

## South Meridian Elementary School – PAC Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2024, 6:30 pm, at school library

### Welcome and Introductions

- Present: Rhian Walker, Co-chair; Marloes Holland, Co-chair; Courtney Peluso, co-VP; Kayla McKinlay, co-VP; Wendy Bloye, Treasurer; Marilyn Fransen, Secretary; Andrea LaPointe, Principal; seven other parents
- Introduction of PAC executive
- Welcome to Andrea LaPointe, new Acting Principal

### Motion to Approve the Last PAC Meeting's Minutes (AGM)

- The minutes were distributed with the notice of this meeting.
- Marilyn motioned they be approved
- Wendy seconded
- Vote: approved

### Principal's report – Andrea LaPointe, Acting Principal

- **Introduction:** Ms. LaPointe has been employed by the district since 2005, was a classroom teacher, teacher-librarian, district helping teacher (for librarians), and a Vice Principal (last year at Katzie, a large school in our district). She is thrilled to be here, and impressed with the teaching team. She is looking forward to working with the PAC executive to get parent input and contributions, and develop the school culture.
- **Flood update:** Restoration happened over the summer; it ended up resulting in a nice facelift with some carpets and paint/trim in most of the classrooms. Some things are outstanding; some fixes will happen on the Pro-D day on Sept 27 and so staff will work off-site that day.
- **8-classroom addition:** Focus lately has been on the external part. Fencing will remain in place for a few weeks to protect new grass. The extension is planned to open in spring, probably April. There will be some shuffling of classrooms besides the ones currently in the portables, depending on differing teacher needs. There is also a plan for a before-after school care space in the new addition. New furniture is coming as well.
- **Outside, playground**
  - **Gaga ball pit** – has been ordered (partially paid by the construction project, partially from the award a student won last year). Remaining is budgeted for the PAC to pay for as needed. It will be placed between the intermediate swings and the newest playground closest to the library.
  - Also **hopscotch** and **foursquare** areas are being repainted later this month.
  - **Tether ball** and **long jump** are in a longer-term plan.
- Question: Is **any exterior painting** being done on the existing building? Unknown at this time but she is looking at replacing the mural and potentially the logo. A faculty committee is starting to discuss next week.

- Also there are discussions ongoing about the **gym sound system**. Staff would love to have a permanently installed speaker system and projector. This would require PAC involvement to cover the costs.
- The **gravel field and forest** have been closed to student access temporarily because of **lack of supervisors during lunch**. The school is looking for anyone interested in this position (a 1 hour per day paid position, or even would consider someone who can only do it some days). Ms. LaPointe has been given permission to interview candidates herself directly. Anyone interested in applying, please email Ms. LaPointe.
- City and school district policy to **keep pets off the school grounds**. She was surprised to see so many pets at our school and after consultation with the staff, she will be looking to enforce that. The main issue is due to health and safety.
- **“Acting” Principal role – what does this mean?** She would like to be here in the long term. She was a VP for one year and had not yet applied to be a principal, so that is why they use the term “acting”. She intends to go through that process, however. This is not a term/temporary position and conceivably once she completes the process the “acting” terminology could be removed. Parents can continue to communicate with the district to voice their desire to have continuity going forward, after having our previous principal for only one year.
- **Question: When is picture day? Oct 15.**

#### **Treasurer's Report – Wendy Bloye**

- Reviewed **last year's financial report** (attaching to minutes).
  - General chequing account started with \$38,000, \$20,000 in the playground account, \$9,000 in gaming account (these funds are subject to gaming grant rules).
  - Ended year with \$26,000, playground unchanged, gaming \$1,100.
  - Also provided total revenues vs spent. The plan last year was to spend a lot of capital, which was done.
- **Starting this year:**
  - \$19,000 in general account, \$20,000 in the playground (gained interest), \$2,980 (spring fair money was transferred into this account).
- **Budget for this year was presented.** This is based on what was approved at the AGM, but it can be changed via PAC vote.
  - **Planned deficit of \$4,800**
  - Larger-cost items to be determined: **gym sound system**. Andrea will investigate through the district because then they can properly source items that district staff can then support/repair in future.

#### **Proposed Events/Activities Upcoming**

- **Halloween Party:**
  - **Proposed date Oct 24, 5-8pm.** Would need to finalize with Ms. LaPointe.
  - Volunteer recruitment: need 8-10 people for set-up, take down, managing games, serving food, etc.
  - Event would include DJ, food orders and ticket sales, games and rentals
  - So far Marloes, Courtney, and Kayla have volunteered to help and **will set up a sub-committee [ACTION ITEM]**. Also Adam McEwan (absent).

- Hot lunch begins Oct. 4, see PAC e-news for details and how to register/purchase. Remember to volunteer during the signup, but also email the PAC if you are able to volunteer. [Deadline for submitting orders for the first session, until winter break, is midnight Thursday Sept. 26.]
- Reminder: [sign up for PAC Google calendar](#) for all events and fundraising (see PAC emails/newsletters for the link)

### **Proposed Fundraising Events Upcoming**

- **Art cards.** With this fundraiser that the PAC has put on for many years, students get 11x17 paper and do a “directed drawing” led by the teacher; they create a winter or Christmas theme which is then offered to parents to purchase in the form of holiday cards and other products, e.g., wall art or puzzles based on their child’s art. They would be available in time for Christmas. Wendy is taking the lead so far to get it started **[ACTION ITEM]** but **if anyone else wants to get involved and potentially get up to speed to lead it next year, please contact the PAC email.**
- **Purdy’s** will also be before Christmas. Details to come. **[ACTION ITEM: Wendy]**

### **Parent Education Topics**

- Some brainstorming about ideas and what has been offered in the past; will look for further input in future.

### **Class Parents**

- **Contact the PAC or your classroom teacher if you would like to be a class parent.**
- One main part of the role is to administer a group chat among parents (WhatsApp is recommended. After hot lunch signups are done, we will each have access to other parents’ contact information in the same class, if they give permission for their info to be shared within the class. Then any remaining parents can be asked by the teacher if they want to share their contact info to join the chat.

### **Call for Additional Items**

- **Scholarship idea.** Wendy has found out about other elementary schools who give scholarships to a grade 12 grad at their catchment’s high school, who attended the elementary school (in grade 7). [Our high school is Earl Marriott]. Discussed.
  - Motion by Rhian – provide a \$500 scholarship as described above.
  - Seconded by Kayla
  - Passed.
  - Wendy has already obtained the form so she will submit it. **[ACTION ITEM]**
- **Pickleball** as an idea for an in-school activity the PAC could fund this year. Any other suggestions? Last year we funded hip hop dance, and yoga. Marloes will get a quote and/or work with Andrea on approved suppliers to investigate for pickleball. **[ACTION ITEM]**
- Suggestion to Principal LaPointe to give parents **more info on extra-curricular activities and sports/clubs** so they can encourage participation, rather than relying on students to inform their parents.

**Date of next meeting; Next meeting scheduled for Oct 16, on Zoom, at 6:30pm.**

**Meeting Adjourned 7:45 pm**