

## **Essex Public School SAC Minutes March 18, 2019**

**Present:** Laura Vermeer (Chair), Shelley Smith (Staff Representative), Dana Brown (MAL), Heidi Spring (Treasurer), James Spring (MAL), Bruno Pallotto (Principal), Beth Cowan (Co-Secretary), Andria St. Germain (Vice Principal), Paula Munday (MAL), Kelly Hotts (Community Member), Amanda Park (MAL), Christie Paulton (MAL), Kim Smith, Chris Smith, Kelley Cavanagh and Christian Paulton

**Regrets:** Marianne Lee, Rebecca Tonon and Kelly Stack

**Welcome:** Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm by Chair Laura Vermeer.

**Adoption of Minutes:** Minutes from the February 11, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Motion to adopt minutes made by Christie Paulton and seconded by Kelly Hotts. Motion carried.

### **Financial Report Heidi Spring:**

Bank balances as of March 18, 2019

Chequing account: \$13,888.43

Playground Account: \$6,660.24

Grant Account: \$718.49

### **General Business**

- **GECPIC Update** (Laura Vermeer reported for Michelle Weglarz)- Saturday April 6, 2019 there will be a Parent Engagement Night at Tecumseh Vista. Michelle Weglarz will share the details with SAC when available. Michelle, as the GECPIC Mental Health and Wellness Committee Representative, had the opportunity to speak with Dr Sharon Pyke, Superintendent, regarding mental health and wellness initiatives being implemented by GECDSB. Please visit the new board created website full of resources and community links:  
<https://www.publicboard.ca/MentalHealth/Pages/default.aspx>  
GECPIC April meeting will be held at the board office on Tuesday April 23, 2019 @ 7:00 pm. All parents are invited.
- **Profile of a Principal** (Christie Paulton)- Compiled the results to review. Motion made by Kelly Hotts and seconded by James Spring to use the top three characteristics in each category and submit the completed document to the board. Motion carried.

- **Pasta Fundraiser Update** (Amanda Park)- Wednesday April 3, 2019 will be the next pasta fundraiser. The flyer has been completed and will be sent home to the children by Wednesday this week. Parents have an option to pay cash or utilize school cash online. School cash online should be available by this Wednesday as well. Amanda requested six volunteers for this event. Dana Brown serving as co-chair. Additional SAC members are needed. Please email Amanda Park if you are available to help.
- **PRO GRANT**- Michelle Weglarz contacted Youth Diversion in Windsor. Recommendations received about a London- based speaker to provide discussion on Internet Safety for the EPS Parent Engagement Night. The internet safety sub-committee will hold a meeting on March 27, 2019 to discuss the format of the night. Additional SAC members are needed to serve on the committee and on the event day. Paul Davis was not available until November 2019. Discussion around one main topic with breakout sessions. Can utilize 10% of grant money on food; resources can be purchased as well.
- **Track and Field Day** (Chris and Kim Smith and Kelley Cavanagh)- Date of event was pre-determined since last year. Conversation re-visited from June 18, 2018 SAC meeting regarding concerns about track and field day (eg: safety, staggered starts, and distance issues). Mr. Pallotto shared results of discussions with students, parents and staff regarding this matter with reports of EPS being the favoured location to host track and field day. In addition, any money raised via fundraising goes directly to EPS, unlike if the event was held at EDHS. Nevertheless, there is always room for improvement. Mr. Paulton shared that a length of flag tape has been purchased to make a t-bar which will create a lane of safe crossing. Coaches are encouraged to bring students to the high school several weeks before the event so they can familiarize themselves with the track at EDHS, however this is individualized by the coach. Security and safety of all the children at EPS is the priority. Mr. Pallotto will reach out to Chris and Kim Smith and Kelley Cavanagh for ideas to support continuous improvement efforts for track and field day.
- **Fundraising**- Tabled fundraising events.

**Teaching Staff Representative Report** (Shelley Smith)- A Kindergarten thank you note for Lego Bricks for kids was shared. Grade 2 (64 students total) end of the year field trip is to the Chatham Cultural Centre. Children will spend the whole day learning about art, culture, history and theatre experiences. Historically a 50% subsidy has been provided to EPS, however, it is not available this year. Cost is \$30.00 per student not including bus rental of \$649.75. EPS will cover \$825.00 of these costs. Parents will be asked to contribute \$15.00. Grade 2 asked for any financial support available from SAC. Motion made by Kelly Hotts and seconded by Amanda Park to allocate funds in order to reduce the parent contribution to \$12.00 (vs \$15.00). Motion carried.

**Principal's Report** (Bruno Pallotto)- Safe School Committee met which is comprised of teacher representatives, support staff and the Parent Counsel Chair. The goal of this committee is to examine current safety procedures including the following: lockdown, fire drills, tornado drills, etc and make modifications to existing protocols. Located near every phone in the school is a colour-coded flow chart identifying each drill. Emergency calls are sent directly to dispatch and can be made by either dialing a 9 first to get on outside line or calling 911 directly.

School funds received are used to improve technology. I-pads typically need to be retired after 4-5 years of usage. The older I-pads are slow, which at EPS the slowest device commands the speed of the internet. I-pads no longer used are refurbished and donated. EPS has recently purchased 10 new I-pads.

Funds are also used to purchase educational materials. Cathy Fosnot is a leader in mathematic education. She believes that it is imperative that educators utilize the correct models and tools to teach mathematics. These kits cost \$500.00 and include books, visuals and other classroom related materials. There is a kit available for Grades 3-5 and one for Grades 4-6. Another math resource that EPS has purchased is called Leaps and Bounds. This is an intervention- based program to assist students that have identified gaps in learning math.

Past PD days the teachers and support staff have received training on inclusion and acceptance for all students. Discussions focused on being fair instead of equal; identifying underlying student needs that aren't always visual and helping students improve cognitively and emotionally (focus on overall well-being). PD on March 22, 2019 is Ministry mandated for all staff and will provide training on Indigenous education as well as Health and Safety.

**Vice Principal's Report** (Andria St. Germain and Christian Paulton)- EPS was one of thirteen recipients awarded the Best Buy Technology Grant (there were over 740 applicants!) and received \$9,570.00 in funds to support technology and learning. Funds were used to purchase the kit to support "Google Expedition". "Google Expedition" is a virtual reality app that allows Kindergarten to Grade 8 educators the ability to guide students through experiences that typically are found outside the classroom (eg: visiting parliament buildings, the body's circulatory system, National Parks, State Universities). The app itself is free to download, however the goggles are \$400.00 each. The kit came with 20 goggles. These goggles are very durable and can be cleaned and sanitized. The app can also be utilized with cardboard goggles that may be purchased via Amazon or Best Buy for approximately \$20.00. Mr. Paulton and the eighth graders will serve as EPS ambassadors to the community. Goggles will be brought into St. Clair Villages for Seniors and used to take residents on "field trips".

**Date for Next Meeting:** April 15, 2019 @ 6:00pm.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 7:58 PM made by Heidi Spring and seconded by James Spring. Motion carried.