

Minutes from Parent Council Meeting held May 18, 2021

PART 1 – WELCOME, PRAYER AND APPROVAL

Call to Order: 6:32 p.m.

Attendance:

Parents: Andrea Minarchi (Chair), Lori Taylor (Vice Chair), Shelley Leroux (Treasurer), Laura Lee (Secretary), Catherine Cake

Staff: Ted Paszek (EICS Board Chair), Ed Kucy – Principal, Kristine Willis-Dengler – Vice Principal, Rachel McMaster-Grade 1 Teacher

Opening Prayer – Kristine Willis-Dengler

Approval of April 20, 2021 Minutes – approved by Lori Taylor/2nd by Shelley Leroux

Approval of May 19, 2021, Agenda – approved by Shelley Leroux

PART 2 - SCHOOL UPDATE

Teacher Report – Rachel McMaster (Grade 1 teacher)

Kindergarten students are learning all about painted lady butterflies. They started their home reading program and learning measurement by measuring everyday objects using non-standard units.

First Grade students had a virtual field trip (Sense of World). They are hatching eggs and learning about the needs of plants and animals.

Second Grade students are having virtual meets and working well from home. They are working on poetry. In math, they are measuring using non-standard units. They will soon be learning about mass.

Third Grade students have new classroom pets, 19 caterpillars and 12 chicks. They have just begun multiplication in math.

Fourth Grade students are learning how to multiply multi-digit numbers. They made origami frogs. Covered social opinion writing on treaty rights.

Fifth Grade Students started cross curricular project history of Canada. Learning to calculate area, perimeter and volume in Math.

Sixth Grade Students in science are learning about aerodynamics and flight, finished their novel study *The Breadwinner*. In Math, they are completing the geometry unit.

Seventh grade students in science are covering planet earth and learning about fresh and salt water systems.

Eighth Grade Students have nearly completed all their math units which will give them more time to review.

Administration Report – Ed Kucy

- Online experience is different but going well.
- Grades 7-8 very structured online learning
- Grades 5-6 very structured
- Younger grades are not as structured.
- Hoping to be back in person next week
- Some tech issues. Advice for parents make sure you change passwords. To do that: press Ctrl alt delete and a prompt will come up to change password
- Kristine and Ed presented school assurance plan to EICS and thank you for parents for feedback. Can find the assurance plan on school website in the “about us” area.
- Began to purchase all wobble stools (10), purchasing sensory pathway to put in kindergarten area down to grade one and some other areas. To install, it requires many hands which the custodial staff a big part of it. Committee Rachel McMaster and Kristine Willis-Dengler working on pathway project.
- Additional idea brought up by Jenna Twohey to do a pathway outside.
- Teachers purchasing literacy and numeracy items for their classes.
- Catholic education week this past week. Everyone wore blue and each day had a theme advocate for Catholic education.

Trustee Report – Ted Paszek

- During Catholic Education week had a contest for all schools to participate to Choose Joy submitted poems, essays or videos. REAL foundation supplied prizes for several entries. GRACE and REAL foundation committee sponsored it.
- Not too much to report about budgeting because approval will be next Wednesday. But they do know funding won't be less than last year.
- No final word whether in person learning next week. Everyone is rising to the occasion under difficult circumstances. Recognized we are supporting one another.

- Staff recognition event where recognize long service of staff or retirees on May 31. Celebrate best way they can.

Open to questions to Admin:

- Staffing adjustment in the Fall because the federal funds we received this current year will not be there next year. Will provide further information at a later date.
- School is planning to run academies next year as if post covid.
- Draft curriculum – EICS decided not to pilot program. If the draft gets implemented how are teachers to be supported etc.
- Have not heard further as a school. If AB decides to run curriculum, professional development will support teachers.
- Opportunity is still there for parents to provide feedback online.
- Online learning – no one knows at this point whether in person learning will return as planned. On-line learning not super consistent. Is there a guideline on how the day should go for on-line learning. Ed says superintendent is asking online learning 2 or 3 times per day. Teachers know their children best and will schedule online meets as they think best.
- Rachel adds this is a unique experience within each household. Very challenging. The inconsistencies will depend on each situation. Everyone is doing the best they can.

PART 3 – PARENT COUNCIL-PROJECTS:

Treasurer's report

- Shelley cut cheques for Ed and Andrea (total \$4,655.00) to be withdrawn
- Other than that withdrawal, the balance is \$44,430.81
- No income except \$1.53 in interest
- Shelley is confirming with Angela on yearbook amounts.
- Will drop cheques off soon.
- Mrs. Breen said there was mail from ATB.

PAC PROJECTS

Lori and Andrea attended ASCA conference and annual general meeting:

- Minister of Ed addressed meeting. No schools will receive less funding than previous year.
- PUF grants will be coming back.
- Talked a lot about draft curriculum. Received so much feedback. Professionally developed over 19 months. Able to download a presentation that was provided

Andrea will place in PAC google drive. Final version of draft curriculum will be implemented September 2022.

A lot of helpful information on the works of Student councils:

- ASCA has Monday and Wednesday webinars that run monthly. Anyone can sign up for those. Use all of the resources that are available to council.
- AGM Meeting was 12+ hours. Great to see how they pass resolutions. ASCA takes those resolutions and advocates to the government. One of the main resolutions was not piloting new curriculum and delaying implementation.
- Lori – sent information to PAC council on fundraising and information. A lot of information. For success of our council, building towards the assurance plan. Parents and the school working together on what will be supported. We really need to plan. Funds should spent for the students in the current year. Parents want to know the money is being spent. Parents like to see things being done.
- No meeting scheduled for June planning for next year, we would like to get ideas giving parents a come meet parent council.
- It would be good for several members to attend in the next year ASCA meeting.

a) Year End Thank you to teachers

We will hold meeting sometime next week to pin down details for Teachers' Appreciation, specifically a date and items to be purchased for teachers (maybe gift cards). Andrea will send invite for meeting next week. For now, hold quorum to allow a vote for spending.

QUORUM: Council to vote a maximum budget for spending on Teacher Appreciation project. Does council vote to spend a maximum amount of \$1000.00 for Teacher Appreciation Project?

Unanimous YES vote by Council members

b) Fundraising:

Lori talked to Tracy Scoggins on read-a-thon. Anything needed prior to September? Nothing needed yet. Readathon will go ahead. Roll out October.

c) Yearbook:

Still don't have volunteer for current year. In June, have a planning meeting whether it be with the broader group we can talk about the current yearbook trying to get a volunteer or someone trying to do this over summer. Jess Koehli will be able to start yearbook next year 2021-2022

Any discussions about Yearbook Committee with students? With Jessica taking the lead on this next year, that could be an option. Having a lead person will be our best option to move forward with this.

- d) Grade 8 farewell – Planned for June 11. We just have to wait until we hear further with respect to the restrictions.

Ted Paszek closing note: EICS on behalf of the Board a heartfelt thank you to everyone's efforts during this difficult and challenging times. Express gratitude and praying for all.

Meeting in June – June 8 works for all

To vote on executive committee in June meeting a possibility?

Meeting adjourned: 8:13 pm