

School Council
G.W.Smith School
7:00pm Tuesday, February 28, 2017

The School Council is an advisory council to the school Principal and the elected board of trustees with respects to matters pertaining to the school.

Attendees: Kelley Lund, Candice Penz, Shelley Odishaw, Krista Neidert, Julia Ibanescu, Wendy Fath, Candice Bowie, Audra Garnett, Alysia Dyjur and Rachel Geistlinger

Celebrations - Principal's Report

- please see attached report

1. Approval of the minutes

Wendy recommended three changes to the minutes.

Krista made a motion to approve the minutes incorporating Wendy's recommendations. 2nd by Rachel. Motion carried.

2. Approval of Agenda

Krista made motion to approve agenda. Candice B. to 2nd. Motion carried.

3. Committee Reports

a) Treasurer

The current grand total is \$22 728.06. Please note that due to prior commitments available funds are currently \$16 965.51.

b) Hot Lunch

Hot Lunch continues to do well. Lorae may arrange Hot Lunch for the entire last week of school in June. There was consensus with the idea.

c). Social Committee

Skate Night went very well. The weather cooperated. The Weiner roast, fire and hot chocolate were well received. A thank you to the City of Red Deer for offering the facilities was provided verbally and via twitter. A written thank you may be sent as well. For next year, we should continue with the earlier 5:30 start, as well as the Weiner roast.

Candice B. left the meeting at 7:20.

4. Business arising from the minutes

a. Alberta School Council Conference

Krista and Shelley are interested in attending. It will be \$350 each and hotel is \$165 although Krista will not require accommodation. Approximately \$1000 will be required to send two representatives to the event. Shelley indicated that this year we may form a partnership with Eastview, and possibly Barrie Wilson whom are sending

representatives as well. With coordination, the representatives can cover the majority of sessions and report back.

Motion by Julia to approve up to \$1000 toward sending two delegates to the Alberta School Council Conference. Wendy to 2nd. Motion carried

b. Break out Box

The Break out Box has been ordered. It cost approximately \$200 with exchange and \$75 with shipping. The school is excited about the arrival.

c. CARC Math Seminar

Sandi Berg has indicated that she will do a parent workshop. There will be a minimal cost. The date is yet to be arranged. The focus will likely be on numerations and operations. We may co-ordinate with another school to enable more parents to attend the session.

d. Cross Country Ski Rental

Thank you to Julia for completing the waiver. The Ski Rental will be from March 3rd to March 6th. They can be picked up from 3:30 to 4 at the school. Drop off will be 8:30 to 9am on March 6th. The deposit is \$20 for skis, and then additional \$10 for family or \$5 per person. There are adult sizes available.

e. Large Project

The City of Red Deer is not supporting a possible Skating Rink.

A Climbing Wall is not supported by the School at this time. However, this option may be pursued at a later date if the situations changes.

The following three Large Project Items were presented:

1.Speciality Classroom Items. Each classroom would receive \$500 for a total of \$7000. A list of approved sensory items would be made available such as the following:

Rocker Chairs - \$140-175

Wiggle Seats - \$30

Bean bag Chairs - \$100

Standing desks - \$200-\$300

Desk conversion kits -\$130

Fidget Boxes - \$150-200

The teachers could choose from the approved list to suit their individual classroom. The approved list would include sensory items for a Fidget Box/sensory box as well.

2.Sound System. The current sound system is decent however the set up is poor. The current system was assessed and several suggestions were put forth such as putting a cage around the current set up, or mounting it in storage room however wiring may be

an issue. Approximate cost may be \$4000-10 000 to upgrade. Possibly a joint endeavour with the School could be pursued.

3. Landscaping. Several Years ago parents completed the landscaping at the front of the school. It now requires attention in terms of mulching, weeding, pruning, and fertilizers, as per the advice of a contractor. School Council could consider contracting it out at a cost of approximately \$3000-\$4000 or opt to request parent volunteers complete the tasks. Currently, RDPSD maintains the lawn.

Future Project Vote: Playground equipment - add on to existing structure - 1 year project with fundraising and committee

A general discussion was held regarding the suggested large project proposals.

Allocating money toward Specialty Classroom Items was brought forward after discussion with teachers at the last staff meeting. Teachers felt that the Specialty Classroom items would be beneficial and impactful for each student in the classroom. The items would be considered extras as the current school budget address specific needs not the general classroom. For example, the school budget allows for items to be purchased which are case specific to the needs of a child. The proposed Speciality Items in contrast could be utilized by all children in the classroom. The teachers had indicated that Speciality Classroom items were at the top of their wish list for the classroom. Audra brought her Fidget Box from her classroom to help explain the smaller items. A fidget box generally contains items that help students who may tap their leg against the desk during class, strum their fingers, or rip paper. The items are quite simple and may be a nut/screw, rubik's cube, or a ring to slide up and down a finger. When asked, Audra indicated she would likely purchase two standing desks for her classroom. Many teachers may already have fidget boxes as well.

The current sound system in the school has issues. It cuts out during assemblies, concerts and at the movie night in January. It is cumbersome and time consuming to move/set up which results in some teachers opting not set up music for gym classes. The school has brought in a contractor to assess the system. The suggestions by the contractor were to cage the system as is which results in lost space in the gym as well as safety concerns when students are running around. The other option was to mount it in the storage room. This would be ideal however due to the age of the school it is unknown what the wiring concerns may be and therefore the cost may increase. Thus the spread of a \$4000-\$10000 cost associated with upgrading the current system. Kelley was asked if the sound system was a priority would the school not allocate funds toward it. She agreed that it may be at the point whereby the school would have to address the issue. Krista brought forth the idea that if the school is willing to upgrade the current sound system, that the School Council would then match the funds required up to a point.

The general consensus was that a landscaping committee be formed to help recruit parent volunteers to aid in the maintenance of the landscaping at the school rather than

contracting the project out. A committee will be organized to coordinate the necessary tasks which will consist of Shelley, Julia, Alysia, Wendy and Sheryl Jones.

It was highlighted that if School Council does not spend the funds they may be saved for a future endeavour. There was a rumour that the funds would be confiscated by the School Board if they were not spent or allocated toward a future specific project. However, this is not true.

Krista made a motion that if the School proceeds with upgrading the sound system the School Council will match the cost up to \$5000. Julia 2nd. Motion carried.

Krista made a motion that School Council will provide \$400 to each classroom participating, to a maximum of \$5600, to purchase Speciality Classroom Items from an approved list. 2nd Rachel. Motion carried.

Small Projects:

Tabled until March Meeting
Buddy Benches
Washer/Dryer
Extra Planter
Snowblower for Maintenance

There was a brief discussion on the snowblower for Maintenance. Although they are currently on sale at a reasonable price, the issue is the storage of the machine. It would have to have its own stand alone compartment outside of the school building due to safety concerns.

5. New Business

a. Spring Hop

Date is set for Friday, May 5th from 6-8pm. It will be the last day of Literacy Week. Theme is Canada 150. People will be asked to wear Red and White.

b. AGM resolution package

Items will be discussed and voted on at the AGM. Shelley will be our voter at the AGM.

6. Adjournment

Adjourned at 8:14

Next Meeting: 7:00pm, Tuesday, March 21, 2017

G.W. Smith School Council Principal's Report – Feb. 28, 2017

- ❖ **Student Teachers in Grade 5 (Feb - April)**
 - (Haley Gawryluk, Kris Cooke & Jessica Charlton)
- ❖ **Book Drive**
 - Over 3000 books collected
 - All students selected 2 books
 - Staff selected books for their classrooms
 - 20 boxes of books donated to Aspen Heights & \$200 raised for the SPCA
- ❖ **Lion's Pride Clubs**
 - Friday March 3-Games & Puzzles 2:15-3:15)
 - Friday May 5 - Canada Theme (2 blocks)
 - Wed. June 28 - Field Day (Canadian Theme)
- ❖ **Grade 2 Small Math Groups - 100 Activities (Feb. 27 - Mar. 8)**
- ❖ **Mar. 13 Dr. John Ratey (Author - Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain) - 4 staff & 3 parents attending**
- ❖ **Developing a Growth Mindset**
 - "In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work—brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment," writes Dweck. Students who embrace growth mindsets—the belief that they can learn more or become smarter if they work hard and persevere—may learn more, learn it more quickly, and view challenges and failures as opportunities to improve their learning and skills.
- ❖ **Report Cards (Mar. 17) Looking forward to Student-Led Conferences on Mar. 23 - Online Booking Link in March Newsletter**
- ❖ **One Book Many Schools - Book selection process for 2017**
- ❖ **Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten Registration continues**



Upcoming Events

- ❖ **March 1 Scoops Newsletter**
- ❖ **March 1 Boys Basketball @ MME**
- ❖ **March 2 Girls Basketball @ MME**
- ❖ **March 2 Hot Lunch—Sushi**
- ❖ **March 3 Lion's Pride Clubs 2:15-3:15**

- ❖ *March 7 City Wide School Council Meeting 7:00pm - Gateway*
- ❖ *March 7 Gr 3 Fieldtrip - Aladdin*
- ❖ *March 9 Hot Lunch—Boston Pizza*
- ❖ *March 16 Michael Mitchell - Canada 150 Performance*
- ❖ *March 16 Hot Lunch—Pizza 73*
- ❖ *March 17 Report Cards Go Home*
- ❖ *March 17 Assembly 1:30pm*
- ❖ *March 21 School Council Meeting 7:00pm*
- ❖ *March 23 Student Led Conferences 1-8pm - No school for students*
- ❖ *March 24 District PD—No school students*
- ❖ *March 27-31 Spring Break no school*

