

G.W.Smith Elementary School

School Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Attendees: Principal Kelley Lund, Vice Principal Audra Garnett, Mrs. Hetherington, Candice Bowie, Candice Penz, Lisa Armstrong, Rachel Geistlinger, Bridgette Laboucan, Krista Neidert, Shelley Odishaw, Wendy Fath, Alysia Dyjur

Principal's Report

Cultural Group Sessions - The sessions are for Grade 2 through 5. They involve fun activities with kids on Fridays in small groups. The Cultural Group Sessions occur 3/4 times a year.

One Book, Many Schools - Wrap up was at Eastview Middle School. There was a good turnout by students and families from G.W.Smith.

Remembrance Day Ceremony- Beautiful ceremony which Mrs. Garnett spearheaded as well as One Book, Many Schools. Grade Five sang/spoke during the Remembrance Day ceremony which was quite impactful.

RDPSD Recognition Night - 25 years of service for Mrs Hetherington, Mr. Quentin at 15 years, as well as Hrs. Hollman and Mrs. Symonds.

Choir at Festival of Trees- Over 80 members of the choir attended and performed beautifully.

School Results Report- It has been completed and has been posted to the G.W.Smith website.

Community Liaison Worker(CLW) - Lisa Armstrong attends G. W. Smith on Monday/ Wednesday and every other Friday as she is shared with another school. The role is the same as previous Family Wellness workers would perform. The aim is to provide social and emotional support for any one involved in the school. A lot of group work such as kindness or friendship groups. Some one on ones occur that are focused more on areas outside of academics. List of students that she helps are quite extensive. Ms. Armstrong meets regularly with the principal and staff. Its an open door policy so if anyone has suggestions please bring them forward for issues that may need to be addressed. Ms. Armstrong referenced a No -Secrets- Central Alberta Sexual Abuse Centre presentation. Each presentation is geared toward grade and is age conscious. Presentation talk about secrets and surprises. Touching is not okay and that is not a secret. Helping kids know who a safe adult in life as well as good/bad touches. Perhaps look at Grade One and move upward if it is deemed value added. Council will discuss, and parent input would be essential. Ms. Armstrong's office is in the staff room. Lisa

can be contacted either directly, or a message with the secretary. If a student is referred it is usually through the team. Lisa has the ability to attend homes, and help with outside agencies such as housing. Previous wellness councillors had a narrower mandate.

Approval of Minutes - Motion to approve the Minutes by Krista, 2nd by Candice Bowie. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda - Motion by Candice B to add under new business - business partnership as well as snow shoes and ski racks under large projects. 2nd by Bridgette. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Prior to the Committee Reports, Mrs Hetherington spoke first to provide her input on a large project idea.

The school previously purchased skis for all Grades. Numbers in the cross country ski club have grown. We have 55 pairs of skis. Skis are used twice a week, and then by the grade 4/5's at the loppet. Mrs. Hetherington would like to add grade 3 but we do not have the skis. Significant interest from the kids but not enough skis to meet the demand. Skis are not being stored well so they are easily damaged and they have needed repaired. The hanging system is not well suited for the new skis. Mrs. Hetherington has proposed a new system to store skis so that kids can access them and store them easier. This would incorporate a drainage system as well as the skis will not rot from the bottom up. Skis will not last unless we take care of them. Mattie McCullough has an open system. Skis are on a platform so the water can drop down and that a custodian can wipe the floor underneath easily. The proposed structure needed from the corner wall of the boot room to just prior to the door opening. It would be at height for kids and you would slot the skis in. Kelley has put the work order in for it. At least \$1000 or more primarily because of the materials.

Mrs. Hetherington also discussed snowshoeing. There are several different styles and prices of snowshoes available. Primary Care Network will let you rent snowshoes which is a possible option before purchases snowshoes however they are not available for the remainder of the season. Samples of snowshoes were passed around. We need a light weight shoe as the small kids will tire easily. Metal will be more durable than the plastic ones. They are different sizes available. Varies in price, and possibly shipping if from out of area. For 35 of the black pair it would cost \$2254.20, 5 plastic for \$587.45. They will be used to explore the wooded area so need something more durable. All together we would require a class set so likely 50 at least. Encourage smaller kids by having at least some of the small set of snowshoes. Mrs. Hetherington would prefer 35 of the metal ones and 10 of the red plastic ones. All Out Kids is a new business in town that the prices were from.

These items will be further discussed later on in the meeting. It was noted that Mrs. Hetherington's class raised close to \$350 through the smoothie program. Money is to be

donated to Red Deer Paediatric Ward. The Smoothie program was a class kindness project that was incorporated into all aspects of the class.

Treasurer Report

The Math-a-thon raised \$3458.50. \$23.37 was used to purchase more safety vests that are utilized by staff and volunteers. The Hot Lunch program in October raised \$447.70, \$4500 was provided to 15 full time teachers for classroom money. It is noted that \$500 has been allocated to the Benevolent Fund as well. The current balance is \$16726.88.

It was noted that the funds raised from the Math-a-thon were substantially decreased from last year. This could be in part due to the wealth of activities such as One Book, Many School and it followed up on the From Farm to School Fundraiser.

Hot lunch

Everything has been booked up until Christmas

City Wide Report

-Key points-

A Hot Lunch was promoted by the New Democratic Party. Fairview Elementary was selected as a participant. 255 students are now currently being served breakfast and lunch. There are a high Number of ESL students at Fairview.

Del Lomnses is the new Phys'D teacher at Fairview as well as the Comprehensive School Health Coordinator for the school district. Discussed Don't Walk in the Hallway Program by Ever Active School. At the meeting a short video from Ecole Barrie Wilson was shown. Opportunity for movement breaks while walking from classroom which moves from traditional framework of orderly, quiet while walking. The movement breaks are designed to help children resettle and focus when they enter new class. Kids designed the patterns and they are changed 3/4 times a year. The kids are excited to line up for the opportunity to move down the hallway. Stickers have already been ordered by G. W. Smith. The Leadership Group will likely design the patterns and it will start down the art walk.

Winter Games - Each school in district would become a province and could be a community event where everyone can attend to watch community events. The school is to be closed that February next year but school could be opened. There is a movement toward making the schools more community based. The schools can now be booked for birthday parties.

Labels for Education

The program is closing however we have 35624 labels registered. Mrs. Garnett was given a list of possible items to purchase with the labels. She has picked mostly Art supplies.

Christmas Concert

Parents are asked to bring cookies/squares for the event. A Raffle with \$5 each or 5 for \$20 will be offered. Last year we did two certificates for \$250 to Save on Foods. Discussion on other business or price range. School Council has always covered the cost of the venue through the \$10 ticket as well as money raised through donation at the door. Candice P will make aprons for the event. There is interest in having a sign that could be used every year. The committee would like \$100 to cover costs of plates/napkins/sign/balloons and miscellaneous.

Rachel makes a motion for a \$100 to cover any loose ends regarding the Christmas Social. Wendy 2nd. The motion is carried.

It was discussed that given the poor economy some families may choose not to attend due to the \$10 cost associated. The amount of money raised through tickets covers the cost of facility. Any amount raised through the raffle is traditionally allocated to the music program through a vote by school council. Generally, around \$1500 is raised that is put back into the music program.

Motion by Krista to change the wording so that all families are invited, to please donate \$10 and for school council to cover the cost if we fall short. Voting - Four in agree and One against. Motion carried.

Kelley proposed streaming the concert. Barrie Wilson hired a company that makes a video and parents working away/grandparents can tune into the concert. The company hired would have the equipment. It is a public event so all kids can be photographed. There would need to be a parent to spearhead. Barrie Wilson paid \$400 for the company to stream the event. The Council was in agreement with pursuing the concept. Kelley will pursue the tech aspect and then send an e-blast to seek a volunteer. It was noted that Crossroads do live stream their sermons so perhaps the equipment is all set up. It was agreed that in the school council box in newsletter a blurb will be added regarding possible live streaming and if there are issues talk to School Council.

Social Committee

Movie Night - Friday January 27th agreed with a start time of 6:30. We will pick a movie closer to via email.

Skate Night is February 9th at Bower Ponds. Discussion of time start. Everybody was in agreement for a 530 start night.

The possibility of a Cross Country Ski Night or potential combo with snow shoes was discussed. It would likely be a weekend or weekday after school. The event would require access to school for equipment. This item was tabled until February.

Business arising from the minutes

Large Projects

- staff feedback was requested in order to find out where to allocate school council funds.

Suggestions are:

-buddy bench- likely have to build own as can't paint city bench

- possibly a group of benches to sit on for kids

-standing desks for all grades

-weighted jackets for kids. Sensory item has to be calibrated by professional. Mrs. Boven has sewed items for kids. Perhaps give her money for material to make weighted items for kids. Alternate seating such as wiggles seats and rocking chairs. Specialized and expensive. More bean bags chairs as the current ones are a hit.

-Top up for each classroom for field trip outings. This would be hard to target all kids as more information would need to be gathered. Perhaps we could allocate a certain amount toward the school. Mrs. Lund says that all trips are currently planned and paid for.

-Ukuleles and to Recorders to be replaced.

-Performers for Canada's 150th birthday

-Move Your Mood Family School Challenge from Mrs. Armstrong. Likely an event that would be sponsored by School Council but need more information.

-Banners which can pull up and can be used at all events such as Dawe Run, Ski Loppet and packs away nicely. A small banner would be beneficial to use on a table. Long tall one with logo and name to keep it current. A smaller banner would be useful as well. \$400 for tall and \$50 for small as per Kelley.

-Candice B suggested a rock climbing wall for a large project idea. It was approximately \$22000 five years ago at Mountview. Definitely a large project that all can access.

It was discussed that for the next meeting, everyone bring their top three ideas from the lists. It was acknowledged that more information regarding costs are required for example sensory equipment can be expensive and Mrs. Lund will bring more specific information from the LAT.

Wendy makes a motion regarding \$500 for banners from the Hunting Hills. 2nd by Rachel. Motion is carried.

In regards to Snowshoes it would likely be \$3800 for snowshoes and then likely \$500-\$1000 for storage. Currently, grade 5 use the Kerry Wood Nature snow shoes. The decision on snow shoes was tabled until more kids have a chance to try them.

The decision on the storage of cross country skis was tabled until a figure amount is provided. The storage is a priority. The paperwork was submitted last spring by the School however there is currently no timeline on when the work may start. The work will be completed and paid for by the school or School Council.

Candice B makes a motion to purchases 5 more ukuleles at \$40 a piece. 2nd motion by Krista. All for, none opposed. Motion carried. School Council will spend up to \$250 for 5 ukuleles.

CARC Math Seminar
-tabled until January

Benevolent Fund

- Christmas Families- Kelley states there are two families, one of which has already received a commitment to support. The support would involve providing a Hamper for families and buying gifts. Likely \$250 per family and there is \$500 right now allocated. In the next newsletter the school council will mention the benevolent found.

New Business

G.W.Smith Education Results Report has been completed and will be posted on website. Any feedback must be provided by the end of week if possible. Please provide comments on surveys, and events in school. The surveys are specific to grades and some have poor response levels.

School Council bylaws will be on line shortly as well as agendas and minutes.

Alberta School Council Association(ASCA)- Webinars on Wednesdays. Lots of topics such as more effective school council, helping high school students plan for after school. Free of charge, sign up for webinars.

Council bulletin board- board is outside of the library. The Council is looking at revamping board so that it is more structured. Possibly the top half would be school house and bottom half is community events. Planning to have more information in the newsletter and updated events as well. Need tactical awareness. Motion by Candice B to spend \$50 for craft supplies, 2nd by Krista. No opposite Motion carried.

School Council presence at Interviews - Discussion on whether it would be beneficial to have school council here as an info session. Candice said she's not sure as people are rushed, focused on kids, maybe if there was a specific focus. Wendy suggested have a short bookmark/pamphlet that parents can read while waiting.

Cross Country Ski Rental Committee- We perhaps could utilize the skis by renting them out to the community on Friday and return on Monday. Deposit to rent, and a waiver form. Perhaps a \$20 deposit, maybe a donation box on the side. Candice can commit to a time on Friday afternoons and Monday mornings. Mrs. Hetherington was supportive of the program. A contract would be required to have people cover the costs if the skis are damaged. Discussion on charging \$5 to rent and \$20 to deposit. Discussion on healthy lifestyle, and helping those kids with providing an opportunity. Candice recommended looking at a waiver. Perhaps a checklist of making sure what the skis should look like when the return. Candice P can be trained by Mrs. Hetherington. The Council will aim for after the loppet in February. Candice P. will talk to Mrs. Hetherington.

Business Partnership

Candice B indicated Annie L Gaetz partner with Rebels as a community partner. Perhaps G.W.Smith could partner with a local business to engage community and school. Sobey's is our current business partner. Candice B will look into possibilities and present at the next meeting. Interest was expressed in Red Deer College. It was noted that Grade Nine Leadership group from Eastview will do mentorship work with Grade two-Hetherington and Johnston.

Next meeting is January 31st, 2017 at 7pm.

Next couple of weeks please email co-chairs with larger project ideas with the top 3. Kelley will provide feedback, via email, after a staff meeting on December 8th.

A presentation on Equity will be given by school board trustee Dick Lemke at the next meeting.

Meeting is adjourned at 9:17pm.

Next Meeting is January 21st, 2017 at 7pm.