**Namao School Council**

**&**

**Namao School Fundraising Association**

Monday, October 16th, 2023

**6:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Terri England | Leanne Schneider |
| Erin Pruden | Yuliya Alshynetska |
| Tasha Oatway-McLay | Cherie Speer |
| Iain Jamieson | Candice Norlander |
| Nicole Eisenkrein | Ashley Dalla Costa |
| Erin Stoffelen | Dominique Blackburn |

* **Call to order**

Meeting called to order by Terri England at 6:17 P.M.

* **Approval of September’s Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes of September’s meeting made by Erin Pruden and seconded by Ashley Dalla Costa

* **Meeting Decorum**
* *Engage fully by participating with active listening and keeping side conversations to a minimum. All opinions are welcome and valid. This is a safe place to have healthy conflict; be open to possibilities and perspectives. Please ask questions.*
* **Trustee Report** **Tasha Oatway-McLay**
  + **Draft 2025-2026 School Calendar Reviewed**
* Approval is scheduled for February 2024. Any feedback to the calendar is to be provided by the next meeting.
  + **Communication**
* The school division website hosts recorded board meetings, newsletter, which can be subscribed to, and Policy 221 Appendix A Flowchart for external communications.
* The website is available on the school’s website.
  + **Busing:**
* The school division decided not to bring back the half day, noon time busing due to lack of interest and cost. Re-evaluation in a few years.
* **Feedback requested on this year’s staggered school start**:
* Feedback provided:
  + - Having more of a 1:1 with teachers was great.
    - Some misunderstandings and confusion related to the change.
    - Some difficulties with the division of the alphabet and having only a few students one day and the majority the other.
    - Overall, positive feedback was provided.
* **Walkway and Crosswalk Update:**
* Discussions with Sturgeon County Mayor were positive. Sturgeon to take lead on the project changes. Due to cost the county has requested support from both the school division and transportation. Considering community grants to apply for monies to support County for future changes.
* **\*Safe & Caring Schools: - see Addendum**
* The premise of Safe and Caring schools is the responsibility to create learning environments that are welcoming, caring, respectful and safe. There is a respect for diversity and environments to help nurture a sense of belonging for everyone. With the objective in mind the Sturgeon School Division acknowledges sexual and gender minorities. Any concerns please speak to the school’s Administration.
* **Sturgeon Night of Music:**
* A concern brought forth was the Night of Music event being held in Edmonton. The location creates a very long night for those who attend. Two suggestions discussed were to have the event located in Sturgeon or to have more events with smaller groups. The Sturgeon School Division is very committed to having a location to support the capacity for all schools to come together. Sturgeon County does not have a venue that can support not only the capacity required but also the appropriate acoustics. However, Sturgeon School division does recognize that having the event during PD Days is more advantageous for families and is less demanding of time.
* **Guest Speaker (Teacher) Nicole Eisenkrein**
  + **Introduction:**
    - Nicole has been a teacher since 2004 and has taught grades 4-8. Her primary focus is on science and hands on learning. Nicole is also in the role of mentoring teachers in the school. She assists in monitoring school progress in several facets through statistics and is active in curriculum development. Nicole also leads the STEAM initiative. Valuable resources needed to support are loft boards, supplies for the reuse center and volunteering.
* **Principal Report** **Iain Jamieson**
* **Fun upcoming activities for students:**
* Twin Day: students choose clothes and accessories to look alike.
* Anything but a backpack day (Nov 3, 2023).
* **Emergency Response Exercises:**
  + **Fire Alarms:** The recent fire alarm went exceptionally well. The requirements of the school are to have 6 a year. Administration is very cognizant of planning these in the warmer season, aware of how these can impact school activities and can be disruptive to some. Much thought and care are made to when and how these are held. This week is about Fire Safety.
  + **Lockdown Exercise with Police:** This is to be scheduled soon. Discussions around communication to parents as to when this is occurring.
* **No Cell Phone Policy:**
  + Changes made at the start of the year have been going very well. Other schools in the district are curious as to how it is going. The Administration is openly sharing their successes and policy.
* **NSC Chair Report** **Terri England**
* **Shelterbelt Trees**
  + Trees in the West Shelterbelt have been transplanted. We have had 2 water totes stolen. The other two have been emptied and moved to Erin’s house.
* **Gratitude:**
  + Thank you to the Sichkaryk family for moving and spreading all the chips in the East Shelter Belt. Chad Wildfong for donating water to fill our water totes. To the Will family for donating and planting over a half dozen shrubs & trees. Thank you, Candice Norlander, for taking care of the front garden. The rain barrels have been winterized.
* **ICE Internet Safety Program:**
  + Lilian Schick will be hosting the ICE Internet Safety Program on October 26th at 6pm. This event is in person only.
* **Division Rep Update:** 
  + Kirsten Marghella. Any more volunteers? Candice Norlander will rep Elementary division.
* **Staff Appreciation Lunch – Update:**
  + Thank you for the feedback provided. The event will be catered on December 4, 2023, with soup and sandwiches. Thank you cards with messages will be provided or posted.
  + **Historic Namao School Sign Project – update**:
  + This project is approved. Wood has been purchased and is well under budget. The estimated time of completion is spring.
  + **French in Namao – update**
* To be discussed in the spring with regards to whether we want to introduce French classes as part of the curriculum for grades 4-6. A means to receive family feedback was discussed and the option of a survey was determined.
* **Class size – update**
* School division does have funds for occurrence such as these. Discussions are occurring and positive to receive further support.
* **Offered Tee Pee:**
  + Sturgeon Comp has offered the use of their Tee Pee and programing.
* **Playground Maintenance**:
  + Significant preventative maintenance required by the school for the playground. Administration and maintenance department aware and will be completing.
  + **Volleyball Tournament Concession:**
  + Concession request from the Sports Department for the Oct. 28th Volleyball Tournament. Planning is currently underway. Concession with snacks and hot dogs etc. will be in the Foyer.
  + **Remembrance Day Ceremony Nov. 3rd:**
* Coffee and Tea (need volunteers). Thank you to Leanne and Erin who have volunteered.
* **Partnership with Ag Society**
* Discussion regarding partnership to run a “Skating Rink Parties/Concession” for the community.
* **\*Lunch Time Monitors: see Addendum**
* Concerns regarding students watching movies while eating in classrooms. Strategies discussed as to how we can increase lunch time monitors in the classrooms. Partnership with the High School was discussed as it is a volunteer opportunity and proximity to the school is close. Barriers around implementation discussed.
* **Pancake Breakfast:**
* Do we want to run a pancake breakfast again this year? No one opposed.
* **Parent run skating practices during school hours:**
* To utilize the nearby skating rink and offer opportunities for children to skate during school time. Discussed what “practices” would look like and how they could be run by parent volunteers. Discussed structure vs unstructured practices. What do teachers see as being valuable. Feedback requested by group. Discussion around supplies and donations for equipment.
* **Councils Joint Annual Plan - Divisional Goals**
* To be discussed at the next meeting (tabled).
* **NSC Vice Chair Report** **Mike Schneider**
* Highway 37/28 intersection Update:
  + contacted Alberta Transport.
  + 10-year plan for a roundabout
  + plans to have more inspectors at intersections at peak hours.
  + more RCMP monitoring
  + Signs and Lines should become more prominent.
* **Current Fundraiser and Status** **Erin Pruden**
* **Little Caesars Update:**
* Sold 481 items with a total sale equaling $13,953.00.
* Total profit of $ 2986.00
* Pick-up is Thursday October 26, 2023. Families to pick up between 2-530 p.m. at the maker room on the north end of school.
* **Teacher Asks Campaign**
* Classroom account is 7,634.45 with the addition of the Little Caesars profit. We are hoping to give 18 teachers $350 each for a total of $6,300 out of the classroom account. This would leave the balance at $1,334.45. Teachers are asked to provide a wish list to the Administration for approval.
* Moving forward, Erin would like to vote on the funds being released now. Erin would like to motion a request of $6,300.00 from the Classroom Account to go towards Teacher Asks Campaign.
  + Those in favor: 5 show of hands
  + Those opposed: 0 show of hands.
  + Motion is passed.
  + **Healthy Hunger Update:**
  + Health Hunger is off to a great start! We currently have 302 people registered.
  + Boston Pizza was our first lunch with a total sale of $1,634.00 with a net profit of $202.50. Dairy Queen had total sales of 1,604.00 with a net profit of $123.16. All profits are in the Nutrition Initiatives Account.
  + Thank you to all those who volunteered to sort and deliver food to classrooms.
  + **Art Cards Update:**
  + Artwork is currently underway in the K-6 classrooms with a deadline of October 27, 2023. Completed artwork will then be shipped to Art Cards by Kids where they will scan and create a personalized card for each child to take home to their families with instructions for online ordering.
  + Keep an eye out for more information in the coming weeks regarding the online ordering cutoff and order shipment date. All orders will be shipped to the school and then sent home with the children. Hopefully, by the first week of December. No pick-up required!!
* **Fundraising Chair Report Erin Pruden**
  + **Current Christmas Fundraising**:
  + The only fundraising we have for Christmas is the Art cards.
* **Potential Christmas Fundraising ideas:**
  + Soup and Socks decision: decided not to go with the soup.
  + 50/50 draw at Christmas concert. Determine if there are tickets with barcodes for better tracking.
  + Silent Auction: gift baskets, good parking, etc.
  + Consider next year having something to sell and parent teacher conferences such as poinsettias, trees, wreaths, etc.
* **Treasurer’s Report** **Erin Pruden/Terri England**
  + General Account: $16,256.48
  + Big Project: $3,696.23
  + Outdoor: $3930.85
  + Library: $0.00
  + Classroom: $4648.45
  + NSFA Marketing Fund: $260.30
  + Nutrition Initiatives: $3720.61
  + Casino Account: $18,861.58
  + Playground (Nutrition) Account: $0.00
* **Proposals**
* **Important Dates**
* Oct 30th - Individual Picture Retakes
* Oct 31 - Nov 2 - Library Book Fair
* Nov 1-2 - Parent Teacher Interviews
* Nov 3 - Remembrance Day Ceremony
* Nov 4-12 - Fall Break - No School

* **Next Meeting Date: November 13th, 2023 @ 6:00pm**
* Motion to adjourn at 8:31 P.M. made by Terri England, seconded by Erin Pruden.

Addendum/Correction to October Meeting Minutes - 2023

**Under Lunch Time Monitors:**

Concerns About TV in Classrooms During Lunch

* Parents do not believe that this is a healthy habit for kids in classrooms.
* Parents recognize the need for quiet time during lunch, but perhaps other methods could be utilized such as:, listening to music, listening to a podcast, listening to a story being read out loud, reading when done eating.
* Why can’t children just eat and socialize quietly while eating their lunches?
* Couldn’t TV be used for special days as opposed to an everyday occurrence?
* The overall consensus in the room was that the children have too many devices and they should be talking and making personal connections during lunch instead of watching tv.

**Under Safe and Caring Schools:**

In respect to the Safe and caring schools:  
. The trustee informed the room of how the Alberta curriculum does not include the Inclusive and Diversity Environment resources for teachers to compile a lesson plan for their students.

. Because of that the division has adapted a third-party resource known as SOGI 123 to capture inclusion and diversity.

.  The division board wanted to ensure that the parents were aware of the curriculum being separate from this source.

.  The board was informing the room that the negative rhetoric being formed by Taking Back Alberta about SOGI 123 was not what SOGI 123 was designed for.  The learning source of SOGI 123 is understood by the board to be a source that is there for teachers to pull information from in order to apply an inclusive, diverse learning environment that acknowledges sexual and gender minorities.

.  Concerns were brought up by parents about the SOGI 123 intentions as the group has been identified as a source that is no longer accepted in Saskatchewan due to adult content that was distributed by a SOGI 123 presenter.

.  Concerns were also brought up reflecting the B.C. curriculum allowing SOGI 123 lesson plans within the core courses.  The trustee assured the room that the division's adoption of the SOGI 123 resource is not to be confused with B.C’s direction.

. The base concern is that teachers are sourcing out lesson plans from third party resources, not just the Alberta Curriculum. These resources are not transparently advertised to the parents as being available to teachers to use in classrooms as they see fit. This concerningly can lead to value-based learning instead of curriculum-based learning.

.  Any ongoing concerns about learning resources adopted by the division should be addressed to school’s Administration.