A picture containing text, gambling house, room, scene

Description automatically generated**Sambro Elementary School**

**Home & School Association Meeting**

**Monday, November 4, 2024**

**SAMBROPTA@GMAIL.COM**

**Present:** Andrea Rose, Colette Strome, Genevieve Baechler, Meredith Higgins, Josie Berry, Christina Neary, Angela Laurin, Justine Cowie, Courtney MacKay, Shawna Gray, Gemma Vale, and Maryanne Fisher

**Regrets:** Melissa Cummings, Morgan Oakley, Sandra Lee, Allie Cassibo, Meghan Thorne, and Tracy MacDonald

**Absent:** Erica Brewer

1. Call to order
   1. Meredith Higgins (co-president) 7:07pm
2. Approval of Agenda
   1. Moved by Josie
   2. Seconded by Christina
3. Approval of Minutes
   1. Moved by Justine
   2. Seconded by Courtney
4. Principal’s report – Colette Strome
   1. The school was picked for a pilot project to explore initiatives about safety. Given the number of new teachers in our school and a handful of other issues, we were selected to pilot a teacher mentoring program. The mentor is also a math coach, and she starts in the next week.
   2. The new hot lunch program is underway. Allie is our hot lunch coordinator, but volunteers are still welcome. We are currently purchasing ourselves with reimbursement, but soon, there will be a supplier. The new stove has been ordered. There is an email for the HRCE program, if people want to supply feedback; there is also an email for our hot lunch program separately. We are monitoring food waste. Allie is also handling minor modifications.
   3. The milk program (2% only) will start shortly.
   4. School clothing orders will go home this week; this is not a fundraiser, and items are sold at cost.
   5. The Remembrance the Day ceremony will be this Friday, November 8.
   6. Breaking Circus came to the school and was a success.
   7. Booking the oval early this year for the school trip later on.
   8. The school will be participating in “cheer bags” that is through Santa for Seniors. We are aiming at 30 bags for seniors who live independently but are socially isolated. Families can donate if they wish.
   9. The holiday concert was initially cancelled, but Andrea and others have been organizing an event locally through the Down Home Christmas event. It will be December 15. Information will be given to send home through the school as a community event. There will be a discussion about crowd control, and a dress rehearsal will be announced soon.
5. Treasurer’s Report – Colette Strome
   1. Account updates
      1. H&S Family Bursary Fund – $1411.00
      2. Fundraising General – $1121.57 (including funds from Trunk or Treat)
      3. Spring fair – $11401.86

We still have not received the iPad that were ordered last year or their cases; we approved 6 last year. The order was not filled. We then ordered 12 in June (given the HAS), but it was not processed. We need to budget about $5700 for this expense from the Spring fair account, as well as the two bean tables and freight (approximately $1000).

* 1. Holiday meals will be covered through the hot lunch program. The new program allows events to happen, providing us with the option.
  2. We need to purchase or have some new gym benches made. The hardware is fine, but the benches need to be refinished, rebuilt, or purchased. Colette will look into this matter further and where funding for this repair will come from.

1. Ongoing Business
   1. The trunk-or-treat went well; the feedback was positive. The cotton candy was not in a good location, but it was a definite hit. A small gift will be purchased to thank Melissa for her efforts. However, there was significant litter all around the school, the field, and on the road all the way down to the church. The event will also be shortened next year to one hour and we will specify that we accept cash donations.
2. New Business
   1. Fundraisers/events
      1. Movie night: there are some issues around the legality of hosting this event, and the movies are expensive to show in a public venue. We will discuss it in January.
      2. Wreath fundraiser: The orders are due November 7, and Colette will send out a reminder.
      3. Other fundraisers: Mitchell’s Soups will happen in February.
   2. There will be a winter clothing swap around Progress Conference Day.
   3. Green Christmas/Holiday: Colette suggested that we need to seek donations that are a bit more specific, such as items in clean, new condition. There will be a call for volunteers to help with wrapping, and for donations. This event will be on Friday, December 13.
   4. Meredith discussed bringing in an author from the Nova Scotia Writer’s Federation. The local author comes to the school to hold a workshop (for a small fee) and then HSA could purchase a copy for all students. The books could be distributed ahead of the workshop, to build up interest. Meredith will report back.
   5. There was discussion about bringing in a service dog to the school through the Saint John’s Ambulance program, similar to last years’ experience.
3. Next meeting- **January 13th, 7pm online and in-person**
4. Adjourned – 8:02 pm