

G.W.Smith Elementary School  
School Council Meeting  
Tuesday, January 29, 2017

Attendees: Candice Bowie, Krista Neidert, Principal Kelley Lund, Lorae Couchman, Candice Penz, Shelley Odishaw, Lori Heppler, Rachel Geistlinger, Sheryl Jones, Julia Ibanescu, Dick Lemke, Alysia Dyjur

### Celebrations-Principal's Report

Please see attached report provided by Principal Kelley Lund.

#### **1. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes by Krista, 2nd by Candice B. Motion Carried.

#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Candice B to approve agenda and 2nd by Krista. Motion Carried.

#### **3. Red Deer Public School Trustee Dick Lemke provided an Equity Presentation**

Mr. Lemke shared that he has been a Trustee for ten years, is a teacher by profession and sent his own children through G.W.Smith.

The highest priority of the Red Deer Public School District is that each child finds success in school. In order to accomplish this, the District is unified in using the Pyramid of Support. The Pyramid of Support aims to utilize Technology, Literacy and Numeracy, Learning Support teams, Refresh(curriculum) and Assessment to collaboratively meet the need of each student.

The base of the Pyramid is the Foundational principals of Collective Responsibility, All Kids Can Learn, Equity and Efficacy. Next, at a Universal Level all kids are provided with the best instruction as well as the smartest

ways to teach. As some kids learn in different ways or need more time, a Targeted level is required. This is added to the Universal level for those students to support the priority that each child finds success. A third Level of Specialized Supports is required for those students that require all possible resources to meet the needs.

Mr. Lemke moved the discussion toward Equity. He then shared the definition of equity which is essential to the discussion. Equity ensures that fair and inclusive education is available to students so that their diverse learning needs, personal situation and/or social circumstances are not an obstacle to achieving their educational potential. It is important to understand that we need to give each student what they need to be successful which is not necessarily the same for each student. Equity does not necessarily mean equality.

The goal is to identify the needs of a student in school as well as in the community and provide the supports to the student. There are over 10 000 students that require assistance and we as a district are striving to assist each one. As a Team, we must work together to assist students. The Pyramids of Support are essential in this regard. We are fortunate that our district is large and we have many supports such as aiding teachers with assessments, bench marking, literacy, greening of technology, behavioural contracts, counsellors, individual programs, medical plans, access to LAT, and professionals in the community.

As the need of each student and school are different, the district strives to meet these needs. For examples, several schools may have more than one LAT to meet needs while others have a sole LAT. The district has also worked in other areas to achieve equity. Fee waivers have been introduced for those families requiring assistance; each school has a equity committee; in high school each staff member takes on 3 to 4 students from Grade 9 onward to make a connection throughout their schooling; striving to build a First nations that will have a pre-k room and a dedicated person to assist; through HR we are trying to balance staff in term of gender ratio and experience/new staff; and providing full day kindergarten and many schools.

Kelly provided examples of G.W.Smith's work toward equity. She explained that the school is setting up connections with staff members and targeted students. Two college students come in on and help on

Mondays with recess, chess clubs, and possibly mentoring. Kelley indicated that Parents are welcome at the Equity group at the school.

Mr. Lemke indicated that the district is continuing to work toward addressing high achieving students as well.

#### **4. Committee Reports**

##### Treasurer Report

Please see attached Treasurer's Report.

##### Hot Lunch

Having Hot Lunch once a week has been well received, especially two times before Christmas. The Hot Lunches to March have been posted and those to the end of the year will be made available in due time. It is noted that each business has different costs however we are trying to keep the average lunch around \$6 or \$7 across the board in order to provide variety.

##### Citywide Report

Candice Bowie indicated that the previous City Wide Meetings was at Mattie McCullough. The presentation of their school was provided from three perspectives - students, parents and teachers. The school has a small greenhouse/garden in the entrance which the students love. With the opening of Barrie W. Wilson, room became available for a library. Previously books were available off a cart which was pushed around the classrooms.

At the City Wide Meeting there was group discussions on Literacy, Equity and Completion. The group work was effective as it helped to discuss Equity and Equality. The discussions generated talk of Inequity at our schools- lack of male school teachers, how girls were treated versus boys such as sports teams, different field trips at different schools, talked of higher achievers and targeted specialized needs. Literacy - five main areas that they could focus on for students such as reader comprehensive, central database would be nice that teachers can refer to, literacy groups in school were working well, benchmarking has helped in some areas. The

RDPS Trustees have a retreat at the end of the month and they read ideas generated from the discussions on Literacy, Equity and Completion.

### Social Committee

Christmas Concert/Social - The Music teachers did a great job at concert as well as students. The money from tickets/donations was down from \$2025 to \$1399. The final amount just paid for the venue. On a side note most of the concert was live streamed. Next year we might video the concert and then put in on the website.

Movie Night - Jungle book on Friday. About 50 people show up with kids and adults. Made about \$105 from popcorn and water. Maybe next movie we could gear toward the older kids. A few glitches with sound system through the night.

## **5. Business arising from the minutes**

### Large projects

Awaiting estimates regarding upgrading the sound systems in gym, a possible skating rink, a washer/dryer for school.

Everyone is encouraged to provide further suggestions for next meeting.

Staff had their meeting in December and provided their feedback regarding a large project. It was agreed that School Council should complete their research and provide a presentation on the viability of a Climbing wall. The next staff meeting is February 17th and a presentation will likely be prepared.

### Skate Night

Will be held February 9th, at 5:30pm at Bower Ponds. Approximately 50 people attended last year. Posters are up and posted around the school. Kelley has recommended Remind and an E-blast by Mrs. Falls to further promote the event. Families are to bring own sticks, hot dogs, buns. Hot chocolate will be provided. School Council has glow bracelets left that perhaps will be used to help identify G.W.Smith students.

Candice Bowie makes a motion to buy condiments and serviettes for the event up to \$50. 2nd by Krista Neidert. Motion carried.

### Benevolent Fund

Two families were identified and supported before Christmas. The families were grateful and thankful.

Motion by Wendy to top up benevolent fund to \$500. 2nd by Krista Neidert. Motion carried.

### Snow shoes

School Council rented snow shoes from Kerry Wood Nature Centre. The rental and usage was thrown together quite quickly. In the future more planning and help from parents will be needed. Teachers keen on having them but not sure about buying them. For a lot of teachers this was the first time with snow shoes.

It was suggested to put a blurb in the School Council section of the February Scoops advising people that they can rent the snow shoes at Kerry Wood Nature Centre.

### Cross Country skiing

Mrs. Hetherington is asking for a replacement/repair fund for the Cross Country Skis. Asking for \$500 a year for replacement/repair.

We will be having a weekend rental in which families can rent skis on Friday March 3, weather permitting, and return them Monday morning. Families will be required to pay a deposit of \$20, then additional \$10 per family or \$5 per pair for the rental itself. The money earned would be earmarked for the repair/replacement fund. Due to the School Lop pit and winter break the date is in March and therefore weather conditions may not be ideal. Julia has kindly offered to assist in drawing up a waiver for the rental. Suggestions were made that \$500 be provided for the replacement/repair fund for this year which can be revisited next year.

Krista made a motion for up to \$500 for the current year to repair skis at Mrs. Hetherington's discretion. Candice Bowie 2nd. Motion carried.

## **6. New Business**

The Alberta School Council Conference is slated from April 29th-30th in Edmonton. Many topics are scheduled and attendees can pick individual seminars or topics that interest them or the Council. Ideally at least 2 people from Council would be sponsored for the Conference in order to attend as many sessions or topics as possible. The topics have already been published. They include: Conflict resolution, playground building, climate leaderships, tool box building, becoming a trustee, active kids, fundraising, meeting management expectations, healthy school committees, introduction to gender diversity. School Council will discuss at the next meeting how many people are interested and how many people council may pay to attend. It was agreed that Council would book 2 hotel rooms now which could be cancelled at a later date.

Michael Mitchell has been booked for March 16th. He is an award winning story teller, songwriter and singer who is doing Canada 150 shows. The cost is \$600 for Michael Mitchell to attend the school. The School does not currently have an artist in residence this year.

Motion by Krista for School Council to fund the visit by Michael Mitchell. Lorae to second. Motion carried.

Break out Boxes are geared toward teaching critical thinking, teamwork, and complex problem solving. Please see [breakoutedu.com](http://breakoutedu.com) for more details. The cost is \$125 US however now possibly \$200 US. Currently, the school is working through the logistics of ordering one box and possibly building other boxes ourselves. School Council is supportive of the idea and would like additional information for the next meeting. The discussion was tabled until February.

Email from GARC (Central Alberta Regional Consortium) is available for learning opportunities in 2017. Classes include Math and problem solving for different grades.

Best selling author John J. Ratey will be coming to speak at the Red Deer College. He is the author of *Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain*. It deals with neuroscience, cognition and exercise.

It is a fascinating read. There is little information currently available regarding his visit to Red Deer College but it will be provided when available.

7. Adjournment at 8:29.

Next meeting: February 28, 2017 at 7pm