

GEORGE STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL  
Parent School Support Committee  
Meeting Monday September 26, 2016

**Present:** Pamela Kitchen (Chair), Stephanie Haslam, Kim Kelly (Home & School), Anne Manderson (Teacher Representative), Nya Black, Tim Yerxa, Michelle O'Keefe (Vice Principal), Trish Fournier-Hoyt, Dave Bowen (Vice Chair) . Regrets; Tina & Heather, Cathy DeWitt

**Regrets:** Terry Pond (DEC Rep), Pierre Plourde (Principal)

### 1. Call to Order

- Minutes reviewed. Nothing to add. Approved – Tim, Second Lisa.

### 2. Chair's Report

- Budget reviewed. Typically used for communication for parents. Last year we held the “not my child” session. Suggestions for this year include:
- Support for new groups starting within the school
  - the Link program (in house “Block Parent”. Teachers have stickers & kids have cards to leave with teacher to talk to them about things which are going on & may need services)
  - Split Peas (Support for children with divorced parents)
  - GSA (safe zones within school to coincide with block parent program).
- Work with another school to have an event.
- Training at DEC Symposium.
- SeeSaw app training & tech support. Garden Creek & New Maryland is doing this now. Would like to incorporate with Parent Portal. **Action Ann: Contact Garden Creek on the program.**
- FAQ sheet/brochure for parents. Magnets were a success.
- Translation services to our Top 5/6 FAQ. Pierre would know what we languages we should use. MCAF could be a lead. Find out who (Pierre) and perhaps we can share cost with other schools. **Action Lisa to call MCAF and Optima for cost analysis.**
- Concern regarding time spent on discussing how to spend funds. Do we need the money with technology available between email and websites. **Action Pam: Discuss with Pierre to see if can be mentioned to DEC rep. Also she will chat with other PSSC committees to find out how they are spending their money.**
- If anyone thinks of anything else, email Pam with information.

### 3. Principal's Report – School Improvement Plan (Michelle)

- Positive use of social technology is this Thursday. Two lessons for students to use are organized.
- School improvement plan: The individual subject goals have been submitted.

- Going to have focus piece on engagement . Lead to learn & learn to lead conference coming up as well as Choice Words conference Wednesday. Grade 7 students are going to be participating in Mindfulness (mind up curriculum: how to train yourself to learn, calm down & apply it to learning)
- Language Arts focus on organizing thoughts & ideas to help with writing.
- Social Studies: critical thinking
- Phys Ed: cardio, strength & flexibility
- Science: read chart, graphs & data
- FILA: reading fluency.
- PRA/Technology: written reflections of knowledge.
- Post immersion French: daily conversation topics
- Question: Has there been any feedback from high schools on feedback from when students enter and if they are missing anything. Nothing to date but would be good feedback.
- Review report and advise if any questions.
- Maker space is still a success. **Action Pam to discuss with Pierre to invite Jacob Lingley to show off the room and what is in there.**
- Apple sales was a huge success with exceeded sales. On Thursday the Wellness group are going to the Orchard to bag the apples. For those being donated, GSMS will give what they can handle and donate the financial equivalent for the rest. **Action Pierre: pick up day reminder message to parents.**

#### 4. Teacher's Report

- Sustainability seminar Wednesday for grade 6 classes.
- FILA teachers have training on how to benchmark and how to use the information. Grade 3 immersion students tend to need to help with reading skills. Going to have interventions put in place. Goal is students can talk about their own strengths & weaknesses in their reading and set goals for themselves.
- Question: will changes to FI entry grade change be impacting this. Not for a few years so should be ok. Discussed difference between grade 1 & 3 entry points. French skills vary but not English. Reading comprehension is biggest difference. Going to have to run 2 systems for a few years as those in grade 3 can't miss out on immersion opportunity. Needs more facilitators.

#### 5. DEC Representative's Report

Terry was unable to attend.

#### 6. Home and School - Kim

- November Nonsense is Friday November 25 6:30-8:30 (PD Day). Info going to home early November. Need parent volunteers to work tables, booths, games, raffles, gift tree, top raffle ticket seller. Cafeteria is open to sell pizza. Will see what is priority at the time and use the money for that. Perhaps a new dunk tank, but suggestions welcome.

## **7. New Business**

- Does the school make practice of the Indigenous Territory Acknowledgements? Tim interested in working with GSMS to adopt this into the school. Perhaps start with Remembrance Day.  
**Action Michelle: mention suggestion to Pierre.**

## **8. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:01pm

Minutes submitted by Lisa Colwell

**Date of Next Meeting: November 14, 2016 6pm**

**Budget to be used by March 31<sup>st</sup> -2017**

**2123.11 – June Supper 193.91 = \$1929.20**