

# Ecole Sifton School Parent Council

## Minutes for September 17, 2024

Sifton Learning Commons 7:00pm

In Attendance: Jody Songhurst, Jen Zimmerman, Petra Cielgny, Tawnya Williamson, Anne McIntosh, Par McFeely, Sara Bird, Danielle Braim, Kathleen McLennan, Tamsin McComb, Laura Doyle

### 1. Call to order:

1.1 Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that Battle River School Division is located on Treaty 6 territory, and that we respect the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

1.2 Introductions: Welcome to new attendees Laura, Tamsin, Kathleen and to trustee Pat.

### 2. Old Business:

2.1 Davison Orchards Apple Fundraiser: Sales quite down from last year, sold 159 boxes. Had 4 volunteers to help with delivery to parents after school. Very few boxes left for pick up the second day. May consider moving to one day pick up next year. Parent council is considering a new fundraiser in place of apples as other schools (Cornerstone, New Norway, St Pat's) and local youth clubs (New Norway 4-H, Veselka Ukrainian Dancers) are also now running the same fundraiser during both delivery dates (early Sept & mid Oct). Will re-evaluate in spring.

2.2 Hot Lunch: First one ran Sept 27th, orders now open for October's offerings. Currently have 5 vendors, and Sara is looking into Casada as a 6th. Volunteers needed for sorting lunches on Friday, minimum of 2 people needed. Volunteer call will be put out again to get a list of people offering to help with that.

2.3 Grant money: \$50 spent on printing leaflets, with \$150 left over. Carole is open to running another Afternoon Art therapy workshop again since the first was very well received. Date and time of Sunday Nov 24 from 1-3pm selected. Admin will confirm the gym is available. School/Dana to send out reminders the week before and the Friday of the workshop for people to confirm attendance.

2.4 Open House: Amazingly good turnout. Good feedback on the scavenger hunt from parents and kids. 32 names submitted to our volunteer list. In future we will need to remember that all literature being handed out by us needs to also be printed en français. Admin requested money for staff snacks and drinks, parent council approved up to \$150. \$130 was spent on this.

2.5 Boo-hoo Breakfast: \$68.91 was spent on coffee and muffins for the parents of incoming Kindergarten and Maternelle students. Attendance on the first day was 19 people, and

3 on the second. Will continue this event going forward, but a new name is being worked on. Discussion about how Boohoo/yahoo might not be the most welcoming titles to encourage parent participation.

2.6 June Survey re Fundraising, meeting participation, meeting times/date: A few more submissions in addition to the initial 8 received in June. Those who indicated they would like to get involved with volunteering will be followed up with to see if they are still willing/able to do so.

2.7 FitSet Ninja: Admin to look into booking FitSet Ninja from Edmonton for Welcome Night to take place in October.

### 3. New Business:

3.1: Winter fundraisers: Council to run winter greenery fundraiser again. Usually well received and in turn has a nice profit margin for Parent Council. Will discuss ordering timeline and delivery further at next meeting. Council voted to replace our spring flowers fundraiser. Usually our poorest return, and delicate plants such as squash tend to get damaged during transport. Discussion on perhaps still doing plants, but partnering with a local greenhouse where parents can go pick up their plants themselves rather than getting them delivered to the school. A citrus fundraiser MaryAnn mentioned in the past is another possibility. Would run in February approximately. Council to reach out to MaryAnn to see if she can gather more info for the next meeting in order to make a decision. Parent council received a brochure from Prairie Gourmet Perogies. They offer many different types of perogies (savory & sweet), along with sausages. Our profit on a case (3.4kg, from \$43-54) is about \$9.

3.2 Available Positions or re-elections: Chair, Anne McIntosh and Danielle Braim offer to be co-chairs in order to lighten the load off just one person. Secretary, Danielle Braim steps down as secretary and Tawnya Williamson is acclaimed as the new secretary. Fundraising Coordinator, the position is further broken into three positions in order to lighten the load further. Each person is responsible for carrying their fundraiser from opening to completion. Jody is the Apple/Fall Fundraiser coordinator, Tamsin is the Winter Plant coordinator, and the new yet to be decided spring coordinator is tabled until January. Sara has offered to stay on as hot lunch coordinator. Petra and Jody are sharing the social media coordinator role. Petra has offered to be the communications coordinator.

### 4. Principals Report:

Kathleen thanks parents and students for the warm welcome she and Terry have received at Sifton. The storage shed floor is in need of replacing and it will be done this month. The overhead doors need to be done as well, but are still functional. 2 classrooms at the school are getting a pilot program for Chromebox technology. It is intended that this will eventually replace the Smart boards in the classrooms. Important upcoming dates are Orange Shirt Day happening September 27th. Ramona Washburn is coming on September 23rd for Truth and Reconciliation education in advance of Orange Shirt Day. Welcome Night to happen in conjunction with Mental Health in October. School Generated Funds report to be shared at next meeting.

5. Open Discussion & Sharing: Pat Mcfeely reminded council that trustees are always willing to attend meetings in order to support school councils, as their schedule allows, however they need to be officially invited via email. He commends us on further breaking down roles into what works best in order to get parents involved as much as they can be involved. Many other local school councils have folded and turned into Principals Advisory Councils because they weren't able to fill key positions (chair, vice-chair & secretary).

6. Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm. Next meeting to take place October 15th at 7pm