



# St. Gabriel School Council

585 Signal Road, Fort McMurray, AB, T9H 4V3

EMAIL: [stgabrielsc@gmail.com](mailto:stgabrielsc@gmail.com)

## Minutes – January 15, 2019

4:00pm School Meeting Room

This meeting was called to order at 4:03pm with an opening prayer done by everyone.

### **In attendance:**

Jody Boyle, Kristi Mardell, Abbie Ouellet, Sarah Dube, Geraldine Connors, Jennifer Lacey

No amendments were made to the November 20, 2018 minutes.

### **Presentation: FNMI Liaison**

Beverly Pierce has been the Indigenous Liaison for the past 6 years for St. Gabriel School and St. Paul School. This position builds relationships with Indigenous students and families so that the focus of school is of importance. Each family has different needs and past experiences which impacts the ability to access education. The Liaison works in the school with the teachers and principal and does home visits with the families. The Liaison also increases the exposure of the Indigenous culture within the school by putting on events such as Orange Day, Heart Garden, and Guest Speakers, putting up displays with cultural information and items such as the head dress, flags, and acknowledgement, and educating teachers and students of the culture. There is also a Cultural Corner in the Library which has resources for students and teachers.

There are many different First Nations across the Country, but they have a lot in common. Every activity has a teaching behind it and each grade has different areas of focus. The 2019 Alberta curriculum will also have more indigenous components.

The Liaisons from all the district schools meet to discuss guidelines and how to incorporate the culture in the schools. As well recently students had the opportunity to train to be Elder Keepers. Kids will rotate and role model the skills learnt from this opportunity. There is a high population, 43 Indigenous students, in St. Gabriel school.

Full Circle is a program that has been around for at least the last 5 years and is provided through Big Brothers and Sisters. Bev has been the facilitator at St. Gabriel's School. The program is free and focuses on the Indigenous culture. It is open to all cultures, but priority is given to Indigenous students. There will be a new individual to facilitate the program at St. Gabriel School.

Information was also circulated about the YWAM (Youth with a Mission) Fort McMurray Family Nights on Thursday at 6pm. It is at 101 Spruce Street for families to connect and enjoy a home cooked meal, company and activities. Activities are homework club, games and crafts.



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## **Principal Report:**

This past week, Mrs. Nayyar, our new teacher replacing Mr. Pretto during his paternal leave, has been shadowing Mr. Pretto. As well interviews for the new full-time FNMI Liaison position will be conducted next week. Beverly Pierce will be going to St. Paul’s School full-time. These full-time positions will enhance the cultural aspects in every subject, provide good support to teachers, and provide more class time. The position works closely with families to build relationships. Some examples of how Indigenous culture may be presented could be traditional games during physical education or the value of land/trees/animal significance during a science unit or focus on books/authors with a culture reference during LA. It’s a welcomed resource for the new curriculum and reconciliation efforts.

Student Lighthouse Team is looking for ten grade 4 to 6 students to join. These students will provide feedback on how to make St. Gabriel’s go from good to great. These individuals will then become leaders to carry these ideas forward. Applications are being accepted.

Alternate leadership roles such as greeters for success assemblies and liturgies, and PALS team are in the works. This week on Thursday Be Fit for Life will be training the PALS team to become physical activity leaders to encourage play during indoor recess and on the playground. This team will continue year to year much like lunch monitors.

Cheer team is new this year and is on Monday and Wednesdays.

Christmas Luncheon was much appreciated by staff.

Goals setting will be a focus for the next month for the entire school. Class bulletin boards in the school reflect teacher and student personal goals. The classes have been looking at realistic and measurable goals.

## **Treasurer Report:**

Summary of Account Balance Forward	\$12,483.40
Recent Deposits (Christmas Store, Smoothie day, Drink Containers Return)	5,948.50
Recent Expenses (Christmas Store, Apples, Child Care, Staff Luncheon, Office-website, Bookfair Order, Eco Rewards, Parent Recruitment)	6,114.76
Total Available on Jan 15, 2019	\$12,317.14

Profits were as follows: Christmas Store \$692.09, Parking Spot Raffle \$194, Drink Container Return \$211.85, and Smoothie Day \$284.50 (expenses for smoothie day still to be submitted).



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## **Old Business:**

### **Election of Vice Chair/ Selection of Coordinators**

At this time no one came forward for Vice Chair, or Special Event Coordinator. The Valentine Dance Coordinator will be a team effort between Sarah Dube, Darlene Scharf, Karen Arevalo, and Jody Boyle.

### **Volunteer Update & Parking Permit Draw**

Volunteers are needed for the Recycling Fridays and Valentine Family Dance. There were 176 volunteer occurrences since October 18<sup>th</sup> and Sarah Dube was drawn for the School Council parking permit from Jan 16- Feb 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Meeting Presentation**

Sarah was contact by our FNMI Liaison who wanted to present at one of our meetings so that we would have a better understand of the role in our school and if there would be any budget allocated for materials and resources. Sarah made the arrangements for this meeting. Previously this position was part time at our school and therefore wasn't included in budget for the Teachers \$100. Some cultural books were purchased for the culture corner in the library under the existing library budget. The group discussed if this position should be included in the Teacher \$100 or an independent budget category. The group was supportive of an independent budget category and the prospect of doing a cultural family event for the entire school to make it also a meaningful learning experience. The group decided that once the full-time position is filled that they could approach School Council if they need support and/or additional funding.

Sarah has also made contact with RCMP Cst. Rob Lafleur when he was patrolling the school Nov 21, to do a presentation on Bullying at our school council meeting. He has passed the information to some newly hired RCMP officers who are required to do community presentations. However, even after following up with him on Dec 14 and Jan 14 there has been no response until today. Cst. Rob has passed the request on to Cst. Gloria Norman. Sarah will continue to pursue for our March meeting.

Sarah has made arrangements with our Counselor, Natalie, to make a presentation on Heart Math for our February meeting. Sarah provided more information later in the meeting under the COSC Meeting.

### **Council Survey**

December Results: What kind of Valentine raffle basket would you or your child buy a ticket for? Movie Night Out (12), Class Pizza Party (10), School Council Parking Spot (4), Lego (1), Craft (1), Unicorn (0), Active Play (0), no other options/ comments were provided. The group discussed the option for the next survey and decided that it be on what kind of fundraisers would parents support and make a purchase of. The following examples were given as options: FlipGive, Spring Flowers, Parking Spot Raffle, Extra Hot Lunches, Bath Bombs. Any other ideas can be emailed to [stgabrielsc@gmail.com](mailto:stgabrielsc@gmail.com).



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## **Bulletin Board**

Valentine Family Dance bulletin board is up right now. Feb/Mar will be promoting Alien In-Line Skating which will be coming in March.

## **Science in Motion**

Parents knew that science in motion had happened but there wasn't much talk about it from the students. One parent was happy to see pictures of her children during their sessions posted by the teachers via the Seesaw app. The assembly was primarily on the floor which made it hard for the back rows to see it. Mrs. Lacey will bring it forward at the next staff meeting to see what the teachers think. Maybe there are other programs that would better align with school goals or have a better benefit for the cost of it. For example, previously the school used to get science crates for a unit which they then had available for a 2-week period.

## **PTI Welcome Table**

There wasn't too many inquiries about School Council, but parents did stop by to purchase raffle tickets. The raffle was an easy way to fundraise and should be done again.

## **Staff Christmas Luncheon**

The Staff Christmas Luncheon was very much appreciated by staff. Sarah had several teachers and EAs say thank you for arranging it and covering supervision. Volunteers were hard to get to cover supervision but the week of when Mrs. Lacey sent out the email to parents a lot had stepped up. Sarah suggested to increase next year's budget to \$350 because to purchase the same amount of food as last year had costed more this year.

## **New Business**

### **COSC (Council of School Councils) Meeting**

Sarah Dube attended the COSC Meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Items for Discussion:

AERR- Alberta Education Results Report – overall doing well; no red; key area is continuous improvement; completion rate 85% which is above provincial; want to increase diploma excellence > above 80%; transition rate is low because they only survey students who go to post-secondary in AB – does not reflect the ones who go to other provinces and therefore the low rate

Heart Math – to co-regulate stress and anxiety; all school counsellors have been trained to work with students; user friendly techniques – heart helps control the mind to aligned harmoniously; 100 ipads with heart monitors are in the schools; intend students to teach parents; potential agenda presentation

Grace – Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education – promotes strength of catholic; includes Bishops of Alberta, Alberta Catholic Schools Trustees Association; Catholic Communities (parishes and school districts), Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta



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COSC - name change, 3 meetings per year, open to all council executives, meetings at other schools, first Monday of the month (Feb, May), give suggestion to Superintendent on agenda items

School Sharing – Elsie Anik has counselling session open to all - try to advertise more on about them at St. Gab's; Elsie Yanik is a new start so focused on Fundraising and ASCA workshops; Father Merc is newly established; Tourcotte has multicultural night to demonstrate different aspects of the cultures and the entire school is invited; Sister Mary Phillips is working on separating fundraising from school council; Sarah Dube touched based on our Eco Club efforts; Last weekend in April ASCA Conference 27 & 28<sup>th</sup>- one rep from each school is budgeted in school budget and additional rep from school council budget.

## **ASCA (Access to items/supplies) Survey**

The group discussed the following response to the ASCA Access to item/supplies survey.

1. Please indicate if all students in your school have adequate access to the following types of items/supplies (equipment/tools/materials):

Technology: Yes

Physical Education: Yes

Classroom: Yes

Sensory: Yes

Other: (eg. Music, Drama, Art Science, Sports Programs, etc.): Yes

If yes to above – please specify: Music, Sports, Cheer

2. What barriers, if any, prevent adequate access to any of the above (eg. financial, space, low enrollment/interest, etc.)?

Volunteer leaders, experience, time commitment, financial

3. Please share comments on this topic:

None provided.

## **ASCA Awards of Recognition**

Sarah Dube provided information to the group about 4 awards that ASCA has for recognition of Districts, School Council, Community Organization, and Individuals who work to improve and better the education experience for students. No nominations were made.

## **Oilsands Rotary Music Festival Donation**

For the past two years School Council has provided a \$100 donation to the Oilsands Rotary Music Festival since our school has participated in it. Sarah Dube motioned to approve \$100 donation for the Oilsands Rotary Music Festival. Geraldine Connors seconded and all in favour.

## **Sensory Floor Decal**

Sarah Dube provided information on the option to do a sensory floor decal in the school hallway. This can be used by students who need a sensory break during class time or during indoor recesses. Jump2Math is



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a company out of Ontario that provides removable decals and costs range from \$120-\$1200 depending on the package chosen, shipping is free. Information from two US companies were also provided but the costs were significantly higher at \$1500-\$2050 USD. The group discussed location, longevity, application and cost. The group agreed that the library/computer room hallway would be the best location as it would not disrupt classes. Application would have to be in the summer when the floor are stripped and waxed so that the decals are sealed by the wax which will increase longevity. Decals would only be good for a year and there was caution of how easily they could be removed or if they would leave markings and degrade the flooring. The group discussed if it was worth the cost. A cost comparison was made to another physical activity such as Alien In-Line skating which is about \$2500 for only 5 days of activity. Would the sensory floor be used more than that really depends on how many indoor recesses there are Suggestion was made to maybe purchase one of the smaller kits as a trial. Mrs. Lacey will bring the idea forward to the Custodian and Building Maintenance Manager to get their feedback on the product and how it impacts their jobs.

## **Fundraising:**

### **Boston Pizza Operation Education**

We raised about \$80 from receipts that were submitted from Sept – Dec 2018. We are still accepting receipts from January until the end of June but only from the two Fort McMurray Locations (Timberlea and Downtown).

### **PTI Parking Spot Raffle**

We raised \$194 from the PTI Parking Spot Raffle. This was an easy way to fundraise and should be done again.

### **Smoothie Day**

Smoothie Day on December 20<sup>th</sup> grossed \$284.50 and profit was \$219.81. Sarah wasn't able to reuse the cups from snack time for lunch because students weren't done with them. Sarah requested that an additional 72 cups be purchased for \$59.94+GST. The group still felt that the cost of disposable cups was more cost effective. The reduced sales could have been a result of Christmas parties, financial constraints at that time of year, access to smoothies on the breakfast cart, and too high of frequency of special event days. Feedback was provided that the popcorn from the last popcorn day wasn't good and suggested we try salt and canola oil next time instead of the coconut oil. January 25, February 15, 22 were proposed as possible dates, but the group decided to hold off and try again in March. Rather the group agreed to do an extra hot lunch on Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> using a new vendor if cost plus a \$0.50 profit is under \$6.00. Possible vendors are Sweet Meats, Earls, EDO, Chartwell's Catering, Mitchell's Café, Eat Clean. Sarah has contacted vendors by email and only Sweet Meats so far provided their menu of sandwiches for \$5 and soup for \$3. Some expressed that a sandwich wasn't something they would choose to purchase as a hot lunch item since it can be easily made at home and sent to school. It was also mentioned that soup could be messy. But if no other vendor met the criteria stated above than it could be a potential option.



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## **Christmas Store**

Profit was not as high as what we normally make from this event. It was noticeable that less students participated and that students weren't spending all the money that they came with. The group discussed if this event should be continued for next year or try something new such as a student craft ornament, student drawn Christmas cards or Christmas evergreen arrangements/ poinsettias. The group agreed that it is a lot of work and lots of volunteers needed to operate the Christmas Store. Therefore, it was decided that we don't sign the contract for the Christmas Store next year. Instead we will look into other fundraising opportunities.

## **Valentine Family Dance**

Sarah Dube did approach Holy Trinity, Father Merc, and Boy Scouts about volunteers. Lisa from Holy Trinity did respond with potential volunteers, so the sign-up genius link has been provided. There was no response from Father Merc or Boy Scouts. We have one face painter, Karen Whalen. Karen Arvelo's brother is confirmed as DJ and \$225 is required to cover DJ equipment. Gym decoration idea was presented and will be handed out to teacher's this week for students to work on before the dance. Sarah looked into pizza vendors with whole wheat or multigrain crust, Panago, Pizza Hut, Little Caesars. For 20 pizzas, Little Caesar's was the lowest at about \$150 which was about half the price of Panago and Pizza Hut. Raffle baskets options were reviewed: Movie Night, Lego, Unicorn, Hatchimal, Nerf Laser, Parking Spot, Class Pizza Party, Craft. Geraldine motioned to use all the raffle baskets. Jennifer seconded and all in favour. Sarah also suggested to limit the line-up for tickets at the dance that activity/raffle and 50/50 tickets be available for purchase in advance. The group decided that parents/guardians can send a form and money to the school prior to February 12<sup>th</sup> and then pickup of the tickets the night of the dance at the advance ticket sales pickup/ donations location by the office. Information will be sent by email starting this week and by paper copy the week before the event. Sarah and Mrs. Lacey will also communicate the information about decorations and advance ticket sales to teachers.

## **Closing Comments:**

Thank you to all the parents for coming out tonight.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

**Next Meeting date and time: Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – 4:00-5:30pm. All parents welcome!**