

Eagle Mountain Middle PAC General Meeting  
Tuesday, December 15, 2020  
7:00pm held via Zoom

Attendance:

Diane M (Chair)

Shannon V (Treasurer)

Marcela D

Katie G (Vice Chair)

Mary Anne P (Secretary)

Julie C

11 parents in attendance

Darren Macmillan

Kirsten Paterson

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

1. Welcome & Introductions - Diane

- Welcome and thank you for joining us tonight.

2. Approval of the agenda

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

3. Adopt minutes from November 17, 2020

- Shannon motions to adopt the minutes of the meeting held by Zoom on Tuesday, October 20th. Marcela seconded the motion. All were in favour. The motion carried.

4. Admin Report

- Darren:
  - Obviously the big news is the Covid exposure. We found out on Saturday afternoon. It goes to the school board from Fraser Health and it is a very short, simple letter.
  - Then two letters go out, one to the class with the exposure, the other to everyone else.
  - Of course, it is stressful. We start to question everything we do.
  - We do not know anything about the contact tracing process. We don't even know who it was that tested positive.
  - We had a staff meeting at 8:00am on Monday morning to walk through the process of what to do, what to say.
  - Our attendance has been approx 35-40 away per day. On Monday, it went up to 78 and approx 69 or 70 today.
  - This week is Spirit Week which has been a nice "distraction". eg. Santa hats, sweater day, western day, etc.
  - Report cards go home tomorrow.
- Kirsten:
  - Thank you to Darren for keeping everyone informed and calm.

- We continue to work on the outdoor classroom.
- Grounds crew come when they can. They take down any unsafe or unhealthy trees.
- We are working on a play space area lower down, closer to the school. The classrooms are higher up, closer to the new pull out parking area.
  
- We have just had a new gate put in near the round about at the front doors.
- A few more log benches have been anchored into the ground in the classrooms.
  
- Questions:
- Lisa: Kudos to all the staff! You've done great work in keeping the kids safe. We are four months in and only one exposure! That's great work.
  
- Rochelle: It's amazing that we have gotten this far without an exposure! In speaking with other parents, there seems to be some anxiety about safety, particularly in kids with siblings in high school where masks are more common. What can be said to calm that anxiety?
- Darren: While masks aren't mandatory, we should have masks on when we are indoors. So we are trying to remind the students that masks should be worn. At the same time we have been told we can't mandate it.
  
- Sharon: How are the staff? How is their stress? How are they doing behind the smiles?
- Darren: Because our staff has been together for so long, they really support each other which really helps.
- Kirsten: Our staff is very adaptable and I think that helps.
  
- Julie: We hear a lot in the media about teacher stress and frustration. How is that playing out?
- Darren: From the start, we've believed in not trying to bend or break the rules. They are there for a reason. Let's try to make the best of the situation while staying within the confines of the rules. The teachers and staff have 4 avenues to raise concerns about safety. Procedures in the school have evolved as a result of these discussions. eg. the lunch room.
  
- Diane: Has there been any further discussion regarding the signage for the forest classroom?

- Kirsten: We have only very briefly discussed signage so far. We know we would like signs within each team's class (eg. Eagle Nest, Orca Alley). We will need to revisit this topic in the new year.

5. Treasurer Report - Shannon

- Gaming account:
- Teachers have been spending their wish list money. Wolf, Raven, Orca have been purchasing items.
- It may be difficult for the exploration teachers to spend non-curricular funds. So that is something we will need to consider in the future.
- Balance in Gaming account: \$14,073
- General account:
- Some equipment and tools for outdoor classrooms have been purchased.
- Some 3D printer things for Digital Literacy. Drama and Tech Ed have made purchases too.
- Bear and Eagle have not spent anything yet. Perhaps they may need a little nudge.
- Balance in General account: \$27,839

6. DPAC Report - Diane

- At the November 25 meeting, the guest speaker was Dr. Melanie Badali of Anxiety Canada who talked about what anxiety is and strategies to manage symptoms during times like COVID when the threat seems constant. There is great information on their website [anxietycanada.ca](http://anxietycanada.ca).
- At the December 8 Parent Education session, Mark Antczak of Anxiety Canada presented the features of the MindShift CBT App which is available for free wherever you download Apps.

7. Event / Volunteer Opportunity for 2020/2021

- Fundraising committee - Lisa C.
  - We sent out a general fundraising letter to ask for donations to replace our regular fundraising options. We have raised \$3,425 so far.
  - Saras wanted us to pass along that donations by cheque are acceptable too. Please make your cheque out to Eagle Mountain Middle School and write "PAC donation" in the memo line.
  - We have set up some community based fundraisers that will roll out in January: Cobs, Thrifty's and a couple others.

- Munch a Lunch coordinator
- Parent Education (see DPAC)
  - We are just piggy backing on the DPAC initiatives because they are doing such a great job with it.
- Teacher appreciation - Katie
  - We created in and installed an artistic board with inspirational quotes. A lot of time, love and artistic creation went into it. It is so rewarding to hear how much the staff enjoys it!
- Grade 8 Leaving - Annie, Rochelle, Mary Anne
  - Nothing to report.
- Lunch Program (on hold)

8. Anmore Green Estates Septic update

- AGE is currently working on securing project management support, finalizing construction design to confirm final costs, construction contractor process / timing, and the process for construction financing / collection of funds from homeowners.
- Debra Oakman continues facilitating the agreements between the Village, Port Moody, SD43 and AGE.
- In early November, a new order from the Ministry of the Environment came out stating that all the pieces are now in place and it is an expectation that the Strata will get it done. It gave the date of April 5, 2021 as an expected end date.
- Darren says that the fences are getting beaten up, particularly on the weekends. So they need maintenance at times.

9. Other Business

10. Next meeting January 19, 2021 @7pm on Zoom

11. Adjournment

- Diane motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm. Julie seconded the motion. All were in favour. The motion carried.