

**EPS SAC Minutes**  
**Monday December 6, 2021**  
**Meeting conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams**

**Present via Teams:** Rosa Richardson (Chair); Christie Paulton (Treasurer); Beth Cowan (Secretary); Joe Oldridge (Principal); Andria St. Germain (Vice-Principal); Dana Brown (MAL); Shay Freeman (MAL); Sonya Sartori (MAL); Charlotte Hillis (MAL); Stephanie Phillips (MAL) and Shelley Smith (Teacher Representative).

**Regrets:** None

**Welcome:** Rosa Richardson (Chair) commenced the meeting at 6:03 pm.

**Adoption of September Minutes:** Motion to adopt October 2021 minutes made by Christie Paulton and seconded by Dana Brown. Motion carried.

**General Business- Rosa Richardson (Chair)**

***Parent Reaching Out Grant (PRO)***

Application for the 2021-2022 school year was submitted by Chair Rosa Richardson. Idea submitted was for a potential book talk (see below). We agreed to proceed with program planning at the next SAC meeting and if needed additional meetings via Teams. Expect approval of the PRO Grant from the school board relatively soon.

**Book Talk**- parents receive a book (either hardcopy or digital) with a certain time frame to read. Parents are then assigned breakout discussion sessions via Microsoft Teams to discuss book findings.

- Consider *How to Get Unstuck from the Negative Muck* (a kid's guide to getting rid of negative thinking) by Lake Sullivan; PhD.
- available at Amazon.ca for \$15.50.

***Fundraising***

Due to covid restrictions still in place all other fundraising opportunities at EPS will be tabled.

**Financial Report - Christie Paulton (Treasurer)**

Bank Balances as of 12/6/2021

Food Days: \$2,114.31

Fundraiser: \$408.96

Playground Account: \$6,741.88

Grant Account: \$918.94

### **Principal's Report- Joe Oldridge (Principal)**

#### Old Business / Updates

- Parents Reaching Out Grant - thank you to Rosa for submitting the application. We are waiting to see if our book talk idea received approval from the school board.
- Playground- we have received quotes for rubber (over \$100,000) and engineered wood (just over \$20,000). We will be looking to go ahead and use our playground fund along with miscellaneous fundraising and minor capital to get this done and the equipment open.
- Covid- 4 dismissals so far and one outbreak. Numbers across the system have been high. We continue to promote screening and having students stay home if they are sick. If a cohort is dismissed, we communicate this information to parents. In addition, the school board hired pro staff to contact families about any dismissals.
- Covid- received test kits that allow the opportunity for voluntary testing. A kit (containing 5 tests) was disseminated to each student. Rapid antigen testing is recommended for students right before returning to school after the holiday break (January).

We have had many great things happening at the school over the past 6 weeks! We had a great Halloween with many students wearing costumes or black and orange. Our Remembrance Day assembly video was great. We have had the beginning of school sports again with volleyball starting and had a great end of the month assembly for November celebrating respect. We have had some challenges with keeping the field open. This is difficult as the students need to be divided into cohorts and the field must be used for this. We are finding the field wet and muddy which has resulted in some indoor recesses. Hopefully with the colder weather this will improve. Last Friday we had a great "Grinch Day" with an outdoor visit from the Grinch and Grinch themed activities.

### **Vice Principal's Report- Andria St. Germain (Vice-Principal)**

1. Remembrance Day – November 11, 2021
  - Students recognized and reflected upon this very important day by creating tribute wreaths, classroom discussions and watching a Remembrance Day Virtual Assembly put together by Mr. Paulton, Mr. Chartier and Mr. Mephram.
  - Videos, stories of soldiers, a moment of silence and music to send the very important messages to the students about what the day means for all Canadians.
2. Bullying Prevention and World Kindness Day – November 15 – 30 and ongoing
  - Essex Public Wave of Kindness – encouraging all to create one small ripple of kindness to watch it spread.

- School engaged in variety of read-out-louds, morning announcements, kindness and bullying prevention activities as well as team/community building within the classroom.
- Theme for the school was focused on kindness and creating the EPS Wave of Kindness.
- Students engaged in random acts of kindness throughout the month and have been recognized through kindness reports that are shared with the office and on the morning announcements.
- Classes showed their ripples in a variety of ways - through kindness hearts every time they did a random act of kindness, kindness wreath, painted rocks with kind messages, kindness chains and kindness superpowers.
- The kindness reports continue still and will be ongoing.

### 3. School Sports – Volleyball

- Boys and girls volleyball teams for Grades 7 and 8 have begun and games will begin this week with extra safety protocols in place.
- At this time only students in Grades 7 and 8 are offered the opportunity to play provided they are fully vaccinated.
- We thank Mr. Prieur, Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Murray for organizing and coaching the students during these times.

### 4. Pizza Days

- Students have the ability to order Domino's Pizza for Mondays through school cash online.
- Online orders only at this time.
- You can order in two- week increments.
- We have been running for about a month and things are going well!

### 5. PTSA recruitment

- We are in need of PTSAs. If you know of anyone (parents, grandparents) that may have time during the day and would like to help out at the school during recess and nutrition breaks please have them contact me at the school. It is a paid position through Pro Staff and we would love the support at the school!

### 6. Virtual Character Assembly – Friday, December 17 @ 8:30am to celebrate our wonderful students and the amazing things happening in the school.

**Teacher Representative-Shelley Smith**

Will share with EPS Teaching Staff that as SAC fundraising opportunities allow SAC is hoping to provide teacher reimbursement as we have historically done (\$150.00 per teacher on an annual basis).

General Inquiries- Moving forward will consider resuming pizza ordering on 4- week cycle.

**New Business-** none

**Next Meeting:** Monday January 31, 2022 @ 6:00 pm via Microsoft Teams.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:00 pm made by Shay Freeman and seconded by Christie Paulton.