

Stuart Baker Elementary School Council
Minutes from November 27, 2013 meeting

1. Introductions

- In Attendance: Sam Itani, Darlene Armstrong, Darby Bayly (welcome!), Amanda Manning, Bill Moschenko, Jim Hopkins, Andrea Borysiuk and Vicki Hoare
- Regrets: Joelle Shen, Heather Deveaux

5.c) presentation by Jim Hopkins

- Jim attended the Active Living Symposium
- Dave Lyons is the consultant for Active Living for the Board
- There is a push to get kids active and outside – there is QDPA, which is 20 minutes of physical activity/day in addition to phys. Ed.
- At SBES healthy active living is already a key component of what they do and it can be seen in the health and physical education programs, playground equipment, healthy snack program, drum fit, character education
- Jim did a survey in the fall of all the classes in the school and found that most subjects have some outside time factored into them (e.g. Art, science/math, phys.ed, QDPA, music, drum fit) – it worked out to approx. 200 minutes/week that each class is spending outside
- There are 200 acres behind the school with an extensive trail system
- SBES is a really active school, already in line with new guidelines for physical activity and outside time
- Ginny Marsden is the mental health lead at the school
- We watched a brief video of a talk by John J. Ratey M.D. who is also the author of “Spark”
- Sam is wondering if we can get info out to parents and the community in regards to how well SBES is doing with physical activity and outside time and that there is a specific staff person focusing on mental health – perhaps at parent engagement kids could demonstrate drum fit, mind up breathing, squats, etc. or we could put something on the website
- It is important to let parents know what the big focus of the Board and the school is and how much outside time and physical activity our students are getting – this is probably not widely known in the parent community

3. Review Previous minutes

- Action items: \$1200 for walkie talkies has been approved; no changes or additions

4. Membership

- Sam has contacted Lisa Hamilton at Point in Time, she is very busy right now and not able to commit to being community member at this time
- Andrea is meeting with Karen Pettinella from the health unit, she may be interested in joining as community member – meeting with Karen and Dave Lyons next week
- Vicki has been in touch with Dawn Hurd and will report back her response at the next meeting

5. Principal’s Corner

- Andrea attended the Quest Conference where they learned about school systems in different countries

- Will start to look at what defines the box we live in as educators? How do we think outside the box?
- Andrea is on a board committee for system improvement
- Skating – bussing cost is \$125/day and the rink cost is \$80/hour (would need arena for 2.5 hours and have previously done 3 days/winter).
- Hot Lunches – there are no volunteers to help with the distribution of hot lunches, this is the reason why they have not happened this year. Volunteers would be needed from 10-10:30 to distribute lunches to classrooms. There is some concern around extra costs for some families and if this causes additional stress, there are funds that the school can draw on for families in need. Andrea will put out a call for volunteers. Sam reports that a number of people have approached her in regards to the hot lunches and have expressed that they will volunteer if that is the reason why this program hasn't been running.
- The holiday concert will be Wednesday Dec 18 at 1:30 over at JDH

6. Cookbook update

- The cookbook is almost ready. Sam just needs to merge the word documents into a PDF and send to the printer, this will happen by next week at the latest, there is a one week turn around, then they will be ready to sell. The price that was agreed upon was \$10 each or 2 for \$15.
- All members agreed on a light blue card stock for the cover.
- Sunhats – there aren't enough for every child in the school to receive one. Jim proposed that each child in kindergarten receive one in the spring as part of sun safety education and then going forward they would be given to Junior Kinders in future years. Jim also suggested that each class could be colour coded in the future/as the sun safety program evolves. The plan is to launch the sunhats/sun safety program in the spring, e.g. May. Jim is thinking about having the press join us for the launch and also somebody from the health unit, e.g. good news story and some good awareness and promo. Council was supportive of these ideas.

7. Bullying Workshop

- Andrea has spoken with Joan Wilson at Point in Time who is going to look into some options
- Sam has spoken with Lisa Hamilton, Lisa said that although they are not trainers there, they would be willing to do a presentation to parents and staff. Sam will follow up for more details.
- Kid Proof Canada won't qualify for spending under our PRO grant as this is targeted at kids and PRO grants are supposed to be focused on parent engagement
- Amanda Manning suggested contacting someone at Chimo and is willing to make that contact
- Sam also told the group about Jim Jordan, who does a bullying presentation focusing on the K-3 age group, Sam could get more info but it was decided that we would look at local options first.
- Barbara Coloroso was in Bancroft last week – many schools collaborated to make this happen, something like this is beyond our financial means at this time but would be good to keep in mind in the future re. future partnerships and collaboration.

- We are looking at a timeline of late winter, perhaps the third week of February, for our workshop.
8. Fundraising
- Ideas discussed at last meeting were enrichment clusters, skating trips, classroom infrastructure, class trips, soccer nets, etc. There is \$5400 in bank minus \$1200 for walkie talkies
 - With this in mind can we support school skating trips at a cost of approx. \$1000 for the 3 days for students in Grades 1-3? School council supports this unanimously. There was some concern raised around children who do not have skates, helmets, etc. – any child without equipment has access to donated equipment at the school.
 - It was decided that we would hold off on making any further fundraising commitments with this year’s fun night funds until later in the year – there is no rush.
9. Parent Communications
- Andrea proposes having a targeted newsletter – fall, December, winter, spring instead of a monthly newsletter, this seems like a great idea and all agreed. Council will still have space in the newsletter for communication to parents.
 - Sam drafted a blurb for school council, all info will be available on the website and sections will go out in the newsletter. Vicki is to check blurb/get back to Sam.
10. District School Council Meeting
- Sam attended in Minden
 - Larry Hope was there and talked about Strategic Plan, report on bullying, Ministry of Education mental health strategy
 - Also discussed were the EQAO results for the Board, Safe and Welcome Schools – 10 schools in the Board have requested buzzer system, SBES doesn’t feel this is needed at this time.
 - The 7 questions that were discussed at the September council meeting were discussed again by each school rep.
 - Sam will continue to forward the link to the minutes as these meetings come up.
11. Joint Meeting with JDH
- Peter Smith would like to know if we are interested in having another joint meeting, it would be our turn to host joint meeting in April likely.
 - Sam will suggest we meet on our regular meeting night – all agree. Sam to take back to Peter to start honing in on a date.
12. Walk Ons
- Sam can’t make it to the January meeting (Jan 15), everyone agreed to have meeting on Jan 22. **NB: Sam’s travel dates have changed and we are good to keep the meeting on January 15th if that still works for all.**
 - There have been a few requests for the early bus to park to the right as it currently blocks off entire driveway – Andrea will discuss/look into.
 - Sam requested that at some time in the new year there be an EQAO info night for parents of grade 3 students – what it is, why it’s done, what to expect, how to prepare child, how to handle anxiety around it, etc.