



St. Gabriel School Council

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

EMAIL: stgabrielsc@gmail.com

Minutes – October 8, 2019

3:15pm Indigenous Liasion Room

This meeting was called to order at 3:18pm with an opening prayer done by everyone.

In attendance:

Jennifer Lacey, Abbie Ouellet, Sarah Dube, Jolene Stevenson

The following additions were made to the agenda: Election of Treasurer, Jessica Dale, Eco Club, and Lunch Craze Challenge.

Correction to the next meeting date (October 8th) was made to the September 17, 2019 minutes.

All agenda items were for discussion only since quorum was not met to vote on decisions. Agenda items that required motions were tabled to the next meeting.

Principal Report:

School Goals

This year's school goals are not finalized but Jennifer Lacey presented the general focus of them. The first goal is Literacy. The school will be looking at it by division. Div 1 (gr 1-3) has balanced literacy using centers and guided reading based on the students' level. Students are assessed and placed with other students at the same level. Div 2 (gr 4-6) is focusing on vocabulary using words their way which is also working at the students' level. The second goal is Math. EEP/K is working on # recognition. Div 1 will focus hands on approaches to math facts. Div 2 will focus on definitions of vocabulary to help read the language of math word problems.

Activity Messenger

District is setting up a messenger program, Activity Right, for all schools to use to contact parents/guardians. This will be used for weekly emails from the Principal and text messages as reminders of what is going on. Teachers will also have the ability to use the system. As well it will give the option to make online payments for hot lunches and ski day fees. Parent consent for their information to be used with this messenger program will be done electronically.

PAT Results & Accountability Pillars

Results were presented from the 2018-19 PATs and Accountability Pillars. The accountability pillars survey is filled out by grade 4 students and parents, and all teachers last year. We had about a 30% response rate from grade 4 parents. Overall for all criteria there was an increase compared to the previous year and consistency compared to the 3 year average. In regard to PATs basic acceptable standard is the percentage of students who passed and the standard of excellence is the percentage of students who get above 80%. For Language Arts PATs there were a couple of students who didn't pass and our standard of excellence and basic acceptable standard were below the provincial average. For Math PATs there were 9



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students who didn't pass and our acceptable standard and standard of excellence were below the province. For Science and Social PATs the results for standard acceptance and standard of excellence were above the province averages. More information available on the Alberta Education website.

Outside Temperature Policy

The Board of Trustees is looking for input from parents on whether or not they support changing the current -20C threshold for outside play to be -24C to be consistent with the Public School Board. This would allow more opportunities for students to get active during the winter months. Additional mittens and toques would be available for students who come to school without appropriate attire for the weather. As well the school is looking into doing a Polar Bear Club where a teacher will take students outside for recesses as long as the temperature is above -27C.

Garden Beds

Jennifer is applying for various grants in effort to get some funding for garden beds at the school.

Treasurer Report:

MAY 21 – SEPT 16, 2019

Summary of Account Balances on May 21, 2019	\$12,082.20
Deposits (Bottle Return, Growing Smiles, Hot Lunch)	1,704.50
Expenses (Alien In-line, Council Appreciation, Fruit, Office/Mail, Science in Motion, Special Event Day, Sports Day Snacks, Spring Fun Afternoon)	<u>3821.48</u>
Summary of Account Balance on September 16, 2019	\$9,965.22

Outstanding Transactions on May – Sept GL/ Reconc. (Growing Smiles, Bottle Return, Hot Lunch)

SEPT 16 – OCT 6, 2019

Summary of Account Balance on September 16, 2019	\$9,965.22
Deposits (Bottle Return, BP Operation Education, Hot Lunch)	233.25
Expenses (PAT Snacks, Science in Motion, Teacher Appreciation, Water for staff, Sensory Floor Decals)	<u>871.77</u>

Summary of Account Balance on October 6, 2019 \$9,326.70

Outstanding Transactions on Sept – Oct GL/ Reconc. (Teacher Appreciation, PAT Snacks, Floor Decals, GST Rebate)

It was noted that the discrepancies between the school accounting for Debit Card payment deposits was rectified. We also received a GST rebate for \$372.12 from GST spent throughout the 2018-19 school year which is not accounted for in the October 6th balance.



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Chair Report:

OLD BUSINESS

Election of Executives

Geraldine Connors sent in her resignation from Treasurer. No one currently step forward for Vice Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer.

Parking Permit Draw

There were a few volunteers from the past month. Darlene Scharf was drawn for the parking spot from Oct 9- Nov 28th. Next time there will be a raffle for the parking spot at PTIs.

Teachers Appreciation/ Wish List

Currently 5 out of 15 teachers have submitted for the teacher \$100. Deadline to submit is November 1st. Jennifer to send out an email to all teachers, including Principal, Counsellor, and CST.

Survey/ Presentations

Sarah to post a survey online and a poll on Facebook to see if parents agree to decrease the temperature for the students to have outdoor play from -20C to -24C so as to be consistent with the Public School Board.

Sensory Floor Decals

The Jump2Math Nature Hop floor sensory decals have been received and cut. Mrs. Germain and the PALS are doing activities with the "Don't walk in the Hallways" hands and feet decals. Once these activities are learnt and played then the Nature Hop will be installed by the K-EEP hallway. There was concern that there might be too much traffic in that hallway but the hands and feet decals have not been wax-sealed and are wearing well so far in that hallway. Therefore, the Nature Hop set will not be wax-sealed either once installed.

NEW BUSINESS

Bulletin Board

The next bulletin board after the walk-a-thon will be about fundraising goals. Sarah showed a mockup of what it will all entail: BP Operation Education, Dieleman Holiday Shop, Extra Hot Lunch, Parking Spot Raffle; Goal fundraising thermometer. Volunteers are required to prepare and put up the bulletin board.

PTI Welcome Table

To further promote School Council and the vacant positions, there will be a welcome table at PTIs. It will have a poster board of vacant/filled positions, pamphlets, and volunteer opportunity slips. If there is a survey topic at that time, then we will have it available for parents to answer. Topic to be discussed at the next meeting. Parking spot raffle tickets will also be available for purchase at these times. Volunteers needed to cover the time slots when Sarah has her child's PTIs. PTIs are November 26th and 28th 4-7pm.



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Lost & Found

Sarah has been posting lost & found items on the Facebook group but the items in the bin keep on accumulating. Sarah suggested an alternative way to display the lost and found with hangers and bins so as to make it easier to find lost items. Abbie suggested to use the hooks and shelf across from the vacant class between 4M and JTP. Jennifer will arrange for students to take leadership of the new lost & found area.

Jessica Dale

The group discussed options to acknowledge the loss of Jessica Dale (a parent of a student) and support for the family. Currently there is a meal train set up and is going to the end of November. Other ideas suggested were installing a buddy bench, planting a tree, auction an item for money to go to the family, arranging a theme day such as crazy hair/ hat day by donation to go to the family, and waiting to get input from the family to see what their wishes/ needs are. The group agreed that a theme day would be the easiest to organize with a great return. It was noted that what we do this time will set a precedence for what we do in the event of a loss of parent. On Friday students are asked to wear bright colours in memory of her.

Eco Club

The Eco Club has been invited to attend a conference style workshop by elements society in November and January to create community leaders. The theme is zero waste and is open to Eco Club members in grade 4 and up.

Eco Club is putting on activities during the Waste Reduction Week from October 21-24th. Monday Oct 21st is the Waste Free Lunch Raffle which students who have a waste free lunch will be entered into a draw for one of five \$5 gift cards from Tim Hortons. Tuesday Oct 22nd is the Toy Exchange which students can bring in a toy to exchange with another toy a student brings in. All toys will be collected in the morning and displayed in the Indigenous room for students to come by at lunch time to pick out a toy in exchange. Wednesday Oct 23rd is the Reuse Project Contest which students bring in a project they create from recyclable materials. Eco club members will pick out a winner from EEP-gr 3 and Gr 4-6 to win one of two craft baskets. Thursday Oct 24th is the classroom Recycle and Reduce Challenge. Classes will compete to sort their garbage, drink containers, plastic and paper properly while also reducing the amount of waste they have.

Daily composting pick up is now being done by the grade 3 students to provide leadership and life skills.

Volunteers are needed for the Recycling Fridays on October 18th and November 15th and 29th.



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Fundraising:

School Start

Over the summer 59 school supply kits were purchased to raise \$295. This is comparable to previous years. Grade one and two had the larger number per grade and the majority of kits were purchase after the deadline of July 31st when orders cost \$5 more. Since this is the second year using School Start and the lower grades have a better usage rate, Sarah anticipates the usage to continue with those students to the higher grades in future years.

Walk-a-thon

The walk-a-thon will be October 16th at 2pm. It is planned to be indoors with the following themed laps: egg on spoon, freeze, animal moves, limbo, and direction slide. The music is tied to the theme for which students will do the correlating actions. This should keep the students engaged the entire time since no bracelets will be handed out as they do laps. All prizes and supplies are ready. Some pledge envelopes have already been returned but anticipate the majority to come in the day of the walk-a-thon. Volunteers are needed and the sign up genius is available.

Dieleman Fall Fundraiser

The Dieleman catalogues have been received and all the students are registered. The parent letter has been sent for copies. The information will go home the week of October 21st and orders are due October 29th and delivery is the week of December 2nd. No volunteers are needed as the volunteer positions have all been filled.

Special Event Days

Walk-a-thon goals are Popcorn Day on October 31st and Smoothie Day on October 24th. Sign up genius to be done soon. It was noted that the EAs will be working with the cooking class at doing bake sale/ canteen options. This is to give the cooking class students the life skills from planning and purchasing supplies, making/ packaging items, selling items, and counting money. Therefore, School Council will consider doing less special event days so as not to overwhelm parents with request for money. Extra Hot Lunch of Chicken Strip Meals is set for Friday November 29th because there is no hot lunch that day since pizza will be on the Wednesday of that week. Gluten free chicken strip meals will also be available.

Boston Pizza Operation Education

Information to go home in November so that new families to the school are aware of the program details.

PTI Parking Spot Raffle

The parking spot raffle sales will be available during PTI on November 26th and 28th 4-7pm. Tickets are \$1 each and the draw will take place at the end of PTIs on Thursday November 28th. The winner will have the parking spot from November 22nd to January 14th.



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Epicure

Information about an Epicure fundraiser was presented. There are three packages to choose from: Extra Ordinary Trio (\$25), Weeknight Dinners (\$20), and Healthier Desserts (\$20) which met the choose sometimes categories. Our profit would be 40%. At this time the group felt like we currently have several fundraisers on the go over the next 3 months and there was less interest for this type of product.

Lunch Craze Challenge

TerraCycle currently has the opportunity for us to win up to \$1000 by having family and friends cast votes daily until November 30th for the Schneider and Maple Leaf Lunch Craze Challenge. We are in 3rd place for \$500. Information has been shared by email and on Facebook. Family and friends who have cast a vote and clicked the link in the TerraCycle email but cannot remember to vote daily, can send their name and email address to stgabrielsc@gmail.com so that Sarah can enter it daily. The challenge also includes a photo submission draw to win an additional \$1000. Sarah will be submitting pictures of the Eco Club members.

Closing Comments:

Meeting adjourned at 4:23pm.

Next Meeting date and time: Tuesday, November 19th, 2019 – 3:15-4:45pm. All parents welcome!