

## STUART BAKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL

Monday, February 9, 2015, 5:00-6:00

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*Attended by: Peggy Barrette, Jim Hopkins, Jennifer Wood, Jennifer Horner, Heather Deveaux, Sam Itani, Vicki Hoare, Bill Moshenko*

*Regrets: Karen Pettinella.*

1. **Action items from previous meeting** – Vicki
  - a. Further discussion of yearbook (need Jo for this discussion)
  - b. Adding info to the newsletter about Parent Resource Library (done!)
  - c. Looking for ideas from staff on fundraising needs (see Principal's Report)
  - d. Follow up with Gary Burtch re: bench (Jim to talk to Gary)
  
2. **Principal's corner** – Peggy
  - a. School staffing and enrolment levels
    - Peggy gave a brief update on the process around staffing a school. There is a board formula that helps to determine staffing levels according to enrolment. Considerations include: caps on class numbers, enrolment numbers, and available staff, by grade, qualifications, French/English, and staff preferences & strengths, as far as possible. Then there is also a great deal of thought given to class composition – grades, split classes, numbers of boys and girls in each class, special needs to consider, etc. This process begins now for next year's school year. At this point the numbers look pretty much the same for next year as it has been this year.
    - SBES is currently considered to be at or slightly over capacity. It was unsure whether this conclusion was drawn prior to or after the addition on the school. There has been discussion in the past around moving grade 3 over to JDH, which reportedly has extra, unused classroom spaces. Sam expressed council's interest in being involved in the process if this idea is being considered again to help ensure success. There is a strict process around such a move.
    - There was some discussion around the French Immersion/English Stream "divide", and how faculty and parent modeling cooperation and integration could be helpful for the kids in fostering a positive environment . Peggy noted this was being discussed at a meeting with FI staff this week.
  - b. Staff Report? Sam pointed out that JDH offers their staff liaison on council an opportunity also to make a report. Jim, as our staff member representative, could present the staff perspective if there is anything of note to report.

3. **Parent engagement exercise 2 – Jo M (deferred to a future meeting)**

4. **Fundraising brainstorm continued**

a. Review of ideas from SBES staff:

(Radios, Defibrillators, Skating, Outdoor “stuff”)

- RE: Defibrillators have been discussed before. Some more research has been done on this subject, so it is a feasible option. There is a requirement that staff be trained on their use, and then the units need to be inspected regularly. Ongoing maintenance may incur some costs over the life of the machines.

**ACTION: Peggy** to find out who is responsible for ongoing costs of maintenance, battery replacement, etc. Would it be the school, or would school council have to fundraise for maintenance on an ongoing basis?

**ACTION: Jen W** to check in with Aggie Tose to find out about training

- RE: Skating
  - It was suggested that if we are considering skating again this year, we might consider using the rink/oval in Head Lake Park (free use, only have to cover bus). This could present problems in terms of logistics – places to sit while kids put on skates, and is weather/temperature dependent.
  - We have excluded Kindergarten students in the past, because Kinders require a 1:4 ratio and therefore a large number of parent volunteers would be required. Would we like to include them?
  - All agreed that council will sponsor a school skating outing.

**ACTION: Peggy** to look into scheduling a skating day in March or April, and will check with Kinder teachers to see if they are interested in participating.

- School Yearbook –
  - There are a couple of options in terms of pricing, depending on how much work we want to put in to the project. The simplest for us is to have the company put the book together for us, but this is also the more expensive option, and has a minimum order of 250 books.
  - If we partner with JDH we could hit that minimum.
  - We don't want to sponsor the entire cost as a school council, since this would set a precedent for future years if it were continued. And the more expensive option is beyond our means in any event. But we may consider subsidizing a portion of the cost and having parents pay the rest.

- There was some discussion about how many people would actually purchase them.

**ACTION: Sam** to check with JDH on whether they would like to work together on a joint SBES/JDH yearbook.

**ACTION: Sam** also to check with Jo M to discuss the details and options.

**5. Sub day review/next one – Jen W**

- a. 190 kids ordered subs, very few needing subsidy. This makes us \$1.00 per sub, so we raised \$180
- b. One allergy order managed perfectly. Overall very few glitches.
- c. For subsequent years we may want to consider making the price a round figure (\$5 instead of \$4.50) to minimize the coin-rolling!
- d. A few comments were made, mostly positive. A few parents have indicated that they would rather have a 6" sub for their child, and that for future sub days they would just provide their own. (There was possibly some misunderstanding that this initiative was actually a fundraiser.)

**6. Key agenda items for next meeting in March:**

- a. Fun night – Bill
- b. PRO Grant – Vicki
  - i. We have applied for this successfully in the past, to help increase parent engagement at the school. We have been using it to hold workshops, to lukewarm response. Other options to be considered.
    - 1. Suggestion: First aid training here at the school.
- c. Parent Engagement Exercise – Jo

2014-15 meeting dates:

March 9/15 @ SBES

April 13/15

May 11/15

June 17/15

Highlight = joint meeting with JDH (SBES meeting 5-6; joint meeting 6-7)

All meetings (SBES and JDH school councils) will be held at SBES to make it easy for parents with kids at both schools to attend both meetings.