

Quesnel Community Autism Committee  
Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Minutes

1. Parent Group Update - Carla shared information from the last two support group sessions.

- More dads are coming
- Nice to see moms and dads together at support group
- One new family came to last group
- Lots of excitement about Temple Grandin workshop in P.G.

2. Teen Social Group Update - Shareen

- The teens named their group – The Epic Group
- Attendance is good – between 10 – 20 kids
- Some siblings are also coming. This needs to be monitored.
- Shareen has 3 regular support people with her. Some days this works, seems enough. Sometimes this doesn't seem like enough. Shareen is thinking of splitting the group during the 'teaching component' of session to make sure she meets the needs of diverse group.
- Shareen has organized lots of different activities – one dad brought his hockey team and challenged kids to floor hockey, Special Easter session (Easter egg hunt, dodge ball game – hit the Easter bunny, dance...)

The committee discussed the sustainability of the group. The demands of the group has increased because the program is so successful. However Shareen is still a volunteer. Perhaps we need to look at how we acknowledge the work involved in facilitating this group. It should be a paid position. Since the YAG group has been helping with this initiative we probably need to discuss this with their coordinating committee. Carla is going to set up a meeting so we can look at the next steps. Perhaps the group should be advertised through the Arts and Rec Program. The group could run for a set number of weeks, with a specific number of assigned spots. This would ensure that there aren't more kids than can be properly supervised. If there is a nominal fee then there is a way to pay Shareen for her time. Carla will talk to Richard Gauthier at the Rec Center to see if this is an option.

3. Workshop/Training - Sue

- PG – Temple Grandin – a group of students from QJS will be going up to PG. Parents will be helping with the driving.
- Other requests/considerations? – Sue asked if the parents/committee wanted some more training. She mentioned that the School District will be doing some workshops in the Fall regarding Social Thinking (Michelle Garcia Winner stuff). When we have a schedule we will open spots to parents.

4. MCF rep to committee – Dave mentioned that Anita Basset will be the new Children and Youth with Special Needs worker responsible for Autism portfolio. Sue will invite her to the next committee meeting.
5. Others...Website – Carla mentioned that she was unable to put information about the Cross Currents Special Ed Conference on the web (too big). We will have to watch this in future.
6. Next meeting date – Tuesday May 4<sup>th</sup> 3:00