

SLE PAC Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2017

Attended by: Sarena Smith (President), Kelly Bergen, Jana Friedrich, Nicola Nelson, Heather Raible, Martina Shalley, Jackie Mullen, Rochelle Neels, Sara Cousins, Andrea Pal, Andrea Tait, Barrie McLeod (SLE Principal), Laurie Fraser (SLE VP)

Minutes: Sara Cousins

Call to Order: 6:31 pm

Principal's Report

Fresh Grade

- new assessment information sharing system – “window into the classroom”
- download the app or view via link on SLE website
- opportunity for parents to receive real-time update on learning progress, rather than standard report card at end of each term
- teacher to post photos, videos, writing samples etc. – “evidence of learning”
- kids can comment on own learning, so can parents
- concept – 3-way conversation around learning
- teachers all using now, to go live by October 20
- teachers at various experience/ comfort levels
- intermediate grades will still get letter grades but Fresh Grade info replaces comments section
- next phase – working with parents on guidelines for effective feedback

Question: What safeguards are there to prevent those accessing the information, photos etc. from sharing them?

Response: *Similar to Facebook – once posted, can be copied – parents and students have access codes but nothing stopping right click/copy. Fresh Grade is a local company and Barrie feels secure could remove a post quickly but wants to be clear if you are allowing photos, is essentially public domain*

Volleyball

- Boys and girls teams started practice this week

Kindie Monitoring

- Grade 5 and 6 doing a great job so far

Chess Club

- New librarian, Robert, has started Chess Club on Tuesdays in the library

Alternative Learning Environments

- Classrooms with alternative seating, students learning out in the garden, at Shannon Lake Park, more co-planning and co-teaching

Foundation Skills Assessments

- FSAs for grade 4 and 7 coming up October and November
- Parents will receive information from BCTF and School District – opposing views
- Mr. McLeod supports the testing as administrator; in his view, issue is more about how the data from the tests is used/ shared – eg. Fraser Institute ranking schools, parents not informed about what the results mean or don't mean, factors that can affect the results etc.
- Parents can choose to opt out their children, which Barrie supports if the testing is causing anxiety for the children
- **If a child is opted out, their score is recorded as 0%; the child is not taken out of the data set**
- The goal of the Ministry is to get an overview of how students are doing across the province; no funding is tied to the results (which is the case in some areas of the US)
- The assessments take approximately 5 hours over 2 weeks
- Parents will receive a printed copy of their child's test/ scores

Treasurer's Report

- Balances were given
- **cannot carry gaming grant money forward beyond 2 years**

Motion:

That the SLE PAC provide \$20/student for field trips in 2017-18, for a total of 415 students x \$20 = \$8320

Discussion: *makes it easier for parents*

Decision: *unanimous support for motion*

Carried.

Request for Funding

Thetis Island grade 6 trip costs increasing, particularly bussing costs. Mrs. Wipf has requested to increase the PAC support funds for 2018 (which was also done in 2017, to \$50 per student)

Discussion: *want to ensure all kids can continue to participate – great opportunity*

Motion:

That the SLE PAC provide support funding of \$65 x 59 students for the 2018 trip, for a total of \$3835, to be distributed in the new year.

Discussion: *want to ensure all kids can continue to participate – great opportunity; many have never seen the ocean before that trip*

Decision: *unanimous support for the motion*

Carried.

COPAC Report

- Kevin Cardell (District Superintendent) provided an update that the implementation of the new collective agreement has gone well in the district
- They have achieved smaller class sizes, been able to hire enough teachers and have enough classrooms for the increased number of classes

Comment: *Mr. McLeod pointed out that our district has done very well, with support from our HR department, while many others in the province have been very challenged*

- Mr. Cardell wanted to convey to parents that the Pro-D Days, Implementation Days etc. are not “days off” for teachers

Comment: *Mrs. Fraser pointed out that November 3, for example, is a new curriculum implementation training day*

- You can visit the New Curriculum BC website for more information – compares old and new curriculum
- There was a discussion at the last meeting around the fact that teachers or any school employees should not sit on PAC Executive re: potential for perceived conflict of interest
- COPAC meets on the first Monday of the month from 7-9pm at Hollywood Road School. It includes the PACs from middle and high schools as well. It is very interesting to hear from everyone.

Sarena will attend the December COPAC meeting as Jackie is unable to attend

Events

Hallowe'en Dance

- Thursday, October 26, 5-7 pm

- Volunteers needed for concession, front door, decorate
- Kindergarten pumpkin carving 5-5:30

Cookie Dough Fundraiser

- Rochelle has researched several companies and QSP seems the best one
- QSP is a Canadian company
- Has one peanut-free and one gluten-free option, plus “premium” options
- \$17-20, tub or pre-proportioned cookies, also mini-loaves in packs of 8
- If we sell 100 units, the shipping is free (based on previous years, we will sell much more than that)

Action:

- **Hand-out forms November 9/10**
- **Collect money by November 21**
- **Distribute items November 30**

Spring Outdoor Movie Night?

- Interior Savings provides a large screen, Boys & Girls Club, for example
- We could do it in April when it is still dark early enough
- What do we think about hosting this as a fundraiser/ fun family event?

Discussion: *might be hard to regulate who attends, late clean-up for staff, movie nights not generally a high-yield fundraiser, bathrooms (?), we do want a family event, another school is renting out the Xtreme Movie theatre for a fundraiser – this might be a good idea, they also do it at Encore and you can choose any movie (ie. old ones too).*

Action: Sarena (?) will look into the option/cost/details to rent one of the theatres

Hot Lunch

- It has been a struggle to get volunteers; although so far last-minute Facebook requests have been working, only 188 parents are on Facebook and we need a way to reach others
- we may have to go to one day per week if we don't get some more volunteers
- only takes 30-45 minutes of your time to volunteer for each hot lunch day
- raises a lot of money for the school and our biggest fundraiser – that information should get out to parents, along with confirmation of the small time commitment
- raises \$18K on a good year, approximately \$10K last year (changeover year)
- Parent Ambassador would be a good way to get more parent contact information and if they indicate interest in volunteering for Hot Lunch, they can be called directly
- Allergy information effectively shared in email and on website

Action: Jackie (?) to prepare a letter to parents thanking them for their support and sharing information on the money Hot Lunch program makes and how that is spent, a request for volunteers and noting small time commitment. Letter also to note Facebook group contact option.

Parent Communications

Mr. McLeod and Sarena are working out a privacy issue and will report back

Hot Lunch Draw: Nicola Nelson

Adjourned: 7:45 pm