



# St. Gabriel School Parent Council

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

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

## Minutes - February 7, 2018

6:30pm School Meeting Room

This meeting was called to order at 3:34pm with an opening prayer done by Everyone.

### **In attendance:**

John Barfoot, Sarah Dube, Melissa Highfield, Susan Wilkie, Bev Pilgrim, Gayleen Sinclair, Marianne Corbett, Ashley Seniuk

Gayleen Sinclair motioned to approve the January 10, 2018 meeting minutes and Susan Wilkie seconded.

### **Presentation – Technology in the Class:**

Melissa Highfield and Cindy Molloy did a presentation Technology in the Class. This included Brain Pop, ABCya, Mathletics, Reading Eggs/ Eggspress, Hour of Code, Kahoot, Read Works, and Google Drive.

Brain Pop is curriculum based for several subjects such as science, math, social, arts. It has quizzes, games, videos and activities. It is used mostly for division 1 as a supplement – not everyday. Brain Pop is used in the class by promethean board or print off sheets. Subscription has been reduced from previous years to accommodate the modules that are being used.

ABCya is used in the computer room by kids individually or in the class interactively with the promethean board. It includes educational games based on grade level and subject. This program can be accessed at home – it is free on PC. A subscription is required for iPad or Android devices.

Mathletics is a new program that is used District wide with a district license. It is the first year that St Gabriel is using it and more time will be spent in upcoming PD days for teachers to learn the program. It is curriculum based and each student has an account. The teacher can assign what the students can see for activities/ lessons. It is used during computer time and in the class using the Chrome books. It includes games as rewards.

Reading Eggs/ Eggspress focus on reading and writing. Eggs is for div 1 and Eggspress is for div 2. This is also a new program to our school but is used District wide with a district license. Students start by doing a placement test then lessons are based on their level. Each student has an account and teachers can see which level each student is at. It is enjoyed more than RAZ kids because there are other learning activities besides reading a book and answering a quiz. Students are also rewarded with the opportunity to play games at the end of lessons. It can be accessed at home on a computer or app if username and password are provided by the teacher.



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Hour of Code was done before Christmas for all grades except EEP. Each class had 1 hour while Kindergarten had 0.5 hour. It was a coding game by block. It can also be used for other subjects such as angles in math.

Kahoot is great for review or to find out what the students know on a subject. Students and teachers can access existing games or create their own. It can also be used at home online (kahoot.it) or with the kahoot app.

Read Works works well with google accounts. Every student in grade 3+ have email accounts and therefore can log into the Chrome books. This program allows teachers to assign articles based on each individuals' reading level. It includes audio, reading, and comprehension questions.

Google Drive is also to be used with a school email account. It has the capability to do documents, spreadsheets, google forms, drawings, and presentations. Google classroom then allows teachers to post assignments and access/comment on student assignments as they are working on them.

How do teachers find out about these programs? Word of mouth and round table meetings of staff.

Are Chrome books accessible? There are two carts, a computer lab, and another 30 chrome books coming (of which a designated number will be dedicated per class- therefore freeing up some of the Chrome books from the carts to allow for an additional cart). The process and availability to book the Chrome books is easy if it is done in advance.

## **Principal's Message:**

Due to the District license of Reading Eggs the school will not be renewing its' subscription of RAZ kids or Accelerated Reading program. Currently Kindergarten is the only ones using RAZ kids. The request has gone in for Kindergarten to have access to Reading Eggs as well.

The draft calendar for next year was made available for parents to provide feedback on. The calendar matches the Public board calendar 100%. Gayleen questioned why there were so many 4 day weeks in a row in the month of May and then a couple of 5 day weeks in the month of June. If diploma exams for high school are scheduled for those dates then elementary schools must also have school on those dates. Sarah questioned if Bill 17- change in employment standards would have impact on calendar for next year. As of right now no decision has been made by District in response to Bill 17. No other feedback was given. The calendar will be approved at the March Board meeting.

Accountability Pillar survey has been sent to all grade 4-6 parents, students, and teachers because our class numbers are so small. It needs to be completed by mid-February and the results will be in at year end.



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Math Night will be on April 19<sup>th</sup>. It will have centers that feature different technics, activities, and games to demonstrate and promote the learning of math.

## Co-Chair Report:

**Volunteer Update & Parking Permit Draw:** Volunteers needed for Apples, Breakfast Program, and Valentine Dance. There were 62 volunteers since our last meeting. Sarah Dube was drawn for the parking permit from Feb 8 – March 14.

**Crosswalk:** Cst Ninna Forte has partnered with Lesley of Safe Community Wood Buffalo on this project. There is a meeting set up between the CAO (Chief Administrative Officer) and the Roads Manager on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February. She will provide an update after the meeting.

**ASCA Workshops:** Will be March 15<sup>th</sup> at Father Beau meeting room. Administration session will be at 3:30-5pm and Parent session will be at 7-8:30pm.

**ASCA Conference & AGM:** No one expressed interest to attend.

**ASCA Draft Resolutions:** Attachment was included with agenda for review. Sarah commented that for P18-01 Provincial Standard for Annual Criminal Record Checks it would make it more difficult to get volunteers if they must do this annually especially since it already is hard to get volunteers. No other comments were made.

**Picnic/ Alternative Options** – This subject was tabled from the last meeting. Staff supports the idea of snacks for sports day. It was unanimously approved to provide freezies (Motts or other healthy option), watermelon, and water station. It was suggested to shop early or order in the freezies. It was also suggested to be more environmentally friendly and have students refill their water bottles rather than purchasing bottled water. We will look at using a 5-gallon water jug with a pump dispenser and provide cups for those who don't have water bottles.

**Alien Inline Skating:** Each class will have 2 sessions and will include EEP- 6. On the Tuesday night there will be a Family Night. Susan made a motioned to approve the 4-day session from March 26-29<sup>th</sup> at a cost of \$2520 + GST and family night event for up to 3 hours at a cost of \$375, Gayleen seconded, it was unanimously approved. It was agreed that no fee be charged for the Family Night, rather, as an opportunity to showcase a program that Parent Council funds for the school. Ashley suggested that volunteers for younger grades be requested to help. More information to come- capacity for family night, sign up versus first come first served, can personal skates be used?

**School Supplies:** School Start is another company out of Calgary that provides school supplies. In comparison to Staples they offer more options by allowing parents to select the items for purchase (rather than a kit) therefore reducing duplication of items that they already may have like headphones. They also



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provide shipping to a home address which gives parents the opportunity to label items. Pricing is also comparable. The group agreed to use School Start this year.

**Good Deeds** – Will not be doing it since there is no coordinator for it this year.

**Canada Post Grant** – Call for applications starting March 1<sup>st</sup>; Deadline April 6<sup>th</sup>. Supports – community, education, and health up to \$5000. Requires financial statement/ plan for the current year. Susan will review the application and bring forward a suggestion of what would likely succeed in being awarded the grant. Some potential options are the Apples, Breakfast program, or physical activities such as DancePlay or Inline Skating.

**Meeting Time** – Since no additional parents attended the 3:30pm meeting, we have the next meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm to better accommodate parents who work during the day.

**Bill 17 – Change of Employment Standards** – No information has been provided from District on how it will handle the change that requires staff to receive 30 minutes lunch breaks versus 20 minutes; therefore, extending total lunch hour from 40 minutes to 60 minutes. It is possible that things can remain as status quo if agreed upon by staff district wide.

## Coordinator Reports:

**Special Event Day:** Next smoothie day will be Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Volunteers needed. Information to go home next week.

**Bulletin Board:** Will be to promote Alien In-line Skating.

**Valentines Dance:** Everything is ready to go- DJ, raffle baskets, signs, letter to parents, pizza ordered, and sales items purchased. Apples will be purchased closer to the date. Pizza price went up \$100 so we will only break even. Last year's face painter cannot do it this year so Jennifer Malbon will purchase supplies and do it according to health guidelines. Will also have water tattoos since no one else has signed up to be a face painter. Need more volunteers for setup, gym decoration, cleanup, games, donation collection, and food/sales. Will email grade 6 teachers to forward an email to parents/students requesting volunteers.

**Breakfast Program:** Volunteers needed. Cut oranges were messy and difficult for students to peel. Other options suggested were berries, raisins, or pears. Grapes were decided against because of choking hazard. Any fruit should be purchased at the beginning of the week so that there aren't left overs. It's an option to have volunteers to make healthy muffins when there are over ripe bananas.



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## **Treasurer Report:**

Summary of Account Balances on February 6, 2018 - Second Account:	\$2,145.94
Community of Spirit Account:	\$13,029.38
Total of Community of Spirit Account after cheques written to clear:	\$12,999.38
Total Deposits	\$15,145.32

## **Closing Comments and Round table:**

Why isn't ice skating offered? Would need an volunteer and it's an issue with students having skates and helmets. Could it be something organized after school by Apple mentor Jennifer Powell?

Why aren't swimming lessons offered? It used to be for grade 2 students and it is unknown why they aren't done anymore. Karen Green might know why.

Does the school do field trips? Teacher's have the option to organize up to 2 field trips by bus and unlimited by walking. John provides information to staff as he receives of opportunities. It is up to the teacher to request/organize. Today the grade 5 went to the Discovery Center. Skiing and tubing is an additional field trip not included in the allotted 2 trips per class.

Meeting adjourned at 5:12pm.

**Next Meeting date and time: March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – 6:30-8 pm All parents welcome!**