

Eagle Mountain Middle PAC General Meeting
Tuesday, February 16, 2021
7:00pm held via Zoom

Attendance:

Diane M (Chair)	Katie G (Vice Chair)
Shannon V (Treasurer)	Mary Anne P (Secretary)
Marcela D	Julie C
Annie T	

Sie G	Sheryl P
Nicole & Mike K	Erin S
Colin L	Sharon L
Rochelle H	Tricia B
Yimin X	Janine R
Samantha B	Sangmo K
Ingrid S	

Darren Macmillan	Kirsten Paterson
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Meeting was called to order by Katie G at 7:00pm.

1. Welcome & Introductions - Katie
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2. Approval of Agenda
 - Annie motions to approve the agenda. Marcela seconded the motion. All were in favour. The motion carried.
3. Guests - Ms. Chen & Mr. Kwok with 3 Thunderbird Ambassadors
 - Colin, Shayna & Joseph
 - Shayna
 - Our roll is to support the school community with things like fundraisers, fun days, spirit week, organize assemblies and spread awareness of important days such as Pink Shirt Day.
 - We work to create a positive culture.
 - We celebrate and spread awareness eg. Orange shirt day for First Nations.
 - We also represent EMM at District Wide events.
 - Anyone can join at anytime! Currently we have over 35 ambassadors.
 - Colin
 - RAC (Real Acts of Caring) is this week. We encourage students to be kind to others.
 - Pink Shirt Day is Feb 24th. The Ambassadors designed our own EMM Pink Shirt.
 - We raise money for the Canucks Autism Network, BCSPCA and Share Society.
 - Joseph
 - We meet online on Thursdays at lunch on Teams.
 - Some of our upcoming events include: virtual 24 hour famine, another spirit week, Christmas in June for local food banks, a welcome video for Grade 5 students coming to EMM next year, talent show.

4. Adopt minutes from January 19, 2021

- Shannon motions to adopt the minutes of the meeting held by Zoom on Tuesday, December 15th. Erin seconded the motion. All were in favour. The motion carried.

5. Admin Report

- We are really excited about RAC week (Real Acts of Caring).
- The Pink Shirt Day t-shirts are awesome. It's been a lot of work but so worthwhile.
- Tomorrow, there will be a virtual youth conference for Black History Month. Burnaby, Vancouver and Coquitlam school districts worked together for this.
- FSA's and MDI's will take place between now and Spring Break. MDI will include some questions around Covid and mental health.
- We had a virtual guest speaker, Alex Gino, the author of the book, "Rick". The theme was about fitting in, finding your voice, with a backdrop of SOGI issues. Not all classes read it, but many did.
- In the past, we've had presentations for the students (eg. Out in Schools) and they were very well received. So this was a little different approach for the topic. It's not about advocating or promoting but raising awareness about differences between people (not just sexual orientation but also race, religion, political beliefs, etc.).
- The last two weeks have been busy with Covid. Feb 8-11 there was a group of exposures.
- It was challenging with info coming from Fraser Health. We often knew about the exposures before the call from Fraser Health because parents were great and called the school immediately. Did the exposures on Feb 8-11 represent just 4 people (because it was 4 days)? Darren doesn't know the actual number. But based on the calls from parents, he knows that there were between 8-10 people who tested positive.
- A handful of students were considered at "significant risk" - i.e. spent time without mask - so they have been told to stay home and isolate.
- There were 6-8 classes that received the letter from Fraser Health to self monitor for symptoms.
- The general School Bulletin was then sent to everyone else indicating that the contact tracing has been completed so if you have not received a letter, then your child's class was not affected.
- As a result of the exposures last week, approx 300 students were away today.
- Darren and Kirsten met with staff this morning to discuss the cleaning and review all the protocols. They reviewed hand cleaning and mask wearing. They talked about lunch time procedures (which Darren had reviewed in detail with Fraser Health). They discussed the change in exploration classes with the teacher coming to the classrooms. While it can be difficult, teachers are trying to come with a smiling face (behind their masks). Teachers will try to post some things to Teams so that students at home have some work to do. But we are not moving to an online or hybrid model.
- Darren is proud of the staff in how we are trying to deal with things.
- We have no evidence of any transmission within the school. If there is any transmission, it is more likely to be between friends who spend time together outside of school.

- Question:
- Are teachers part of the contact tracing process? i.e. are kids really supposed to remember who they were in contact with?

- Darren suggested to the staff to contact Fraser Health if their classroom got a letter to offer any further information
 - Regarding the book, “Rick”, are there any concerns about “labelling”.
 - It is delicate. In order to talk about racial issues, you have to be grounded in terms of how to approach a topic that could be difficult. You don’t pick a side. You ask questions and try to engage students to discuss topics that are on their mind. How to do this around SOGI issues is challenging and our staff are trying to figure it out. It was easier, say, when the Saleema Noon presentation came in last year.
 - When you speak to Fraser Health, do you have one contact or are there several depending on the case?
 - It seemed that all of our cases were with the same person. It was interesting that the school issue was treated as completely separate from the community sports issue even though they appeared to be overlap.
 - Is there a way to encourage the notion that the community welcomes the information as opposed to see it as a shameful thing?
 - Every single parent who had a child who tested positive contacted Darren directly. So he got that information well before he got it from Fraser Health. All of those parents also said to tell the class, tell the teacher, etc. But he has to follow Fraser Health rules, too.
 - Thank you for all the support from the parent community
 - Update from Kirsten re Forest:
 - We meet every Thursday. We continue chopping, making more trails. We have chosen 6 spaces that we envision as classrooms - one per team plus a “play” area.
 - We met with Sie re signage.
 - We applied for another grant from International Education in the school district for \$250. We purchased some wood burning kits to make “Welcome” signs in all of the languages that our students speak at home.
 - We are waiting on the district for approval to do certain things like removing fallen trees / logs. We have to get approval from the district before doing any of the work ourselves or by our own people.
6. Treasurer Report - Shannon
- Last year, we ended up with refunds because of Hot Lunches that we could not do after Spring Break. We paid out to those families who left the school but kept the remaining refunds to apply to this year. The PAC Exec will need to address those refunds that are sitting in families’ Munch-a-Lunch accounts.
 - Gaming:
 - We have spent a little bit from the Wish List: almost \$7,000 in total.
 - Expenses in Gaming are down this year due to the lack of non-curricular opportunities (i.e. clubs such as band or choir as well as sports teams) as a result of Covid restrictions.
 - We could ask Ms. Chen if there are any events coming up that she could benefit from some of our funds.
 - The Gaming balance is currently at \$12,974.46.

- General:
 - We had expenses for a gate and soldering equipment.
 - We have spent about \$5,000 in total so far.
 - The General account balance is currently at \$24,759.51.

- 7. DPAC Report - Annie
 - There was extra money in the budget so a donation of \$4,000 was made to a Scholarship fund. So if you have Grade 12's this year, be sure to look for that!
 - Gradual transition students have online presentations weekly, by Grade. There is currently no end date for these students. All of these students are welcome to attend the online presentations.
 - In March, there will be a 21 day racial equity habit building challenge. More info coming. There will be presentations and activities to engage all students. The end date of the challenge coincides with the International Day to Reduce Racial Discrimination.
 - There was an interesting presentation called "Growing up Digital". PDF version is available on DPAC website: <https://dpac43.ca/documents-page/presentations/>
 - Diane will forward link to next DPAC meeting on Feb 24. Family Smart will provide video and discussion.

- 8. Event / Volunteer Opportunity for 2020/2021
 - a) Fundraising committee - Sheryl
 - Spoke to Melissa at COBS in Suter Brook. She will donate 600 COBS cards with the first two stamps done to remind people about our fundraiser there.
 - Erin, can we do shout outs for these programs on social media? Erin says yes, for sure!!
 - As we approach March, how do we communicate? Sheryl will send info to Erin to post of Facebook.
 - Family pizza night with Me N Ed's pizza. Katie just forwarded the info. It's so easy and was very successful at HME.
 - Are we rallying toward a specific project? General fundraising. Kirsten offered to create a survey through Teams to ask the students what they would like to see fundraising money go toward.
 - b) Parent Education (see DPAC)
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 - c) Staff appreciation - Katie
 - The board is blooming. We've added more flowers. Added quote for February.
 - d) Grade 8 Leaving - Annie, Rochelle, Mary Anne
 - Will begin discussions after Spring Break.
 - Sheryl asked to be added to the group.

- 9. Anmore Green Estates Septic update
 - Nothing new in the last month.
 - Diane was getting more information from the residents directly instead of from the facilitator. The facilitator did not like that. Diane will try to get more info from the facilitator.
 - Ministry of Environment has set the date of April 15th as the date that it needs to be completed by.

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10. Other Business

- Sheryl interested in refreshing the planter boxes. She will chat with Kirsten offline and also bring some budget ideas.

11. Next Meeting: March 16, 2021 @7pm on Zoom

- Hopefully will have an exploration teacher come to present.

12. Adjournment

- Katie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:48pm. Mary Anne seconded the motion. All were in favour. The motion carried.