been scheduled for the first week of January to determine the successful bidder for the project. The award and contract implementation process will follow the meeting, we will be able to share the details with the school after the proponent is awarded. Mr. Thorne indicated that he spoke with someone from the RMWB who indicated that the contractor had been awarded.

-Andrea and Karla met with Mayor Bowman virtually on December 2nd to discuss how to make the playgrounds in RMWB more accessible and inclusive. Mayor Bowman was very receptive to our ideas and has agreed to go on a tour in the spring to see some of the playgrounds that we consider exceptional, as well as those that need some improvements to make them more inclusive and accessible. We invited him to our ribbon cutting ceremony of the Inclusive Playground. He also agreed to look into the option of rubberized flooring for playgrounds and re-measure the HIC (Head Injury Criteria) levels on the current rubber playgrounds in RMWB. We told him about how we graded parks in the RMWB this summer based on safety, accessibility, and inclusiveness using a rubric. For more information on that project, please visit the [Possibility Playgrounds Facebook Page.](https://www.facebook.com/Possibility-Playgrounds-100867185594230)

**8.2 Inclusion talks with students-** Karla will continue talking to Grade 2, 1, Kindergarten and ECDP about what inclusion looks like/sounds like/feels like and how to make CG more inclusive. We will be asking classroom teachers to take on some projects that were suggested by students that promote inclusion, such as the Rainbow cards, Inclusive posters and persuasive letter writing about the rubber on the playground.

**8.3 Special Days Calendar**-Dates coming up:

***Jan. 18th- Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood Day-***Cara will provide us with information to share on our Facebook Page about this rare disease. (1 in a Million). Navy is the color that is worn for this day.

***Jan. 20th-International Day of Acceptance***- Karla is currently working on a video to the song True Colors in collaboration with several parents in town.

***Jan. 26th-Bell Let’s Talk Day***- We will be acknowledging this day by encouraging staff and students to wear blue and making posts about Mental Health.

***Feb. 15th- International Angelmen’s Syndrome Day-***Michelle will share information with us on this rare disease that affects the 15th chromosome. Blue is the color that is worn for this day.

***Feb 17th-Random Acts of Kindness Day***-Andrea is going to share some information about how we can acknowledge this day.

**8.4 Inclusive Dolls for Early Years Classes:** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fSa9alhC7n2ohOORWIjCMsqwtcDvNY5xEmj66UVW4hw/edit?usp=sharing>

Kali found some UK sites that sell inclusive dolls. They are quite pricey. There were some 2D paper and felt dolls on Etsy with hearing aids, crutches, insulin pumps etc. Scholar's Choice also sells a Friends with Diverse Abilities doll set, as well Amazon carries some Barbie dolls with limb differences and in wheelchairs. Karla and committee members will narrow down the list and ask Fundraising to purchase some dolls for our four Early Years classes.

**9.0 New Business**

**9.1-Student in a box/student profiles-**We had a discussion about making sure that pertinent information about our vulnerable students is shared with EAs and teachers from year to year and kept up to date in case an EA is out for a day or an extended period of time. The EAs in the group let us know that the expectation is for them to already do this and that they have a binder with sub plans for their student, including what their day looks like. There was a brief discussion about keeping a Google folder with this information on it, as sometimes paper copies get lost during transition. Karle will follow up with Jen and Cara.

9.2- [Disabilities Document](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gt4iwA_DIcQUaU3DW-yVlL9FsZosJX-nvUw02_-_udQ/edit?usp=sharing)- This is a working document to help parents and people with special needs navigate services that are available to them. You can also find important links and information on the [Support4Moms Society Facebook page.](https://www.facebook.com/groups/225250874293589)

9.4 Posters for Inclusion- We will look into getting our students to make posters that represent different kinds of people and inclusive messages.

**10.0 Question and Answer period-**Linda is going to connect Karla with the Chair for the Voices of People with Disabilities group in town.

**11.0** **Kudos for what’s going well**

**12.0 Agenda items for next meeting**

-Playground update

- Inclusive Dolls

-Special Days Calendar

-Purchase of ASL/Braille books

-Life skills for students/leadership roles

-Fundraiser for Bike Program

**13.0** **Next Board Meeting:** Wednesday, February 16th at 7:30 p.m.

**14.0** **Meeting adjourned:** 9:19 p.m.