

GRACEFIELD SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

November 22, 2011

PRESENT: Donna Christie, Lisa Doyle (Principal), Sue Dryczewycz, Andrea Grieve, Joanne Hill, Laurie Lancaster, Lisa Mayer (Teacher), Andrea Payne, Susan Plat (Teacher), Stephanie Plue, Darci Weinert, Hollie White, Joan Whitman

PRESENTATION BY DONNA CHRISTIE, CAPP Facilitator:

- Information package distributed during meeting
- Program offered by Sexual Assault Centre
- Have been doing presentation for 30 years
- Offered in 32 countries around the world
- School has never had presentation
- Covers all types of abuse, including bullying
- Age appropriate discussion and role-play for Grades 1 through 6
- Separate program for Grade 7/8 using a video and questionnaires
- Kids do not have as much freedom therefore are lacking street smarts
- Program gives children skills and strategies they can use
- 99% of the time children are hurt by someone they know rather than a stranger
- Requesting donation of \$1-\$2 per child
- If unable to afford, will still receive program
- L. Lancaster proposed that GSAC cover \$1 per child and L. Doyle offered to match amount covered by GSAC by school fundraising
- Consensus given to pay \$1 per child

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

- Approved minutes from October 2011 meeting
- Executive to approve, then email to GSAC members, staff and post on website
- ACTION → S. Dryczewycz to email L. Doyle when has received approval from executive

CHAIR'S REPORT:

- Norms
 - Norms are to try to end at 8:00, turn cell phone to vibrate, right to voice opinions, mutual respect, take calls outside and set an alternative time to discuss difficult issues in order to keep agenda moving
- Dream box
 - According to poll, 3 people said no, everyone else said yes
 - Starting in January, will have option to offer for Grade 4
 - At October meeting decided to finance cost with families paying \$10, \$5 from GSAC and \$5 from the school
 - ACTION → To move forward with implementing Dream box
- Library Update
 - Spent \$1000, a lot of graphic novels since younger were trying to borrow novels appropriate for older
 - Slightly more than \$2000 raised at book fair therefore \$900 to spend
 - Also have scholastic credit therefore will place order for more 10 Magazines

- To purchase 4 more sets therefore will have 6 sets of the 10 Magazines
- Would like to purchase other magazines
- Also need a magazine rack
- Purchased some nonfiction books from book fair
- Looking at café tables to use netbooks
- Students could stand at table or could purchase tall backless stools
- Suggestion made for laminate countertop around pole in fiction section
- To purchase new circulation desk which allows for more shelving
- Question raised whether anyone had any ideas about what to put on paint
- Able to have quotes done on stick and peel on etsy website
- Vinyl sticker is not permanent therefore easy to remove and change if want to update library
- Do not feel this will be resolved quickly
- Can brainstorm and bring quotes or ideas to a subsequent meeting
- ACTION →S. Plue to price countertop at Home Depot
- ACTION →H. White to look into Ikea shelving which could be cut and attached with brackets around the pole
- Spirit Wear
 - Has been ordered
 - Everything in except shorts
 - Have emailed vendor
 - Expect end of this week or next week
- Hot Lunch Update
 - Kids seem to be enjoying
 - Parents are supporting since are ordering for their children
 - Antipastos had huge portions
 - Suggestion made for smaller portions for younger students
 - Option for two sizes could be put on order form
- Pizza Lunch Update
 - Only 28 families are not participating in the prepayment option
 - They have opted to go by the month by month option
 - The remaining families have chosen the prepayment route
- Parent Conference
 - Good presentations and handouts per L. Doyle
 - Some workshops were sold out
 - Larger turnout than normal

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Thank-you
 - L. Doyle reported that she was amazed every month by the amount parents do for the students
 - Would like to thank parents for book fair, coaching, hot lunches, library help, working in classrooms and driving to games
- Balanced School Day
 - Parent described experience for school who had their first year with a balanced school day
 - Students are learning, some come for snacks at second break because they have eaten everything at first break
 - School had snack program to offer fruit to students who had eaten all of their food

- Have not had a parent complaint except for request of ideas of what to pack
- Lunch hour is 10 minutes shorter therefore may be an issue for students who go home for lunch
- Can be difficult for supply teachers or teachers doing workshops if timing of periods does not workout
- Does not seem to be an issue for students
- Majority of students come back early from lunch to play
- If do not have balanced day, students not eating snack since want to play are not eating until lunch time
- Do not have a lot of time to play outside when recess is only 15 minutes and must put on snowsuits
- Would have the option to shorten school day if on balanced day
- Another benefit is there are options for scheduling of 100 minute literacy block
- Could also segregate school and have alternate eating and yard times for classes
- Could have students play and then eat
- Students are not outside at noon at peak sun or for 40 minutes in cold temperatures
- Teachers do duties at morning break and lunchroom supervisor handles second nutrition break
- Suggestion made to give presentation to parents prior to sending survey to ensure parents are aware of the benefits
- Could post information on website for all parents to review
- Complements full day kindergarten which will be occurring in September 2012
- All parents present approved continuing to pursue Balanced School Day
- ACTION → Survey to be sent this year
- Technology Update
 - Now have 4 iPads
 - Need iTunes account and card to make purchases
 - For kindergarten, a lot of applications are free
- Annie
 - Letter sent home to parents
 - \$20 per person
 - Do not need to buy ticket for children in the choir
- Communication
 - Hotdogs on Dec 6 and Dec 20
 - ACTION → Advise L. Doyle of hot lunch dates to be included in the school calendar
- Freezer in staff room
 - Freezer is empty
 - Unsure whether may have been purchased by GSAC
 - Unplugged freezer to save energy
- Electronic Access and Video Surveillance
 - All schools will receive, Gracefield is in initial phase
 - Door will lock and there will be a button to ring
 - Offers more protection for students
- Mini Hockey nets
 - Would like 5 sets of nets
 - \$49.99 per set
 - Extracurricular activity
 - Would like to have one for each class

- Use ball and mini sticks
- Approved purchase of 5 sets of nets

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Christmas Concert
 - S. Plat reported current year performance will be the Nutcracker
 - Will need to purchase some items for costumes
 - Every class has a different theme
 - Requesting GSAC to split the expenses
 - Will not be any lighting or sound costs since ordered through school board
 - Chef hats, vests, skirts, top hats, etc. will be needed
 - To occur December 21
 - Suggestion made to have a collection at the door to recover some costs
 - Approved \$500 toward Christmas concert if needed
 - Suggestion made to consider another location for concert such as a high school in order to seat everyone in attendance
 - Gracefield gym has more of a home feeling
 - Could consider another location next year
 - ACTION → S. Plat to send school wide letter with needs since parents may have items another class could use
 - ACTION → S. Plue to check for hats

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Document Camera
 - Project work in colour on the board
 - Have one for every classroom

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Statement of Receipts and Disbursements and Statement of Assets to November 18, 2011 was distributed during the meeting
- Very few changes, purchase of a few chairs and hot lunches
- Approximately \$5,000 in library fund

NEXT MEETING:

- Next meeting will be held on December 20, 2011 at 6:30
- ACTION → L. Lancaster to check on private room at Scorecard Harry's

Recorder: Sue Dryczewycz

Principal: Lisa Doyle