

April 10, 2008

Dear Fern Hill families,

On behalf of the Fern Hill School Board of Directors, I would like to provide you with an update on board membership and the work the board will be undertaking over the coming months. The board's most recent meeting was held April 8, 2008.

First, the Board of Directors would like to thank Jean Champagne (Derek Champagne ,Grade 2 and Kyle Champagne , Flopsy's) for his two years of membership on the board and his leadership as Chair over the past year -- We will miss you, Jean, and thank you so much for your efforts on behalf of Fern Hill School! -- With Jean's decision to step down, Gina Watson (John Phillips, Grade 3, and Sarah Phillips, Grade 6) has been voted as the new Chair of the Board. Whether as a parent or board member, Gina has been involved in the life of Fern Hill since 1998.

The Board would also like to thank Julia O`Grady (Delia O`Grady Grade 3 and James O`Grady SK) for her participation on the Board as Treasurer for the past two years - thank you Julia! Thanks are also extended to Margo Scott (Ethan Scott , SK) for her participation on the Board this past year -- many thanks Margo!

With the departure of Jean, Julia and Margo from the Board, the Board's voting members are Gina Watson (Chair), Dan Goldberg (Grace Goldberg, Grade 1 and Claire Goldberg SK and Jack Goldberg Flopsy's), Julie Tanguay (Anais Dupont, Grade 4 and Bianca Dupont, Grade 2 and Sabrina Dupont SK), and Pradip Patel (Shay Patel, JK). They are supported by Elizabeth Milligan and Deborah Gutierrez, who are non-voting ex-officio board members.

With these changes we are seeking new board members from parents interested in making this important and worthwhile contribution to the school. Whether you are new to the school or not, a long-term resident or someone posted in from another country for several years, we invite you to consider taking part. Anyone who is interested in becoming a member should express their interest to Elizabeth Milligan or Deborah Gutierrez.

In other business, the Board of Directors has begun the important task of developing a new five-year plan for the school. The current five-year plan has guided the school since September 2003. With this period ending this year, the Board will work with a consultant to consult staff, administration and parents as part of an assessment of the school's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in order to inform our assessment of the operational and other choices open to us in the coming years. We expect this work to be largely done during the months of May and June, with a chance to revisit the work in the fall to make sure we are on the right track. This is an exciting opportunity to help chart the course for the school over the years to come. The Board will keep you informed as this exercise progresses.

Fern Hill is an exceptional school with a strong community supporting it. We can all work together to make it even better.

Gina Watson
Chair of the Fern Hill Board of Directors