**Rocky Lake Elementary School**

**December 6th (3.30pm-4.30pm) SAC Meeting Minutes**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Role** | **Present** | **Regrets** |
| **Valerie Meers** | **Principal** | **X** |  |
| **Heather Day** | **Vice Principal** | **X** |  |
| **Heather Collins** | **Staff** | **X** |  |
| **Helen Murray** | **Chair, Parent** | **X** |  |
| **Carla Ball** | **Parent** | **X** |  |
| **Sarah Kirby** | **Community Member** | **X** |  |
| **Godfrey Jerry** | **Parent** |  | **X** |
| **Erin MacDonald** | **Parent** |  | **X** |
| **Zoe Moon** | **Secretary** | **X** |  |

**Meeting Agenda Discussion Items:**

* **Review of November 8th, 2023 meeting minutes**

Helen Murray and Heather Day passed last meeting minutes

* **Quick recap on Minister Becky Durham SAC update November 30,2023**

Helan Murray and Valerie Meers attended this meeting, the Minister announced that nova scotia is increasing transparency in the public school system and strengthening the voices of local families, students and school advisory council (SACs). Over the next year school communities will see changes including a new innovation fund that will provide grants of up to $10,000 and more opportunities for input into how school funds are distributed in school, including Health School Grants. It was agreed that once we know more about the grants available we should look into applying for them.

* **Principal report:**
  + **Equity training:** Valerie Meers and Equity team attended the HSREB session on equity that focused on unacceptable behaviour and equity. The equity Team will develop a PD for staff and the team developing lessons for students in the new year.
  + **Chromebook damage:**There have been a large number of chromebooks being brought back damaged by students and the supply of chromebooks the school has will not last the year at the current pace of replacement. Some of the damage is wear and tear, however some is due to the rough treatment by students. All parents did sign a contract to pay for replacement however the SAC discussed other options to help reduce the damage to chromebooks. The purchase of charging carts was discussed however through the HRCE vendor that cost is $1900 per cart that charges 30 chromebook. Helen had found quotes online for less (around $1000) however HSREB may make us go through the preferred vendor. The SAC would not be able to afford to buy a cart for every classroom at that price. Helen is going to look into the price and Valerie will check with HRCE if we have to use their vendor. It was discussed that maybe we could buy some this year and more in later years.
  + **Vandalism around the school:** There has been a lot of vandalism by students around the school but especially in the bathrooms. Valerie, the principal put out an overhead announcement to the whole school to remind students to respect their school.
  + **Food Drive:** final count with food brought in today was 402 items and $30 donation.
  + is continuing until December 15th at time the gift cards will be distributed to those families identified.
  + **Sarah’s concern re:** lunchtime: Several families have brought concerns to Sarah that there is not very much outdoor equipment for students to play with at recess and lunchtime and students are reporting that balls have been banned and soccer and basketball have been banned due to injuries. Also it was reported that students can’t play on the field. Valerie and Heather confirmed that at times soccer and basketball have been banned and on rainy wet days the field is off limit however balls and other sports equipment is always available for students to sign out at the front office. It was noted that there may not always been enough equipment and that the requirement to sign out equipment may take away time from students lunch and recess giving them less time to play. It was discussed that buying extra balls and other sports equipment is within the remit of SAC and we should go ahead and buy some equipment as soon as possible. We could even buy a box so each classroom has access to balls and other equipment less eliminating the need for student to sign out equipment. Helen and Valerie will ask the gym teacher for his supplier and go ahead and source and hopefully purchase some more balls and other equipment.
  + **Lunchtime clubs and leadership opportunities:** The lunchtime clubs are continuing and seem to be a great success. In addition students are being given leadership opportunities though be able to sign up to give the morning announcements and breakfast leaders.
* **Edwin update:** The funding of the purchase of Edwin was approved at the last meeting however HRCE no longer supports the use of Edwin as all the resources it provides can be found elsewhere for free. We will not be going ahead with the purchase of Edwin.
* **Update on teachers request for SAC support:** Valerie will continue to ask staff if they have any request for SAC support and will bring these to SAC meetings where SAC will review these requests.
* **Funding ideas discussion:** See discussion about Chromebook carts above. Valerie has a meeting with the person who will be organizing the mural in December but it looks like this will go ahead, this will not require that much funding just the paint supplies. The school is planning on having a multicultural show later in the school year but will not be doing a musical this year.
* Layout frame work for this year plans: The SAC hopes to provide funds for the grade 6 closing ceremony, getting T-shirts printed was discussed as this has been done in previous years. The SAC agreed this was a good idea and we should look into the cost of providing all students with a t-shirt. In addition the school is planning on having an end of year trip a possible location is Bayside outdoor centre where student can partake in lots of outdoor activities.
* Next meeting January 10th, 2024 3.30pm.