

## **SAC Minutes: September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ 6:30PM**

**Present:** Laura Vermeer (chair), Tammy Meloche (principal), Bruno Pallotto (vice-principal), Nathan Hill (secretary), Shelley Smith (staff representative), Kelly Hotts (community representative), Jody Wipp, Niki Fowler, Amanda Park, Beth Cowan, Kimberly Smith, Stephanie Malott, Stephanie Philips, Susan Smith, Karin Fedak, Rebecca Tonon, Marianne Lee

**Regrets:** Heidi Spring (Treasurer)

**Welcome:** Laura Vermeer welcomed all new and returning SAC participants.

### **Elections:**

SAC Chair:

***Laura Vermeer was nominated by Nathan Hill, seconded by Kelly Hotts. All present voted in favor of Laura Vermeer functioning as the chair of SAC for the 2016/2017 school year.***

Treasurer:

***Heidi Spring was nominated by Laura Vermeer, seconded by Kelly Hotts. All present voted in favor of Heidi Spring functioning as the treasurer of SAC for the 2016/2017 school year.***

Secretary:

***Nathan Hill was nominated by Karin Fedak, seconded by Kelly Hotts. All present voted in favor of Nathan Hill functioning as the secretary of SAC for the 2016/2017 school year.***

Co-Secretary:

***Paula Munday was nominated by Kelly Hotts, seconded by Karin Fedak. All present voted in favor of Paula Munday functioning as the co-secretary of SAC for the 2016/2017 school year.***

GECPIC (Greater Essex County Parent Involvement Committee) Representative:

***Jody Wipp was nominated by Susan Smith, seconded by Karin Fedak. All present voted in favor of Jody Wipp functioning as our GECPIC Representative for the 2016/2017 school year.***

Members at Large: All present at the meeting were interested in becoming members at large.

Following the elections, Laura Vermeer asked each council member to introduce themselves.

### **Presentation from Harvest Fresh Catering:**

The owner of Harvest Fresh Catering and her assistant visited our meeting to share details about their hot lunch service for schools in our area. The hot lunches cost \$6 each, and there is lots of variety to choose from. Orders can be completed online as well as sent to school with students, and EPS will receive 5% of all sales.

The SAC discussed hot lunch options for the 2016/2017 school year later in the meeting.

### **Presentation from Sherry Lynn from the Lego League:**

The Lego League is a Lego-based robotics competition for public school students that has operated in Windsor-Essex for several years. Students will form teams of 10 or less, and they will build a robot, write

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the programming code, and compete against other schools. This year the competition will be held at St. Clair College on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

We have discussed involvement in this program in previous years; however, we did not have anyone on the teaching staff to organize this. The SAC discussed this program later in the meeting.

### **Adoption of Minutes:**

***Motion to adopt minutes from June 2016 as distributed, made by Karin Fedak, seconded by Kelly Hotts. Carried.***

### **Principal's Report:**

*Elementary Staffing:* After reorganization, we did not lose any staff and we did not gain any staff. The administration had to shuffle about 10 students between classes to keep within student-teacher ratios.

*EQAO Results:* The EQAO results from last spring have now been made public. Our math scores are increasing, and our literacy scores are quite good (students are at benchmark or better).

To facilitate this increase in our math scores, we have already increased the amount of time that we teach math, and teachers have been available for extra help during nutrition break and after school on a regular basis. Parents and students are also able to access online tutors through a program called homework help online—this program is paid for by the Ministry of Education and operates in the evening from Sunday–Thursday.

*Letter from Teacher:* We have received a request to fund CPR training for grade 7 and 8 students. The SAC will discuss and vote on this at a later date.

*Expanding Kindergarten Yard:* The kindergarten yard boundaries have been changed as we discussed in the spring. The school has \$3600 to contribute to this cost, and the SAC has been asked to contribute \$2100 from the funds set aside for playground maintenance. The SAC voted on this below.

### **Vice Principal's Report:**

*School Fundraiser:* The annual read-a-thon/walk-a-thon kicks off on Friday September 30<sup>th</sup>. This will be a two-week campaign with the reading/walking event happening on Friday October 14<sup>th</sup>. Students will walk in the morning and read in the afternoon. Forms will go out to parents on Friday September 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Spirit Wear:* Mr. Mephram, the teacher rep for spirit wear, has worked with a supplier to create a series of spirit wear items for EPS students, staff, and perhaps SAC as well. The order forms will come home soon, and the items will be available for purchase from school cash online.

*Character Assembly:* The monthly assembly will take place on Friday September 30<sup>th</sup>, @ 9:20. At these assemblies we recognize school teams, teachers have announcements, celebrations, common messages to student and parents that are in there, and an entertaining video at the end. Parents are always welcome to attend these assemblies, and the dates and times will be published on the school sign.

*School Calendar:* All events at the school will be placed on the online calendar—this is updated very often by the administration.

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*PPP Parenting:* This organization provides community seminars with resources about parenting. For more information, parents can speak with Mr. Pallotto.

*12 O'Clock Walk:* Mrs. Newton, our local pool's aquatic coordinator, has asked EPS students to be involved in an event promoted by the Town of Essex, In Motion Communities, and SWARG (South West Area Recreation Guild). At 12:10PM, students will be called to the outside walking track to participate in a 15-minute walk to raise awareness for healthy and active lifestyles. Parents are permitted to join students, and the media will be present to cover the event.

### **Financial Report:**

Bank balance as of September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Cheqing Account:     \$19,178.96

In future months we will have the breakdown between the fund reserved for playground maintenance and the funds available for use.

In addition to this balance, we also received a parent engagement grant for \$500 from the school board to help us engage parents, and we received a cheque from Green Heart Lunch for \$317.50, which was our share of the school lunch profits from last year.

***Motion to use \$2100 from the funds set aside for playground maintenance to cover the cost of the new fence in the kindergarten yard made by Susan Smith, seconded by Kelly Hotts. Carried.***

### **General Business:**

*Lego League Support:* Mrs. Savage does not feel that we are ready to assemble a team to compete in the December competition—the learning curve for her and the students would be too steep this year. However, she is interested in establishing a club (from grades 6–8) that will become familiar with the program and be more ready to compete in the 2017 competition.

The council indicated interest in getting behind this financially, and so Mrs. Savage will obtain more details about cost and the supplies needed for this club.

*Hot Lunch Provider:* Green Heart Lunch provided hot meals for our students last year. The feedback the administration received from this program was positive in terms of menu selection and price (feedback from five individual families was read). The SAC needs to determine how to proceed this year—Green Heart Lunch, Harvest Fresh Catering, or doing our own hot lunch program.

***Motion to use Harvest Fresh Catering as our hot lunch provider for this school year made by Amanda Park, seconded by Kimberly Smith. Carried.***

***Motion to use both Harvest Fresh Catering and Green Heart Lunch (on different days, and only if the two services agree to this) made by Karin Fedak, seconded by Susan Smith. Carried.***

*Childcare for SAC Meeting:* In order to offer childcare for SAC meetings, we would have to purchase an additional insurance policy. The terms of the policy would be that the provider to child ratio would be

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1:5, there would be no children under 16 months, and the providers' age would be no less than 12 years if they had a babysitting course, and no less than 13 years if they had no course. The cost for this insurance would be \$140 for the year, but does not cover abuse—liability for abuse allegations would fall on the SAC members personally.

We discussed a variety of ways to select providers and also the demand for this service. The council decided not to make a motion to purchase this insurance because of the associated liability issues.

**New Business:**

*None*

**Date for Next Meeting:**

Monday October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ 6PM

**Adjournment:**

***Motion to adjourn at 8:35PM made by Susan Smith, seconded by Kelly Hotts. Carried.***