



St. Gabriel School Council

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

EMAIL: stgabrielsc@gmail.com

Minutes – September 17, 2019

4:00pm Indigenous Liasion Room

This meeting was called to order at 4:00pm with an opening prayer done by everyone.

In attendance:

Jennifer Lacey, Abbie Ouellet, Sarah Dube, Marianne Corbett, Jolene Stevenson, Ezuma Euphemia, Veronica Rogers

No amendments were made to the May 21, 2019 minutes.

Introductions were made around the table. Everyone said a little bit about themselves, if they held a position the previous year, what grade(s) their child(ren) are in and why they want to be involved in school council. Sarah welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

Principal Report:

Jennifer Lacey welcomed everyone. There are a few school improvements that happened during the summer and are in the works for this fall; the staff parking lot was paved, and the St Gabriel sign board and front doors will be repainted soon.

The crossing guard program training will be provided by AMA at the end of September. Then students and an EA will man the crosswalk across Eymundson Road in the morning and afternoons. Mrs. Lacey is pursuing with the Municipality that there be better markings to ensure vehicles don't park too close therefore increasing the visibility of students. Sarah will also provide Mrs. Lacey the contact at Safe Community Wood Buffalo who helped in getting the crosswalk.

Enrollment is currently 242 students. Even though we had a few families leave the school, we had just as many new families join. The welcome barbeque to meet the teachers was successful. The timing during the first week of school was good. There were a few hiccups with the cooking but they found ways around it. There was concern that the general public might have taken advantage of the free barbeque but since we are a smaller school and we know our students and families it wasn't. Mrs. Lacey requested that next year we have school council sponsor it. It was also suggested to do it even earlier such as the Friday before school starts when the class lists are available. That way parents can come in and see what class their child(ren) are in and meet their teachers right away.

There are fewer support staff this year but same number of teachers as last year. This year we have two grade 1 classes instead of one which we had last year and one grade 6 class instead of two which we had last year. Currently the Indigenous Liaison position is vacant. Teachers are incorporating the culture as a part of their teachings and Mrs. Lacey is looking into more Indigenous presentations for the school year. Ms. Benett is temporarily filling in the grade 1 class until November when Mrs. Falewski returns from maternity leave.



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Treasurer Report:

Summary of Account Balances on June 19, 2018	\$10,071.99
Amount to Clear (Sports Day Snacks, Fruit, website)	<u>231.67</u>
Subtotal	9,840.32
Amount Dedicated in 2019 but not reimbursed for (PAT Snacks, Sensory Floor Decals)	<u>550.00</u>
Total	\$9,290.32

It was noted that there was some discrepancies between the school accounting for Debit Card payment deposits for fundraisers in the amount of \$951.85 owing to school council. Geraldine Connors will be discussing it with Mrs. Samson this week.

The Proposed Budget was presented. A few changes were noted: included only our successful fundraisers from past years and removed the Christmas Store fundraiser; Eco Club was included in the budget this year of \$300 for filters and rewards, Boston Pizza Operation Education will be less than normal because they will not honour the 5% if another discount such as club 63/ or SERA has already been applied; a box of apples will be donated from Superstore weekly but still need to purchase oranges and bananas for about \$600 for the year. With those changes we anticipate an Expected Net gain of \$380.

Chair Report:

Election of Executives

Chair: Sarah Dube

Vice-chair: Vacant

Treasurer: Geraldine Connors

Secretary: Vacant

Coordinators

Walk-a-thon: Jolene Stevenson

Valentine Dance: Darlene Scharf

Spring Fun Afternoon: Marianne Corbett

Special Event Days: Veronica Rogers

Council Meeting Dates/ Times

Council meetings dates and times were discussed. The opinion of the individuals in attendance was to keep the meetings at the earlier time of 3:15pm. Council meeting dates will be on the second Tuesday of every month except for the November, February, and April meetings due to holiday and scheduling conflicts. Dates are October 8, November 26, December 10, January 14, February 4, March 10, April 7, May 12 and June 9.

Activities for the Year

The activities and dates for 2019-20 were reviewed. A brief description of each activity was provided and no comments were made to change dates or remove activities.



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Science in Motion (September)
Walk-a-thon (October 16)
Staff Christmas Luncheon (December 19)
Alien In-line Skating (February 3-6)
Valentine's Day Family Dance (February 11)
Spring Fun Afternoon (May 6)
Sports Day Snacks (June 22/23)
School Tools (June-July)
Breakfast Program (Daily)
Fruit for the Office (Monday Mornings)
Bulletin Board (Monthly)
Special Event Days (TBD)
Teachers \$100 (Deadline: November 1)
Other (as identified by council)

Parking Permit Draw

It was agreed for this year that the parking permit draw would continue for some months but other months as a fundraiser. Dates discussed to use it as a fundraiser would follow Parent Teacher Interviews (December and April). Sarah Dube was drawn for the parking spot from Sept 18- Oct 7th.

School Council Welcome Letter

The School Council welcome letter was sent out in the first week of school and so far 9 volunteer forms have been returned. The welcome letter was an overview of what School Council is and a volunteer form so parents/guardians can let us know if they are interested in volunteering for school council activities. Other ways we are promoting school council is by the Did you Know Series on Facebook, the website, and having information available during Meet the Teacher Night.

Teachers \$100

School Council provides reimbursement to teachers up to \$100 for classroom supplies. These items are the teachers' resources to keep and can include office items, rewards for students, shelving, etc. The group agreed to continue this program and set the deadline as November 1st. In the case of a maternity leave the teacher who is doing the majority of the school year will be the one to submit for the \$100.

As well the school collects money from teachers and EAs for a water fund. This is to pay for the maintenance on the drinking water filtration system available in the staff room. Sarah motioned to approve to pay \$450 for this maintenance and therefore all teachers and staff can utilize it. Jolene seconded, and all were in favour.

Fruit in the Office

Apples are being donated by Superstore but oranges and bananas will still need to be purchased weekly. Sarah motioned to spend \$600 to purchase oranges and bananas. Marianne second, all were in favour. The Breakfast Bunch is a new club that will be starting in October in which students will be putting out the



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office fruit daily, prepping breakfast cart items, and refilling the cart. Information is to go home this week and sign up is online. Membership changes monthly with certain grades designated per month.

Survey/ Presentations

Since not all parents are able to make it out to meetings, another way to engage parents is to do surveys on Facebook and the website. The idea of surveying parents on which fundraisers they would support during the school year was suggested.

Last year presentations were done at meetings in hopes to gain increase attendance from parents, however, that was not the case. Rather it would increase the duration of the meetings. It was suggested that presentations by students be made for the various clubs at the school, ie. Breakfast bunch, school light house, Eco club.

Eco-club

There was high interest received of students wanting to join Eco Club so there is now a waitlist. Students who returned the green paper Release Form are the ones on the waitlist. It was suggested that a rotating membership be done so that more students are able partake. We received five \$5 gift cards to Tim Hortons for doing the community clean up. These will be used as a reward for the Waste Reduction Week Events in October. Sarah motioned to approve spending \$300 for the compost machine filters and rewards. Jolene seconded and all were in favour. Weekly recycling collection will also be done by JTP students on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Daily collection of compost will be collected by parent volunteers and a sign up genius is soon to come.

Fundraising:

Walk-a-thon

The walk-a-thon will be October 16th at 2pm. Last year due to the weather it was indoors and we anticipate the same for this year. The students enjoyed doing the limbo last year so it was suggested that there be themed laps which will also keep students interested in participating. Instead of volunteers handing out bracelets to each participant as they complete laps, frozen fruit bars will be provided to each class at the end of the walk-a-thon. Each student who returns pledges will receive bracelets; jelly for the younger grades and adjustable corded for the older grades. School goal will be \$5000 for a popcorn day on October 31st and class goal will be \$500 for a smoothie day on October 24th. Prizes are based on categories. Rather than families raise money for each child they can choose to raise as a family and be entered into a separate category. Categories are: Individual with the highest donations- \$50 Walmart Gift Card, Family with highest donations - \$100 Walmart Gift Card, Draw \$21-50- two child movie passes, Draw \$51+- four child movie passes. A water jug and pump will be available for students to refill their reusable water bottles during the walk-a-thon. Volunteers are needed and the sign up genius is available. Sarah motioned to spend \$500 on rewards, water, and supplies for lap themes. Veronica seconded and all were in favour.



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Dieleman Fall Fundraiser

The Dieleman catalogue fundraiser was approved last year and orders are due October 29th and delivery is the week of December 2nd. Volunteers are needed and the sign up genius is available.

Vessey Fundraiser

The Vessey catalogue has a variety of items such as housewares, wrapping paper, bath bombs, and flower bulbs with 50% of profits go back to the school. However, the group agreed that we don't want to overwhelm parents with fundraisers all at once and since we committed to the Dieleman catalogue fundraiser then we would not do the Vesseys.

Special Event Days

Since there is the possibility of doing the popcorn and smoothie reward days from the walk-a-thon in October that no other special event days should be scheduled yet. It was noted that there is no Extra Hot Lunch for Friday November 29th because pizza will be on the Wednesday of that week. Therefore, there is the opportunity to do the chicken strips meal. Future dates will be discussed at the next meeting.

Eco Art House Cards/ Staples Cards

Two vendors, Eco Art House and Staples, have approach us to do a fundraiser based on student artwork. Staples has better product options, pricing, and profit returns. The timeline for Christmas products would require artwork to be submitted by October 10th. The group agreed not to do this fundraiser at this time because it was too soon to be thinking of Christmas and it was overlapping other committed fundraisers. It is however an idea for the Spring Fun Afternoon.

Card Workshop Fundraiser

Eileen McClean has approached us to do the holiday/birthday cards workshop for parents on the weekend of November 21-23rd. Even though there isn't much work on our end to promote this fundraiser, last year we only had two families partake. Therefore, our profit return wasn't great. The group agreed not to do this fundraiser because we don't want to promote another fundraiser at this time if it wasn't going to be successful.

Closing Comments:

Meeting adjourned at 5:16pm.

Next Meeting date and time: Tuesday, October 7th, 2019 – 3:15-4:45pm. All parents welcome!