



St. Gabriel School Parent Council

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

EMAIL: stgabrielpc@gmail.com

Minutes – November 9, 2016

6:30pm School Staff Room

This meeting was called to order at 6:30pm with an opening prayer done by Everyone.

In attendance

John Barfoot, Michelle Chellew, Lana Obrigewitsch, Suzette Reid, Gaylene Sinclair, Andrea Kendall, Erica Silver, Courtney Power, Maria Kirui, Morgan Rankin, Karen Whalen, Dawn Collins, Susan Wilkie, and Sarah Dube.

Principle's Report

John opened by explaining that the St. Gabriel sign hasn't been updated from May because the cleaners threw out all the letters for the sign, and new letters have been ordered. There is no longer a paper newsletter being sent home, John has started sending out an email newsletter to all the St. Gabe parents. A paper copy of the calendar is still being sent home with students which is also available in a digital copy on the school website. John discussed the need for the school counselors being present in the school, as the predicted six month adjustment period of the evacuation is upon us. Staff and students are being made aware of this, that it is okay and normal if there is a need to use counselling services. There have been a lot of sick students/ staff as of late. There are also students that will be leaving the school as they are being allowed to return home to the previously closed evacuation zones. Overall the district is down 400 students. The new school that was partially burnt by the May fires is being scheduled to open in July. St. Gabriel student population is up one student from last year October student enrollment. John discussed the school goals. They are: increase student critical thinking, improve the delivery of the guided reading program, and continue delivery of the healthy living program. The annual St. Gabriel Christmas concert will be held on December 12 at Holy Trinity Catholic High School, Tickets will be on sale soon, for \$5 a ticket. There will be three shows again this year, Div. 1-Kindergarten and EEP, Div.2-Grades 1,2, and 3, and Div. 3-grades 4,5 and 6. John put forward the 2017 school calendar in its draft copy from the School board, the attendees had a chance to look over the school year. There was no discussion, comments and feedback about the planned calendar.

Chair discussion

Last month's minutes were approved. Gaylene is setting up the appointment to change the signing authority, Jody Boyle and Sarah Dube to be added on the Parent account at the downtown branch. Every year parent council reimburses teachers up to \$100 for supplies purchased for the classroom. This year it was proposed we offer up an extra \$50 per teacher to help the teachers resupply after most of their teaching aids had to be discarded due to contamination. There are currently 16 teachers on staff at the school. Michelle moved to approve the extra \$50, Andrea seconded the motion, and the motion was carried. There was a welcome and volunteer letter sent out with students, 34 replies were received and out of the 34 replies, 30 parents were put on the email distribution list for Parent Council News and Events. Parents are being asked to ensure the safety and peace of mind of other parents and teachers by making sure their criminal record checks are up to date. Criminal record checks must be done every two years and you can pick up the forms at the school office to hand in at the RCMP office. Gaylene has always been very gracious to purchase and wash all the apples that are available in the office for students, supporting our Apples for Apple schools initiative. This year we have other parent volunteers who are helping out with this duty, so far there are four parents who have stepped in to offer a hand. This year's



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class parent representative positions are almost full, 14 out of the 15 positions have been filled. There is only one class which hasn't been filled, JTP, however John and Gaylene suggested that they be included with their prospective classes. There is an Alberta Curriculum webinar, the link for parents/Students/teachers to take part in the survey is www.alberta.ca/curriculum-survey.aspx Survey closes November 18. In previous years it has taken 10 years to develop curriculum, however, with new technology it is now taking 6 years.

Round Table

A request was brought forward for a Promethean board for the EEP classroom. Parent council will look into what other schools are using, it was suggested a flat screen attached to the wall, maybe a smart TV, which is less expensive so the students can watch videos. There was a paint night suggested for a fundraiser, which can be held in the school gym, no alcohol would be allowed. Class reps have been sending home notes with the students requesting email addresses of the parents from each class to better inform parents of class/school news. It was suggested that student birthdays be included in the parent information request, parent reps would then be in charge of handing out birthday cards to the birthday boy/girl. There will be tables set up at parent teacher interviews for volunteer sign up for Christmas store, Santa packs, and the Valentine's Day dance.

Treasurer report

Account balance- $\$13,857.47 + \$2143.94 = \$16,001.41$

There is still \$104.97 left to clear.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Next meeting January 11th at 6:30pm