

SAC Minutes: November 21st, 2016 @ 6:00PM

Present: Laura Vermeer (chair), Tammy Meloche (principal), Bruno Pallotto (vice-principal), Heidi Spring (treasurer), Nathan Hill (co-secretary), Paula Munday (co-secretary), Kelly Hotts (community representative), Stephanie Malott, Shelley Smith (teacher representative), Amanda Park, Kim Smith, Beth Cowan

Regrets: Susan Smith, Sonya Sartori, Marianne Lee, Jody Wipp, Heidi Spring (treasurer)

Welcome: Laura Vermeer welcomed all members to the council meeting.

Adoption of Minutes:

Motion to adopt minutes from October 2016 as distributed (with clarification on the breakdown between playground and regular funds in the financial section), made by Kelly Hotts, seconded by Amanda Park. Carried.

Principal's Report:

Recent PD Day: Lots of staff were away from the school at subject-specific professional development seminars. Those who were at EPS discussed math strategies for the classroom. SAC watched a video by Jo Boaler and discussed the various ways that students are encouraged to gain number sense and achieve mental math skills. SAC also received a handout that teachers will receive on Wednesday concerning math education.

Playground Equipment: We had to close the large equipment because the padding underneath was torn. It was repaired recently, and so the equipment was open today. However, we had to close the small equipment because it had an inspection and did not pass. The company that installed the small equipment will come out and advise us on how to proceed with repairs.

Also, we have had an increase in vandalism on the playground equipment, presumably at night. We have increased the frequency of security throughout the evening/night, we have alerted the police, we have called EDHS and Holy Name school to alert them of the vandalism and to seek information (if they have heard anything), and we have spoken with EPS neighbors to see if they have seen anything. Since these calls, the vandalism has been less.

Vice Principal's Report:

School Improvement Plan: Our school improvement plan focuses on numeracy and well-being—the well-being focus is growth mindset. SAC visited a poster in the hall to discuss how we can speak with our children about growth mindset as well as why this is a more productive way to learn. This is different than the way we may have been educated, and so reviewing these newer concepts will be helpful for parents.

School Websites: Our school's website has been updated. The entire website can now be translated at the press of a button to a wide variety of languages, our Twitter feed is on the website, and the most up-to-date calendar of school events (include hot lunch dates) is on the website. This new website contains all of the information of the previous, but it is far more user friendly for those who maintain the site.

Bully Awareness & Prevention Week: This week students will focus on reducing and eliminating bullying amongst their peers. K-2 classes will have coloring sheets that emphasize what to do if they see bullying.

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Grades 3–8 class will have writing exercises about helping with friends who experience bullying. This message is always being talked about all year, and the biggest message is to empower students to know what to do. There will be a special video about this at the Nov 30th assembly, and we are also looking to bring in another guest speaker this year to address character and mindset issues.

Hot Lunch Program: There is some confusion with parents, staff, and students about when the different providers will be here. Sometimes students expect a hot lunch on the wrong day, and sometimes there are confused and hurt feelings with the younger students. Moreover, there is confusion when the money comes in about where to send it. Perhaps we should pick one hot lunch provider and not both in the future to eliminate this.

SAC also discussed increasing the pizza order to every week so that there was less confusion with parents know when it is pizza day and when it is not. Those who currently help with the pizza days expressed an interest to help weekly, and so the SAC decided we can move ahead with this in January.

Financial Report:

Bank balance as of October 24th, 2016

Chequing Account: \$1,930.44

Playground Account: \$17,135.92

General Business:

Parent Volunteers for the Greeheart Lunch: Amanda Park will be the main contact (and Stephanie Malott will be the alternate) for organizing the Greeheart lunch forms into class sets when they arrive at the school.

GECPIC Meeting Update: Jody Wipp has provided feedback about the recent GECPIC meeting. All parent councils in GECDSB schools will use the SAC title and not the PIC title. Superintendent Lynn McLachlan discussed the empower project for special education (a reading intervention program for primary kids)—some schools were selected to pilot this project (not EPS). EDSPY is an online collaboration tool where students, teachers, and soon parents will have access to calendars, assessment tools, attendance, and collaborative spaces that will be a place to obtain and exchange information online.

The next GECPIC meeting is tomorrow, and we will receive feedback from that meeting at our next SAC meeting.

Christmas Bazaar: All our tables are currently sold. If we had more tables we could increase the number of vendors. We do have some new first-time vendors, and many of our favorite vendors are coming back.

We discussed the raffle table and how the younger kids do not always understand probability and the idea of a raffle. We decided that we would put another vendor in place of the raffle table to avoid this confusion. Moreover, the raffle was not a hugely popular element of the bazaar, and so we do not anticipate a strong reaction against this shift.

The bazaar will run from 8:30AM–4:00PM on Thursday December 8th, and parents are encouraged to drop in at arrival and/or throughout the day.

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Turkey Lunch Update: Marg Malenfant-Bosse is one of the foods teachers at EDHS, and her class will take care of the food prep for the turkey lunch except for corn and stuffing—we will do this here at the school. We will also have strict allergy information about all the food that is cooked.

New Business:

Remembrance Day Assembly Reimbursement: At the urging of some staff members and Mrs. Meloche, Mr. Paulton sent a letter to the SAC requesting reimbursement for some of the supplies he purchased for the Remembrance Day assembly. Mr. Paulton's class did a great job using their creativity to create many meaningful props and displays for the assembly. The receipts submitted total \$181.73.

Motion to reimburse Mr. Paulton \$181.73 for supplies used at the Remembrance Day assembly made by Amanda Park, seconded by Kelly Hotts. Carried.

Date for Next Meeting:

Monday January 16th, 2017 @ 6PM

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 7:40PM made by Kelly Hotts, seconded by Amanda Park. Carried.