

GES PAC meeting via Zoom video
(link provided to all parents to participate)

Oct 05, 2021 7 p.m.

Present: Sandra Squires, Emily Doyle, Lynda Brisebois, Kelsey Dunn, Kait Kerr, Taisha Grant, Michelle Reardon, Jenna's Iphone, Todd H, Isla Wood, Ingrid Wood, Nicole, Paul Murphy, Jennifer Norquist-Chancellor

Excused: Martial Guillaud

1. Welcome and Introductions, Sandra as acting chair.
2. Adoption of agenda. First, Emily, second, Todd, none opposed.
3. Approval of minutes from September 07, 2021 PAC meeting. First, Janice second Emily, none opposed.
4. Kate Kerr – Superintendent Update

New SD46 school superintendent since August 01, 2021. Plans to visit all PACs across district, introduce self and connect with parents and community members.

Introduced self and shared background, professional journey, past experiences, beliefs that education is fundamental in social change. Core values stem from diversity, equity, compassion, joy of learning and importance of relationships. Today, October 05, 2021 is world teacher day.

Kate Kerr opened floor to questions.

Sandra asked about dying trees around school property. Kate responded that Lynda is going to speak to. Lynda explained that trees on school property of concern were marked by an arborist a few weeks back. There is a report that Lynda can send to PAC. Some trees have rot, some are exposed roots, some are attributed to treetops and limbs, some are being monitored. The message the district wants to put out, is this is a long-term process around the removal of unsafe trees and how the healthy trees can be better managed, also taking into consideration how the school can be a part of the replanting program, how the community can be ensured the process is safe and realistic way of dealing with the trees. Ultimately this issue comes down to safety of kids and community from damaged trees. Lynda will send the report. The plan is to look at removal of a few trees over spring break when there are no kids present. Unsure at this time how many, approx. 50 trees have been flagged, not all for take down. The plan is over 3 years.

Lynda, understanding is that the trees that are removed won't hinder the remaining trees, that they will be healthy and strong enough to survive without the buffers around them.

Question from chat from Jenna: "Can we add to the agenda or maybe Kate can answer. Why are conflicting letters sent home in our children's planner regarding FSA testing?"

Kate Kerr stated that unfortunately, the process has become politicized, the Fraser Institute historically has access to FSA data for all districts, that data is then used to rank schools. Kate stated that it is unfortunate that this has been a historical practice, they are a useful measure to use across school and province to understand how students are doing against benchmarks. These benchmarks and data points do provide a picture of how students are doing, acknowledging that it is a low stakes assessment. The opportunity is to understand where gaps may be in learning, this allows schools and districts to better understand how resources can be deployed. Understanding that there are other measures taken into consideration as well. Kate confirmed that these tests are created by educators. Kate reiterated that these tests could inform teaching direction and are a good measure for parents to receive as well.

Jenna followed up: How were the kids positioned to understand what these tests are?

Kate acknowledged that's its mixed messaging. Important to discuss with students' teachers regarding specific positioning to students.

Taisha Grant asked, what is the plan to attract more EA's into the district? Lynda spoke to proactive advertising measures, direct outreach to encourage folks to apply. Lynda explained that a data source indicated that there has been an increase of hiring 10 more positions within the district compared to this time last year. There is a partnership established with Cap U around the EA course, connecting people with the course, and then having practicums completed within the school district. Principals have also explored alternative options such as hiring supervision aids, allowing supervision aids to complete certain supervision tasks such as outside, or eating time thus putting further hours for EA's back into the classrooms and education time.

4. Open mic – No further questions were asked

4. Reports:

a.) Principal's Report: Lynda Brisebois.

- Will report the success of Terry Fox run
- 349 kids registered in GES
- Pro-D all staff with Kevin Lamoureux author of Ensouling Our Schools, his primary message is all around connection and building relationships with kids. As a result, the district will look at further Pro D around that, GES is looking to incorporate more around them.
- Survey monkey from PAC was sent to teachers
- K-Grade 3 mask mandate started yesterday Oct 04, 2021

Sandra asked one question around whether Kevin Lamoureux has any resources available for parents.

Lynda answered that Kevin did offer a parent talk.

Emily shared that she attended the talk, however there is a private recording on YouTube and Emily has the link, please contact Emily for the link at emilia_moonchild@hotmail.com.

b) Treasurers Report: Sandra Squires – Please see Treasurer’s report for September 2021.

- Reviewed balances / expenses
- Reviewed Equipment PAC Savings balance
- Reviewed PAC savings balance
- Have applied for gaming grant, due at month end.
- Sandra meeting with previous treasurer for full hand over

Emily asked about parts of the playground that are boarded up and asked about whose responsibility it was to maintain.

Lynda explained that once the playground is set up, its up to the district. Slide should be in by January.

c.) Budget – Please see proposed budget report

- Did not include income from school store due to COVID restrictions and lack of volunteers
- Lynda commented that the ability to trade with SCRCD for rentals for skating and swimming won’t take place until November at the earliest due to logistics surrounding COVID and restrictions.
- Small allocation for teachers is per teacher, could consider in future as more teachers potentially share more classrooms, to move that to a per classroom as opposed to per teacher.

Motion to approve including \$100 in the budget for nit kits. Motion to approve, first Emily, second, Kelsey, none opposed.

Motion to approve budget for 2021-2022 first: Taisha, second, Emily, none opposed. Budget approved.

d.) School Store:

- No further report
- If anyone is interested in volunteering for school store, please reach out to Martial at martial.guillaud@gmail.com if interested in volunteering.

e.) Trustee report:

- No report

f.) DPAC Report – Emily Doyle

- First meeting in September of 2021
- Paul Bishop did a presentation about COVID-19 H&S in school district

- DPAC organized the Kevin Lamoureux. presentation around what reconciliation looks like in our schools
- DPAC meetings are open to all parents, they are seeking volunteers for roles, particularly healthy schools committee member
- Please reach out to Emily directly @ emilia_moonchild@hotmail.com if you have anything, you'd like brought to the DPAC table or to inquire about.

5. New Business

Book Fair

- Scholastic book fair hosted by librarian educator, Bronwyn. Looking for parent volunteers for 3 afternoons in November, the week of November 17, 18, 19. Volunteers would need to take payments, put books in bags, etc. Also need a volunteer for Friday November 12, 2021 for 1 hour. Email Emily directly @ emilia_moonchild@hotmail.com and she will put in touch with Bronwyn.

Halloween/Fall basket raffle

- Consensus was the gift baskets were historically a fun thing for children, but in general, not the most effective in terms of a fund raiser/raffle.
- Idea was proposed to move forth with the baskets, not related to Halloween but rather Fall, as a kindness campaign.
- Motion to move forward with fall baskets, kindness campaign, first Emily second Sandra, none opposed.
- Sandra and Kelsey to take lead on initiative.

Fundraising Ideas

- Kelsey asked about seeing corporate dollars and usage for funds, Sandra is going to inquire with gaming grant rules.
- Sandra is going to inquire into any ramifications with envelope donations as well

Motion to move forward with envelope donations / canvassing

- Tree Planting Legacy Proposal– Emily Doyle
 - Pending report that Lynda is going to submit, may determine
 - If interested in a subcommittee, please email Emily @ emilia_moonchild@hotmail.com.

Monkey Survey

- Linda sent survey to teachers
- 17 responses to date
- Responses were heart warming

- What initiatives would you like to see, skating and swimming and sports day food. Also high on the list, Halloween party, school store, hot lunch and treat days
- Asked about ideas and number 1 was an outdoor classroom, support for field trips, enhancing play spaces, more natural play areas, family movie nights
- 75% of staff respondents said they do not read the minutes
- When asked about how to support teachers, would appreciate more communications via email and via Lynda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday November 02, 2021