

EPS SAC Minutes
Monday October 25, 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); Lisa McDonald (MAL); Shelley Smith (Teacher Representative) and Kelly Hotts (Community Member)

Regrets: None

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

Adoption of September Minutes: Motion to adopt September 2021 minutes made by Beth Cowan and seconded by Shay Freeman. Motion carried.

General Business- Rosa Richardson (Chair)

Facebook Group- Open discussion regarding potential development of EPS Caregiver Facebook Group to serve as another communication method. Would require two to three people to serve as monitors. Discussion tabled for now as subject needs further investigation. In the interim to utilize all communication platforms, the EPS Monthly Newsletter will now be posted on the EPS general feed.

Parent Reaching Out Grant (PRO)

Application for the 2021 school year is due Monday November 15, 2021. The PRO Grant provides funding to school councils and/or parent involvement committees to support parent engagement with the aim to increase family involvement in the learning process. For more information as to PRO Grant criteria and application information please visit ddsbc.ca. Pro Grant funds must be utilized with final report submitted to the school board by June 15, 2022. Maximum amount of funding a school can receive is \$1,000.00. Last year EPS sponsored Sara Westbook, a professional speaker who focused on identification and removal of barriers for parents in hopes of increasing engagement in their child's learning.

Open discussion of ideas as follows. Participating families would be required to sign up prior.

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.

Mystery bag- families receive a book (either hardcopy or digital), a family activity based on the book and a snack. Parents are then assigned breakout discussion sessions via Microsoft Teams to discuss book findings.

EPS SAC decided to apply for Pro Grant funds for book talk programming. Rosa Richardson to submit application.

Fundraising

Domino's Pizza Days- **Dana Brown (MAL)** EPS will resume every Monday starting November 15th. Price will be \$4.00 for two slices or \$5.00 for two gluten free slices individually packaged. All orders (two week increments) will be conducted via school cash online. A flyer will be sent out to families via EDSBY on 10/29/2021.

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 Friday 10/22/2021

Food Days: \$70.56

Fundraiser: \$408.96

Playground Account: \$6,491.88

Grant Account: \$918.94- \$500.00 deposited September 17, 2021 annually by the school board.

Principal's Report- Joe Oldridge (Principal)

October has been very positive with us welcoming a guest speaker- Charmaine Reid who spoke to the students about goal setting and talked about her experiences as an Olympian and badminton player. Our students are enjoying using equipment outside and have settled into their new classes well after a substantial reorganization.

Our teachers have been taking part in both literacy and math learning. This has been very positive. In the primary grades we are focusing on new ways of teaching reading based on the Science of Reading and in all levels, we continue to work on math. This includes a pilot project using a math program called Zorbis Math.

We have had two cohorts dismissed due to Covid. When this occurs, a letter is posted to the entire school community through school messenger and Edsby.

We are looking at pricing to have the playground resurfaced. I would prefer to put in engineered wood chips as they are easier to maintain and top up.

Until this happens, the equipment is deemed unsafe for use by the school. I would expect that this will be very expensive.

Thank you to Andria and Dana at Domino's for organizing a very successful pizza night. We are looking forward to starting pizza days in the next month at the school

The Essex community has expressed frustrations about not being able to utilize the playground, however, the equipment has been deemed unsafe by the facilities department and signs have been placed by the Town of Essex discouraging citizens from using the equipment. There has been ongoing communication between the Town of Essex and EPS regarding this matter.

We look forward to our end of the month assembly on Friday. The students may wear costumes on Friday or Orange and Black. Unfortunately, candy cannot be handed out this year.

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

Domino's Pizza Fundraising Night took place on Wednesday October 20, 2021 and Thursday October 21, 2021 (due to power outage on Wednesday). EPS raised \$750.00 over the two nights. EPS received five dollars from the sale of all orders that night.

A very special thank you to Dana Brown for all her hard work and for extending the use of the fundraising coupon codes to the next day. Dana suggested running the next pizza fundraiser on a Tuesday and Wednesday to help with production and allow for more families to participate.

Phoenix Feathers continue to provide weekly positive experiences for the children.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters- two groups have started virtual programming on Thursdays and Fridays.

Teacher Representative-*Shelley Smith*

Shared how despite the continued challenges of Covid, EPS has continued to be a place of positivity and growth for the children.

New Business- none

Next Meeting: Monday December 6, 2021 @ 6:00 pm via Microsoft Teams.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:04 pm made by Dana Brown and seconded by Kelly Hotts.

