

SAC Minutes: Monday, May 13, 2019

Present: Laura Vermeer (Chair), Heidi Spring (Treasurer), Beth Cowan (Co-Secretary) Marianne Lee (Co-Secretary), Kelly Hotts (Community Member), Dana Brown (MAL), Shelley Smith (Staff Representative), Bruno Pallotto (Principal), Christie Paulton (MAL), Michelle Weglarz, James Spring (MAL), Andria St. Germain (Vice Principal), Beth Guenthur, Christian Paulton, Rebecca Tonon (MAL)

Regrets: Amanda Park (MAL), Paula Munday (MAL)

Welcome and Introductions: Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm by Chair, Laura Vermeer.

Adoption of Minutes: Motion to adopt April 15, 2019 minutes as distributed, made by Kelly Hotts and seconded by Dana Brown. Motion carried.

Financial Report:

Bank Balances as of May 13, 2019:

Chequing Account: \$15 713.14

Playground Account: \$ 6660.24

Grant Account: \$ 1718.49

\$293.75 was spent on math games for the EPS Math Family Day

\$96.04 was spent on a hard drive for Mrs. R-J (as requested and approved at the April 2019 SAC meeting)

15 teachers have taken advantage of \$150.00 each to put towards school supplies and teaching resources.

General Business:

PRO Grant Update: Michelle Weglarz presented. The parent engagement evening on "Internet Safety" will be Wednesday, May 29, 2019 from 6 pm - 8 pm. Keynote speakers from the following will present in break out sessions throughout the building: Essex County Youth Diversion, OPP, BANA, Hotel-Dieu Grace Hospital. Joel Furlotte (GEDSB Social Worker) will no longer present. Greenheart will supply food and coffee will be provided.

Raffle prizes include the following: a family pass for Point Pelee for one year, soccer balls, webcam covers, virtual reality goggles, and the first 75 attendees will receive an EPS Frisbee. Raffle tickets will be passed out as people arrive. A sign up sheet for volunteers to assist with this evening was passed around to SAC members.

Fundraising: Suggestions included cookie dough, Vesey's plants, and cheese.

SAC members discussed and decided that we need to make decision in a timely manner at the beginning of the 2019-2020 year in order to ensure fundraising begins before the Christmas holidays.

Last Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation:

Last year, the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held before the last SAC meeting of the year. Dinner was ordered from the Michigan. This year, SAC decided to do the same.

Date: Monday, June 17, 2019 at 5:30 pm with SAC meeting to follow at 6:00 pm
Heidi Spring will organize and order dinner from the Michigan.
RSVP will be set for the Friday before (Friday June 14, 2019)

Amendment made to the minutes by Laura Vermeer to include the following item:

Graduation: Grade 8 graduation will be celebrated in the EPS gymnasium on June 25, 2019 at 6:30 pm. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Grade 7 students and their parents provide baked goods for the evening, and punch is provided by Mrs. Schmidt. These refreshments are offered to grads and their families. Laura will be volunteering that evening to set up the tables. She asked for one other volunteer. Christie Paulton offered to help.

Teaching Staff Representative Report:

Retirement: Mrs. Peleschuk asked Mrs. Smith to officially announce her retirement which will commence at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

Principal's Report:

Celebrations: EPS students have been featured in the Essex Free Press and stories were shared with SAC members.

Staffing:

EPS is down 1.0 teaching staff (due to Ministry cutbacks and student enrolment) for 2019-2020 school year. EPS would have lost a teacher but Mrs. Peleshok's retirement will be that 1.0 so there will be no loss of current staff members. Staff changes can still occur because of postings. Teacher assignments for 2019-2020 are tentative until reorganization in September, 2019. Requests for student placements were accepted by Administration until May 1, 2019. Once class lists are made, no classroom changes will be made for students until reorganization September 16, 2019 and will be at Administration's discretion.

Child Care Partnership with Storybook Early Learning Center:

Mr. Pallotto met with Donna Hedrick from Storybook to discuss student transition, student accommodations, shared resources, and to brainstorm ways to improve the partnership.

School Climate Survey Results: On May 23, 2019 the results will be made public on the school website. Mr. Pallotto will discuss the results with SAC members at the June, 2019 meeting. The results of the survey offer suggestions on how EPS can improve school culture based on feedback provided from parents, staff and students of EPS.

New Stage Curtains: The new curtains have been installed and SAC is waiting for the bill to pay out the \$3000.00 SAC voted to provide. A valance and 6 supports for bud mics (drop mics) were also installed. \$4500-5000.00 was the approximate total cost for the project.

Colchester PS Invitation:

Ann Douglas will present "Parenting Through the Storm." June 4, 2019 at 6:30 pm. The EPS parent community is invited and welcome to attend.

Friday May 17th Fundraiser: There will be a pajama day on Friday, May 17, 2019 to raise money for Haitus House. Two grade eight students recently attended a student forum, and when they returned, they decided to fundraise for this organization. Gently used women's pajama donations will also be taken that day.

EQAO Testing: Reminder of dates: May 21, 2019 – June 3, 2019. Students write the first 100 minutes, for 6 days total. 4 language sessions and 2 math sessions will be written by Grade 3 and Grade 6 students. Data from the test scores is used to drive instruction, and provide curriculum focus for the following school year.

School Equipment: Vandalism to the school equipment after school has occurred. It was closed for two weeks as a result. Facility Services has completed repairs. This vandalism continues to be a problem. Trees have also been damaged. The Town of Essex and the Essex Police have been contacted. School policy is that all students must go home first before returning to play at the park.

Heidi inquired about the ground cover surrounding the large equipment. To date it has not been repaired. The equipment remains closed until it is repaired due to dangerous tripping hazard. The company that repairs the ground cover is coming from London. Date for repair: TBD

Track and Field Day Concession Stand: Thanks to parent volunteers and Mrs. Diemer. Profits from the concession stand will purchase two new tents, and possibly more track t-shirts.

Suspension Data: Currently trending downwards for EPS. Many mediating factors play a part such as student ownership, staff/student relationships, positive school culture.

Technology Request:

Microsoft Go is a cross between iPad and a laptop. Some features include: touch screen, hard drive, Microsoft software ready, can print from the device. 300 E's can be purchased by the Board for \$440.00 each plus taxes (same as iPads.) They would go upstairs to service Grades 4-8. Mr Pallotto would like to purchase now to have them ready for September. Request for SAC to purchase 10 for approximately \$5000.00?

Motion to purchase 12 Microsoft Go 300 E's for Grades 4 – 8 home rooms for approximately \$6000.00 made by Kelly Hotts and seconded by James Spring. Motion carried.

There was a brief discussion about whether or not SAC should have a tech account like the playground account. SAC agreed it is not necessary at this time.

Vice-Principal's Report:

Celebrations:

Math Family Fun Day: Many families participated with approximately 100 parents coming into the building and engaging in math activities with their children. Approx. 30 parents visited our SAC coffee/cookie concession. Superintendent was present. It was a big success.

Music Monday and Spring Concert: Thanks to Mr. Harris and staff. Both the day and night performances had great attendance. The band, rock band and school choir (Grades 1-8) performed to a terrific audience.

Track and Field Day: It was cold but dry and very successful. Events and concession stand ran smoothly thanks to the volunteers. Students had a great time.

Badminton: Good season; thanks to the coaches.

Special Olympics: Many EPS students participated.

GEDSB District Softball Tournament: EPS won the tournament. They are Three-Pitch District Champions. Congratulations.

Next Character Assembly: May 31, 2019 10:55 am. Theme: Responsibility for Your Education

EPS School Play: June 4, 2019 "Moe White" Musical Production.
Performances: 11:00 am and 6:30 pm.

Triple P Parenting: The flyer was shared at the April 2019 SAC meeting. May 2 and May 16 seminars that were scheduled at EPS were both cancelled. Many other seminars are available at other locations.

Outdoor Recess Equipment:

Balls, skipping ropes, and other activity equipment wears. The school purchased \$150 worth. A request was made for SAC to help replenish the equipment at the cost of \$200.00.

Motion to provide Mrs. St. Germain with \$200.00 to replenish EPS outdoor equipment made by Dana Brown and seconded by Heidi Spring. Motion carried.

New Business:

Can money raised at EPS be donated?

If it is communicated to parents that a pizza day or a hot dog day will forward it's proceeds towards a charity or fundraiser ahead of time, then yes.

PPM 150 dictates healthy food requirements for school lunches. Hot dog days must follow these guidelines.

Date for Next Meeting: Monday, June 17, 2019 at 6:00 pm. (Volunteer appreciation dinner at 5:30 pm)

Adjournment and Farewell:

Motion to adjourn at 7:41 pm made by Kelly Hotts and seconded by Beth Cowan. Motion carried.