

South Nelson PAC Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2024

South Nelson Library, 6:30 pm

Attendees

Dawn S, Cindy P, Carly S, Kristin, Colleen O, Renae H, Sarah C, Carly R, Shannon W, Lisa O, Robyn S

Motions

- APPROVED: Minutes from the June meeting

Chair's Report and Review of Actions

- Welcome Back Coffee Social: traditionally on the 1st day back at school but this year we tried Friday to include K families'. Found K families' focus is on K-entry and best to have it on the 1st day when more parents are at drop-off with time to socialize. Plan for 1st day of school next year and a separate event to include K parents, early in school yr
- Open PAC positions: Carly has volunteered for Vice Chair, which opens up Secretary role. **Secretary** is responsible to take minutes for each PAC meeting. **Volunteer coordinator** needed ASAP - details in Lunch Update
- Requests for new meeting day: Discussed Thursdays as an alternative but Tuesdays work for majority
- Collaboration with Student Council/Student Leadership Group and PAC: how to engage student council and hear how/if PAC can help with projects/events and vice versa. Idea to invite them to PAC coffee socials
- Family Crisis Support: in past years, PAC has desired to offer support to SNES families who have experienced significant losses. Reviewed idea from June mtg to form committee to explore and establish guidelines
- Staining Gazebo: Volunteers needed to stain Gazebo during dry season 2024/2025 (every 3yrs). Cannot be done by school maintenance staff

Principal's Report

- Welcome to new and returning families
- Check the website weekly for school-wide news
- School enrollment: 184 students, less than last year's 205. SD8 is seeing a gradual decline trend in registrations
- Classroom configuration: 2x K/1 classes (Ms. Leeming; Mrs. Dimopoulos), 2x 1/2 (Mrs. Lehnert; Mrs. Crossland, Ms. Benrabha), 1x 2/3 class (Ms. Zuccaro), 2x 3/4 (Mrs. Bonikowsky; Mr. Marsh), and 2x 4/5/6 (Mrs. Sparks; Ms. De Sousa)
- School staff/programs: Library, Prep, and Applied Design Skills & Technologies (ADST)- Mr. Nugent Smith; Music - Ms. Pepperall; Indigenous Success Teacher (supports students who identify as Aboriginal and provides universal classroom programming) - Ms. Corner; Counsellor (social emotional learning, problem solving, and friendship groups) - Ms. Stewart; Inclusion Support (for students with diverse needs) - Ms. Douglas; and 5 Education Assistants - Jessica, Lalaine, John, Dana, and Marni; Secretary - Laura Lundy
- Highlights: Building classroom connection; K transition; new students; Multi-age Groups - building team spirit (colours, flags) for monthly activities; Terry fox run; Cross Country Running - 15 min run Mon/Wed AM for whole school, Tues AM

team practices; Student council - planning a dance next week; School Planning Day (no school on Sept 20); School assembly Sept 27 for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no school on Sept 30)

- Oct 16/17 early dismissal days bumped up earlier this year so parents can get a sense of how things are going before reports come out
- Strategic plan: District wide - Literacy, Numeracy; School determined - Empathy for Others, and Personal and Social Core Competency
- SNES Code of conduct - "GROWS" - Great attitude, Respect, Open mind and heart, Work together, Safety
- Digital device policy - province wide - no personal digital devices on school grounds (cellphones, watches, ear buds, etc) unless specific accommodation and needs to be discussed with principal and teacher
- Partnering with PAC
 - hot lunches: ensuring families who need help with lunch can get all 4 hot lunch days, snacks & packed lunch
 - Dreambox - math skills program to help students work at personal level - 94 licenses purchased for gr. 3-6
- Parent/caregiver volunteers: complete Volunteer Form and Criminal Records Check (CRC): forms online; valid 5yrs
- Art Starts Grant: requests for Shayna Jones, Story Telling; to discuss on planning day, SD8 also working on this
- Cleaning Products: follow up from parent request for info on products being used and scents - school janitorial services have reduced to mostly hydrogen peroxide products, and all products are non-scented or low scent (faint citrus smell)
- Allergies: this year there are no peanut allergies so nuts are ok; for other allergies, teachers will send separate emails
- Plan for gravel rocks at Latimer entrance: drainage repair done this summer to repair pipes under front steps to reduce flood and ice issues on Latimer. Waiting for 2nd cement layer to be poured. Gravel temporarily filling gap until complete. Parent noted overgrown foliage above foot path to Latimer entrance

Lunch Update

- Starting Sept 23: Mon-Wraps, Tues-Sushi, Wed-Pizza, Fri-Hot Dogs
- 1 Vendor opted out this year. Will explore options for a 5th vendor for Thurs to start January 2025
- Feeding Futures guidelines limited fundraising; meal prices have also gone up & we want to keep costs low for families
- Hot Lunch Volunteers:
 - Tuesday - audit sushi due to past missing orders, possibility of auditing for a period to see if volunteer is still needed
 - Wednesday - pick up, distribute and sell extra pizza (2 volunteers); discussion re. grade 5's running pizza day to raise money for their grad celebration, need parent volunteers until confirmed and to deliver pizzas from Thurs weekly
 - Friday - pick up hot dogs at Big Dee's and deliver to classrooms
- **Volunteer coordinator** needed ASAP: role includes setting up Sign Up Genius with hot lunch volunteer dates, sending link out for sign up, and monitoring to make sure all dates are covered. If back up is needed/open dates, coordinator is responsible to get volunteers using "backup volunteers" email list. There are some regular and committed volunteers. More needed. Lunch volunteers say it's a fun job and nice to be there during school hours.

Fundraising Report

- Art Cards - Anna has already organized and brought supplies to school
- Grocery Cards - Stephanie L - will attach to playground upgrade; she has found replacement for her role
- Purdy's - Shannon will coordinate again this year

- Georama Plant Sale - Colleen volunteered to help
- South Nelson 'Swag' - explore doing toques for Holiday Market
- New ideas: 1. Mabel's Labels -Lisa; 2. West Coast Seeds-Shannon applied this year. Spring seeds sale opens Nov-Feb.
- Movie Night in October - Tyler; suggested date: Oct 18th, movie: Inside Out 2? SD8 should have a license. Popcorn-Lisa
- Santa's Workshop - Shannon; discuss in Oct

Treasurer's Report

- Tyler prepared a Financial Review of 2023/2024. Report attached
- The lunch program operated at a slight loss compared to last year's profit of \$7,000. School district guidelines reduced pizza day profits which was the big change. May need to account for the 3% Munchalunch processor payment
- \$3700 remaining in the gaming account should be spent this year. Applied for another \$3,800 from gaming grant.

Playground Updates

- Voted last year on a plan to add stumps and ropes to the existing log playground to create a "floor is lava" type of flow
- Sarah has connected with Better Lawn and Garden, the company that did the stairs and rope railings going to upper field, about this project
- Carly has left messages for the company, Coast Timber Frame - Eric Menard - that did the original playground
- Dawn can coordinate meeting with district playground contact to discuss plans to add to the existing structure
- Gaming Grant funds may be available to use this year for these upgrades
- Suggestions: Get copy of original plans/drawings as there had been plans to expand; Build/buy a Gaga Ball Pit
- Grass improvement: PAC and school admin have pursued this over the years - it is a longer term and more complex issue due to need for drainage, watering, irrigation, soil
- Discussed need for more shade: Shade sails were donated but were not able to be anchored/ installed and were returned; possibility of shade trees?

DPAC Updates

- need to pay fees December 31, 2024

Actions

- Dawn will follow up with grade 5 staff to explore their classes' participation in pizza day
- Dawn will follow up as to whether the grade 3's from the 2/3 class can have access to Dreambox
- Dawn will connect with PAC once SNES leadership group is established re. pitching ideas at a PAC coffee social
- Dawn to look into whether SNES has Non-profit status for donations
- Cindy to send out flyer re. Volunteers needed for staining the Gazebo
- Michelle to research guidelines for family crisis fund and form committee
- Sarah C will reconnect with Better Lawn and Garden contact re. Playground plan and estimate
- Carly to connect with original playground builders for original plans

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Proposed next dates from 2nd Tuesday/Month: Nov 12, Dec (TBD Holiday Social), Jan 14, Feb 11, Mar 11, April 8, May 13, June (TBD Year End Social)