MEETING MINUTES

Spencer Middle School, Parent Advisory Council ("PAC") Meeting

September 22, 2021 // 6:33pm – Meeting called to order by *Karen Haywood*

In Attendance

Karen Haywood – Vice President
Sandra Arnold – Secretary
Laura Shaner-Gale – Treasurer
Pam Miller – SPEAC Rep
Tanya Gesslein – Alternate SPEAC Rep
Tom Davis – Member at Large
Cor Marley – Parent
Darren Russell – Principal

1. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 6:33pm by Karen Haywood

2. Vice President's Report

Report provided by Karen Haywood

a) Would a new meeting time work better for this year's executive? Yes, new meeting time 4th Wednesday at 7:00pm.
b) Would we like to have in-person meetings or continue with online platform? Online chosen for the next few months, can revisit in new year.
c) Summer request for funds for an ice machine for the office – would be used for injuries instead of frozen cups of water.
    i. Motion to approve the purchase of an ice machine up to $150: Karen. Seconder: Pam. Motion carried.
d) SPEAC registration – completed online registration and dues mailed to SPEAC c/o the Board Office.

3. SPEAC Report

Report provided by Pam Miller

a) Families to complete daily Health Check and to keep students home if unwell.
b) Families are to contact the office to arrange an appointment if they want to come into the school.
c) New monthly PAC question from SPEAC: How does your PAC deal with requests that aren't the PAC's responsibility?
   i. If the request doesn't involve the students, it's an absolute no.
   ii. It's all about the students
   iii. No curriculum items – make this statement before budget discussions.
   iv. Suggest that school/team does fundraising for items that don't benefit the majority of students.
   v. Be united in your decision. "The committee didn't approve…"
   vi. Look at your constitution – what is the Mission Statement?
   vii. Does this request help the majority of the students?
d) Online forum for families of students enrolled in Distance or Online Learning. Families are encouraged to enroll – details coming soon from SPEAC.

4. Treasurer's Report

Report provided by Laura Shaner-Gale

a) Cheque mailed for BCCPAC registration. Online registration will be completed.
b) LIMSSA (Lower Island Middle School Sports Association) – request for dues will be coming in October. Will discuss at October PAC meeting.
c) Deadline for staff funding requests is October 15th. Will review budget proposal and all requests at October meeting.
d) Gaming funds expected this fall.
e) Bank account balances:
   i. Gaming, as of end of August 2021: $14,380.54
   ii. General, as of end of July 2021: $4,999.24

5. New Business

a) New family Facebook page – Spencer Middle School Community – something to monitor for concerns from families.
b) Spirit Wear – ordering almost ready. Information to be sent home to families late September. Delivery of clothing will be before Christmas.

6. Principal's Report

Report provided by Darren Russell

a) Bathroom and change room renovations finally in the works!
    a. Change Room – modifications will happen before Christmas break, and most likely sooner. Walk through with district's Capital Planner scheduled for October. Cubicals will be built in the change rooms to replace the communal showers which haven't been used in years.
    b. Gender Neutral Bathrooms – bathrooms by the theatre will become gender neutral with floor-to-ceiling stall doors. This should happen this fall.
b) Community Police officers are being invited to attend the school as often as they can.
    a. Question: Will they be in uniform as that might be traumatic to some students?
c) Homeless camp was set up behind front portable, but they moved on when asked to.
d) Some mess around the back portables. It is thought that some people have been sleeping undercover on the stairs.
    a. Question: Any drug paraphernalia left? No, school staff check this area, and nothing has been found.
e) Police Liaison, through Safe Schools, is being invited to the school.
f) The District's Strategic Plan for 2021-2025 has been released. Key priorities are Learning, Engagement, and Growth.
g) 34 homerooms, 880 students:
    a. 280 grade 6 students
    b. 294 grade 7 students
    c. 306 grade 8 students
h) Staff highlights:
    a. Staff loved the staggered start to the year, and so did the families who called in, especially grade 6 families. Spencer is hoping to continue this going forward.

b. No cohorts! Grade 6s go out for lunch recess first and overlap for 10 minutes with the grade 7s.
c. Staff are enjoying watching students connecting with new and old friends and connecting with teachers too.

i) Notable challenges:
   a. 880 students being dismissed at the same time, with the majority crossing at the crosswalk in front of the school. Crossing guard being hired. Hours will be 45 minutes before school and 45 minutes after school
   b. Transportation – bussing always has hiccups, which are being worked through.
   c. TikTok challenge to steal bathroom items. Several repairs have had to be made.

j) Question: Can families ask for vaccine status of school staff? Answer: Medical records are highly confidential, and staff and students should not be asked about vaccine status.

Next Meeting

Next meeting scheduled for October 27th at 7:00pm (MS Teams)

Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm