

Eagle Mountain Middle PAC General Meeting
Tuesday, September 22, 2020
7:00pm held via Zoom

Attendance:

Diane M. (Chair)

Shannon v. (Treasurer)

Annie T. (DPAC)

Darren Macmillan

Katie G. (Vice Chair)

Mary Anne P. (Secretary)

Marcela P. (Member-at-Large)

Kirsten Paterson

25 parents in attendance

Meeting was called to order by Diane M. at 7:00pm.

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Introductions around the “screen”.
- Thank you to Darren and Kirsten for always supporting us and helping us make things work on Zoom.

2. Approval of the Agenda

- Marcela motions to approve the agenda. Katie seconded the motion. All were in favour. The motion carried.

3. Adopt minutes from June 9, 2020

- Shannon motions to adopt the minutes of the meeting held by Zoom on Tuesday, June 9th. Katie seconded the motion. All were in favour. The motion carried.

4. Admin Report

- It's great to “see” so many people!
- Things are so incredibly different, it's hard to put into words.
- I hope you are getting our communications from the office.
- Last May, we would have had a Welcome Meeting for incoming Grade 6 students and parents. We couldn't do that this year. We understand this is difficult.
- We are at about 601 students. The school was built for 520. We thought we would have 615 so we are down a little bit from what was expected.
- Grade 8's is largest group. Grade 6's is smallest group.
- We are averaging 585 students in the building each day.
- Many people are asking about the “gradual transition program”. We want to work with you and your children to make them as comfortable in the school as possible. We have about 25 people who have settled into a “gradual return” even though most of those people have been at the school full time. Our #1 priority is to have your child connected to their teacher, even if it doesn't give the full breadth of what happens in the classroom.

- We are trying very hard to do things that are meaningful for students so that they will remember the year for more than wearing masks and washing their hands 400 times per day.
- Our School wide goal is critical and creative thinking. We will be brainstorming this during our Pro-D Day on Friday.
- Teachers are getting a chance to meet, share and collaborate while students are in the Exploration classes.
- We are still working on our outdoor learning spaces.
- We are working on determining how we will be able to still do something for a Terry Fox run experience.
- Middle schools will not be asking for the typical \$35 school fee.
- Kirsten sets up hand washing stations every morning. She's been fantastic.

- Questions:
 - Will after school programs still happen this year?
 - Darren used Band as an example: the students who choose to participate are across all learning groups so we would need to figure out how to do that safely and within the provincial health guidelines. So for now, we do not have anything planned but we would like to.
 - Do you have any creative ideas about how we can show our gratitude to the teachers?
 - Diane explained that, as an Exec, we have been discussing this. Please pass along your email address to Diane and we can set up a group to brainstorm what we can do throughout the year for teachers.
 - Darren added that even a kind email to your teacher goes a long way.
 - How does it work if someone is sick within our school community?
 - Darren reminded us of the website that lists all school exposures. The Health Authority will walk us through the process, what exactly to say / email. All that Darren can say for sure is, he will always give as much information as he is allowed to give as quickly as he can.
 - Is there a plan for how to keep students engaged and involved when there could be many having to self-isolate for periods of time?
 - Teachers have been asked to start using Teams or One Note right off the bat so that is accessible from anywhere, any time.

5. Treasurer Report and 2020/21 budget

- We have two budgets: Gaming account for non-curricular items (grant from provincial government) and the General account for both curricular and non-curricular.

- Approved budget for Gaming:
 - Our goal is to spend most of the funds in the year we receive them.
 - \$10 per student for Grade 8 Leaving.
 - Funds for each team and for explorations and athletics.
 - T-shirts, gym bags and agendas for Grade 6's.
 - Not sure how presentations will work, if at all this year, but we have some funds allocated to them.
- Approved budget for General:
 - Started with \$30K roll over from last year.
 - We have budgeted all of the usual "fundraisers" - Hot Lunches, Tunnel of Terror, Christmas Market - but we do not know if any of them will happen.
 - It is important to note that even if none of the fundraising happens, we will still have enough funds to cover the budgeted expenditures.
 - Outdoor learning space - we have budgeted \$5,000 towards equipment or whatever is needed to establish an outdoor learning space.

6. DPAC Report

- DPAC has not met yet. They typically put on fantastic parent education presentations and workshops. They welcome all parents to attend, even if you are not the "official DPAC rep" from your school.

7. Event / Volunteer Opportunity for 2020/2021

- Fundraising Committee
 - For now, we are taking a pause from our regular fundraising activities until we settle into the new routines.
 - It would be good to establish a fundraising committee, however, to see if there are some things that we can offer in a non-touch, safe manner (eg. perhaps Spirit Wear).
- Munch a Lunch Coordinator
 - We will need a coordinator before any activities can run through Munch a Lunch.
- Parent Education
 - Children and Anxiety - why it is on the uprise, what can we do at home to support our children
- Teacher Appreciation
 - Please let us know if you are interested in getting involved.
- Grade 8 Leavers
 - We want to be able to do something special, however it will look at that point in time.

- Lunch Program (on hold)
 - It is on hold for now; however, we will need to find someone to spearhead this endeavour before it can start up again, whenever it is safe to do so.

8. Anmore Green Estates Septic update

- The neighbouring property to EMM, Anmore Green Estates, has a failing septic field.
- In the past months, there has been a facilitator working with each stakeholder as an impartial voice to help reach a resolution.
- We established a petition in May / June this year to try to push movement forward. It did not cause much more than a ripple.
- The latest news:
 - The legal authority to proceed was passed by the Village of Anmore. It has now been passed onto the provincial government for the next step.
 - AGE has always indicated that they will pay the expenses. However, along the way, the total payment required has increased significantly.
 - The next step is for AGE to hold a meeting to vote on whether or not to proceed given the new set of expenses. This is schedule to happen on October 13th.
- Question:
 - Is there still sewage leaking? Or have they stopped it?
 - There is no way to stop it. During the summer months, the water table is low so the land can absorb the sewage. However, when the rain starts, the water table raises up and there is simply no room for the sewage to soak into the ground. Testing of the slopes occurs regularly from October to March.

9. Other Business

- Can the Emergency Forms be streamlined? Darren said that they have already passed that feedback to the District.
- Diane recommends using the EMM website as a source for information. It is updated regularly.

10. Next Meeting - October 20, 2020 @ 7pm Zoom

11. Adjournment

- Diane motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:42pm. Mary Anne seconded the motion. All were in favour. The motion carried.