



School Council Meeting St. Augustine's Elementary February 5, 2024

In attendance: Andrea Clarke, Diana Lahey, Cathy Tulk, Amanda Murray, Ashley Arnold, Lois Vokey and Chris Doyle

Online: Erin Blake

Regrets: Joey Somerton, Brad Lawrence, Walter King, Jenna Vokey, Quinton Johnson

1. Meeting called to order

- Meeting was called to order - first by Cathy Tulk, second by Ashley Arnold.

2. Minutes of last meeting

- Minutes from the last meeting were passed - first by Lois Vokey, second by Diana Lahey.

3. Principal's report

- **Bussing** - The only bus stops that children should be getting off at are the ones assigned to them, that is **the bus stop that they are picked up at in the morning**. Every child is approved for the BGC but a note or email is required. New procedure for the BGC lists at bus stop that is if the child's name is on the list the worker will take them into the BGC and if it is not, the worker will not take them into the BGC. They will have to go home. **All of these rules are to keep our students safe. Andrea mentioned recent incidents that have been occurring and the problems and confusion it creates.** All students in the school were reminded of this and a synrevoice was released to explain to all guardians.
- **Fundraisers** - Chase the Ace was turned down and Andrea spoke about the 50/50, 40th Anniversary Dinner and dance, and other fundraisers.
- **Microsoft Grant** - Andrea applied for a NLSchools loan and then, they would use the grant money to repay the loan.
- **Professional Learning Days** -
 - The next PL is the RTL Database Ministerial Leave/School Closeout Day which is on February 9 for St. Augustine's Elementary. SAs and TLA are doing something on the K-12PL Site.
 - Andrea Bowman Grade 5 will be doing the Teacher Champion Physical Education PL on Tuesday, February 6th. This is a full-day PL session organized by NLSchools featuring a distinguished presenter, Mr. Mike Kuczala, who brings extensive expertise in physical education and innovative teaching methodologies.
 - Andrea also reached out to some of our program specialists to plan for PL related to school development such as Wellness and Positive Relationships particularly; Healthy Eating, Family Engagement and Self Efficacy. We've made a few great moves toward Healthy Eating and are still in the process for others to take place so I think this goal is well on its way.
 - Jeremy Brake Gym teacher - Did a masters course in Comprehensive School Health. He said we are really on the right track.
 - FOS 9 and 10 Administrators Meeting February 8
 - Andrea Clarke Delegation of Financial Authority Training

- Allyssa Strange Ecoschools PL March 13 or 14
- **Grants** - Andrea applied for the \$1000 Comprehensive School Health grant. It was applied for to use for School Lunch taste tester days and Fruit Fridays. Hopefully, we are successful in getting this to help offset the cost of these events. Andrea also has a Canada Post grant that she is waiting to open to apply for (February 12th) - for the playground.
- **Playground** - St. Augustine's has \$75 943 to date and as Andrea stated in the staff meeting, the \$10 000 grant from 2016-2017 has been secured.
 - Our second 40th Anniversary Playground 50/50 FRENZY tickets are going really well but we do encourage staff, school council to take 10-20 tickets if at all possible to sell. If you are unable to do so but would like to buy some, please reach out to one of us who is selling and purchase some. Every ticket sold or bought makes a tremendous difference. We are also going to give out monetary prizes to the top three selling students (\$50 for first, \$30 for second and \$20 for third). There's no obligation for anyone to sell staff or students but we are encouraging the sales by everyone. We are very close to our goal and it can be achieved if everyone helps out. We are determined to get this for the children.
 - On Saturday, Andrea sent an email to every member of the house of assembly challenging them to personally support our cause. Andrea also sent a letter to the Minister of Education asking why they don't contribute more when new schools come with playgrounds. Why should our students be any less? We're no second class school. Andrea heard back from some of them. Andrea explained that all new schools are being built with playgrounds included. She heard back from Lucy Stoyles, James Dinn, Craig Pardy. Craig Pardy mentioned bringing this issue in the House for the 2024 budget. As well, James Dinn mentioned getting the full price of the playground covered so that the school can use the money raised for the playground on other concerns in the school. Also, Andrea wrote Fred Hutton 7:15 Wednesday morning and asked him when he'll be set up to check into more funding for us. He said give him a couple of weeks. Andrea will be sending him another message Wednesday, February 14th.
 - We are waiting until our next school council and staff meeting to talk about plans for our 40th Anniversary dinner and dance.
 - St. Michael's Hall is top priority as they have volunteered many events for St. Augustine's Elementary and the students.
 - Possibility of having both a band and a DJ. A band could be playing in the beginning and then the DJ could be playing music towards the end.
 - May 25th possible date for the event
 - Students could cater but may be a safety concern
 - February 12, Canada Post opens up their Community Foundation grant applications and the deadline is March 1st. Andrea will be applying for this grant as well.
- **ArtsSmarts** - Local artist Brian Burke has started the preparation work for our murals that we received funding from the ArtsSmarts program. The students from Grade K - 6 are totally engaged in this outstanding project. They will create the mural with old recycled materials like bottle caps. Hoping to be completed by the end of March. Andrea will contact CBC and NTV to come over to show what the students are doing with the ArtsSmarts program.
- **School Development - Wellness and Positive Relationships**
 - Based on 2022-2023 surveys and where staff, board sees need
 - Heat up lunches are going well
 - Fruit Fridays:
 - Watermelon, Apples, Oranges, bananas, Pomegranate and Pineapple
 - Dragon Fruit, Cantaloupe

- Bedtime stories, activities and games with PJs and snacks went well
- Family Literacy Event went extremely well - good reception
- The Department of Education's 2023-24 School Development Surveys are available online beginning today, February 5th. All surveys are to be completed by Friday, March 15th. Here is the link for staff ones;
 - Instructional Staff
 - Non-instructional Staff
 - Grades 3-4
 - Grades 5-6
 - Family Survey
- **Lego Club:** Looking for donations of legos.
- **Teacher Staff Appreciation week:** February 11 - 17. Andrea would like suggestions of extra plans.
- **Shrove Tuesday / Pancake Day:** Andrea asked for volunteers for this event on Tuesday, February 13th. Ashley Arnold volunteered for this.
- **Foster Families Presentation:** This is the group that has come to our school for the number of years to present about the diversity of families that exist. Booked for Wednesday, February 14th.
- **Recycling/Deep Learning/SEL Group:** building 3 benches for the school front entrance. Next blitz Feb. 16
- **Akita Pride/Awards:** Our next Akita Pride and Awards day is Friday, February 23, 2024
- **Pink Shirt Day:** Wednesday, February 28 Shirts are ordered and we will have activities such as presentations to students and Families, Katrina Vanta (guidance) and Gwen Carroll (safe and inclusive schools itinerant) are helping to see what's available. Also, a kindness challenge for the month of February.
- **Kinderstart:** Four sessions; the last Thursday of each month. First one Thursday, February 29
- **PreK:** Possibility for 2024-2025 school year, Music room
- **Breakfast/Cereal Blitz:** Thursday, February 29
- **Report Cards:** Report cards go home with the students Tuesday, March 19th and Family Conferences are Thursday, March 21st.
- **100th Day of School:** dress as a 100 year old.

4. Other issues or concerns

Nothing at this time

5. Date of next meeting

Monday, March 11, 2024

6. Closing

First by Cathy Tulk.

Second by Lois Vokey.