

School Council
G.W.Smith School
7:00pm Tuesday, May 23, 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.

We acknowledge that we are on Treaty Six territory to the North of the Red Deer River and Treaty Seven territory to the South of the Red Deer River. We acknowledge and give thanks to all the many First Nations, Metis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these land for centuries.

Attendees: Kelley Lund, Candice Penz, Shelley Odishaw, Krista Neidert, Julia Ibanescu, Wendy Fath, Candice Bowie, Audra Garnett, Alysia Dyjur, Rachel Geistlinger, Diana Kuznir, Loraе Couchman(via telephone)

Celebrations - Principal's Report

- please see attached report

1. Approval of the minutes

Krista introduced a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Candice Bowie. Motion carried.

2. Approval of Agenda

Amendments to the Agenda were put forth by Wendy and Candice B. Krista made a motion to approve agenda incorporating the additions. Wendy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Committee Reports

a) Treasurer

The current grand total is \$22 517.07. Please note that due to prior commitments available funds are currently \$12 054.52.

Rachel Geitzlinger and Alysia Dyjur attended the meeting at 7:20.

b) Hot Lunch

Hot Lunch continues to do well. Loraе has arranged it to the end of the year. She has offered to organise the program next year as well. She will likely arrange the year in 3 or 4 large groups to allow parents to order several lunches at a time and limit the service charges. It is noted that parents can cancel their orders on the Healthy Hunger website if it conflicts with a field trip or any other reason. This may be done five days prior to the

lunch. This information will likely be included in the School Newsletter for parents who are unaware.

c) Social Committee

Spring Hop was well attended. A profit of \$3 was made. It was a warm night and many families ended up on the school grounds rather than the gym. The new DJ was very friendly however did not have all the songs the children requested nor the light show of the previous DJ. Possible suggestions for next year may include no balloons, possibly a different venue such as Eastview and more glow sticks.

BBQ Social- On June 21st, Teachers will be hosting the annual School BBQ. Candice P. proposed that Student Council organise some fun games for the parents and children to play. There was consensus that this would be an excellent engagement activity. Anyone interested in organising or helping please contact Candice P.

Candice B. made a motion for School Council to provide \$100 toward supplies for the games and activities at the Family Appreciation BBQ on June 21, 2017. Diana seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Business arising from the minutes

a. G.W.Smith Education Plan

The education Plan will be posted on the School website soon.

b. John Ratey

Several teachers and parents attended the John Ratey presentation at the Red Deer College. John Ratey is an associate clinical professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. He has authored a book entitled Spark. He links cardiovascular activity and brain development. A small amount of physical activity, twenty minutes, can have a 2-3 hour positive effect on brain power. Physical activity has also been linked to reducing anxiety, depression and behavioural problems. Parents are encouraged to read the book, our watch a Ted ex talk.

c. ASCA conference

There is a link on the School website with updates from the Conference provided by Shelley and Wendy. Hopefully, excerpts from the Eastview attendees will be added as well. The sessions were informative and it was positive to witness parents advocate well for their schools. Shelley has been elected as an ASCA Director. Please review the excerpts at the following links.

<http://gwsmith.rdpd.ab.ca/documents/general/ASCA%20Conference%202017%20Report-Fath.pdf>

<http://gwsmith.rdpd.ab.ca/documents/general/ASCA%20Conference%202017%20Report-Odishaw.pdf>

d. Fundraising

Responses were gathered from parents regarding the school council fundraising monies. Please review the information on the School website regarding the suggestions under the School Council documents section.

<http://gwsmith.rdpsd.ab.ca/documents/general/Suggestions%20Results.pdf>

For any events/activities or action plans, volunteers will be required. Even if caregivers are not available during the day, they can still assist in helping enrich students education. For example, volunteers are always needed to buy supplies, help with planning and research of action plans. Volunteers are always welcome and appreciated!!

A general discussion ensued regarding the suggestions put forth by G.W.Smith caregivers.

The cement pad on the east of the school is badly cracked and in need of repair. It was suggested that perhaps we update the basketball nets but also attempt to incorporate other sports such as badminton/tennis/4 Square/hopscotch and utilise it as a multi-sport surface. Perhaps even expanding the surface if possible.

The School has put money toward outdoor physical education equipment recently. However, the balls do go missing on a regular basis. There is always the need for more. They do not have to be expensive as they will likely be lost, left on the school ground or kicked up on the roof.

In regards to Special Presenters, the School has applied for grants for several presenters next year. At present, the School Council will wait until the decision on the grants are made before making any decisions in this area.

Perhaps chalkboards or bughouses could be set up on the south west side of the school. The teachers currently provide chalk to the children however this could be a designated area and perhaps utilised as an outdoor classroom. There was some discussion over individual chalkboards hung at other locals around the school and whether they would withstand weather conditions and vandalism. More research would have to be done in this area.

Krista presented a motion to move forward with a multi sport surface/area on the east side of the school. Julia seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed. Moving forward this will be the large project.

Diana made a motion to allocate \$100 towards purchasing out door physical education equipment such as balls and bean bags. Candice B. seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

e. Landscape Committee

The City of Red Deer has agreed to provide mulch for free. Arrangements are yet to be finalised however it will likely arrive this week. A Landscaping Event has been planned for May 26th from 3:30-6 and May 27th from 9-12. Parents and children are encouraged to attend with rakes, wheelbarrows, shovels and gardening tools. Games/crafts to occupy the children will be available.

Wendy made a motion to for the School Council to allocate \$100 toward any arts/crafts activities and water that may be needed for the event. Krista seconded. The motion passed unopposed.

****Please note that the date for the landscaping event was changed after the School Council meeting to June 2, 2017 from 3:30 - 6 and June 3 from 9-12. ****

5. New Business

a. Farm to School

Good feedback was received and we will organise it next year for a fundraiser. Delivery will likely be October 3rd. Volunteers will be needed to unpack and organise the food.

b. Things to consider over the summer

i)Running for School Council

Please encourage fellow parents to attend School Council in the fall. We will attempt to use technology to allow parents to participate in the meetings if they can not physically attend. School Council needs to think long term as several current members will have their own children moving onto middle school soon.

ii)ASCA Courses for 2017/218

ASCA will attend and provide a presentation to School Council to help improve the Council. We should aim to have them attend in the next school year.

iii)City elections in October

Be informed.

c. Maker Faire

The 2nd Annual Maker Faire was held in April at the Red Deer College. Wendy and Kelley attended. Wendy commented that many of the booths at the Maker Faire were geared toward increasing children's creativity, such as coding and building and racing cars.

d. Agendas

Candice B would like to revisit the change in communication this year. This year, Agendas were not utilised by all teachers. In the Agendas place, teachers opted for folders, Classroom DOJO's, Google Classroom, and small scribbles. At the last staff meeting, teachers were asked to provide feedback. There was no consensus on a

preferred method of communication among the teachers. Parents have noted that it can be difficult to navigate when their children have different communication strategies and that one method of communication would be helpful. The goal is effective communication between the teacher, child and parents. The developmental level of the children and the teacher's preference will dictate what method will be used. In the future, grade partners must utilise the same method. If parents have concerns, please bring them forward to the teachers.

6. Adjournment

Adjourned at 8:55

Next Meeting: 7:00pm, Tuesday, September 19, 2017

G.W. Smith School Council Principal's Report – May, 23, 2017



- ❖ A huge thank you to
- ❖ Diversity Awareness Week & Bubble Extravaganza - Thank you Mrs. Bowie & Ms. Garnett
- ❖ Staff Appreciation: A wonderful week - Thank you from staff!
- ❖ The Gift of Play Stencils - Thank you parent helpers!
- ❖ Young Writers Conference at OP - ?? Participants
- ❖ RDSO Choir Event - Wonderful Event! Thank you Mrs. Boven, Mrs. McMillan & Mrs. Hetherington
- ❖ Canada 150 Theme Lion's Pride - Thank you for all your help with this event!
- ❖ Gr. 5 Go Girls & Grow Boys - Another successful, positive event
- ❖ Working on plan for lunch supervision - No paid lunchroom supervisors; looking for volunteers
- ❖ Team Handball - Tournament June 10
- ❖ Alberta Education is asking the public for more input on early proposals for a new K-12 school curriculum:
 - <http://curriculumsurvey.alberta.ca/>

Upcoming Events

- ❖ *May 25 Bike Roadeo Gr. 2&3 9-11*
- ❖ *May 26 Assembly Gr. 1P & 2LH 1:30*
- ❖ *May 29-June 2 Gr. 5 at Kerry Wood Nature Centre*

- ❖ *May 30 Gr. 2 at HHHS 2:15-3:30*
- ❖ *May 31 Gr. 1P -Sunnybrook Farm 12:15-3:15*
- ❖ *May 31 Gr. 2 - Kin Canyon
12:15-3:15*
- ❖ *June 1 Newsletter*
- ❖ *June 2 Gr. 2 Markerville*
- ❖ *June 2 Gr. 4 Rocky Mountain
House Historic Site*
- ❖ *June 5 Gr. 3 Ellis Bird Farm*
- ❖ *June 7 Yo Yo Assembly 1:30*
- ❖ *June 8 Whole School
Outside Photo 1:15*
- ❖ *June 9 Staff Learning Day -
No school for students*
- ❖ *June 10 Team Handball
Tournament LTCHS*
- ❖ *June 13 Gr. 2 Kerry Wood
Bug Field Trip*
- ❖ *June 14 Retirement Tea for
Mrs. Symonds 4:00*
- ❖ *June 21 Family Appreciation
BBQ*
- ❖ *June 23 Canada 150 GW Smith Showcase*
- ❖ *June 26 Grade 1 Ellis Bird Farm*
- ❖ *June 27 Gr 1-5 Swim pm*
- ❖ *June 28 Field Day am*
- ❖ *June 29 Gr 5 Farewell Assembly 10:45*
- ❖ *June 29 Last Day for students - 2:30 Early Dismissal*



