**Sambro Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes**

**October 3, 2022**

**7:00 PM**

**Attendance:** Genevieve Baechler (Member-at-Large), Josie Berry (Member-at-Large), Sam Clements (Member-at-Large), Meredith Higgins (Co-President), Sandra Lee (Vice-President), Tracey MacDonald (Administrative Assistant), Alex McPherson (Teacher Representative), Andrea Rose (Co-President), Colette Strome (Principal), Gemma Vale, and Maryanne Fisher (Secretary)

**Regrets:** Nancy Ewing (Outgoing Co-President), Amy Gilkie (Outgoing Co-President), Julie Stonebridge-Bujold (Member-at-Large)

1. **Call to order:** Andrea Rose, call to order at 7:07pm
2. **Welcome/attendance:** Recorded above
3. **Agenda:** Sandra moved, Genevieve seconded, all approved
4. **Minutes:** Maryanne moved, Collette seconded, all approved
5. **Principal’s report:** Collette discussed the school success plan, and that this week there will be release time to talk about new class assessment tool. The dishwasher will be repaired in the next few days. Photo day is Wednesday but note that SAC will investigate getting three quotes for photos in the future. Bus evacuation for safety preparation will happen later this month. Clarification on last month’s minutes that the three security cameras approximately cost a total of $12,000 from playground maintenance fund.
6. **Treasurer’s report:** Tracey gave the breakdown of funds. The fund last month was $2158, and she gave each teacher start-up costs (5 applied), plus $100 for French, music, and physical education. Total of $858 remaining. Recall hot lunch program is entirely separate. The ice cream social was covered through the hot lunch fund. Also, Mabel’s Labels resulted in a cheque being issued to the school. No business arising for funding requests.
7. **Ongoing business**
8. **Member-at-Large:** Additional self-nomination for Gemma Vale, all approved.
9. **Parent survey:** Meredith raised the issue of the survey and creating a draft in the coming weeks. Goal: find out what issues are important to parents and how to work as a PTA to help represent the parents more effectively. Special attention on fund-raising, school community awareness, and ask for sharing of ideas. Maryanne will help and will host the survey. Note that the hot lunch issue (eg, preferences) may be a second survey, as it is a separate program.
10. **By-law edits:** Meredith said that the edits will be send out shortly for consideration.
11. **PTA fundraiser schedule:** Andrea mentioned that the Google doc Meredith created has been circulated among the PTA to organize self-nominated help for the upcoming events. Trunk or Treat (Thursday, October 27) is coming soon, and we are discussing wreaths, as they need order for November 3.

Trunk or Treat: Sambro Area Residents Association has said they will be helping support the Trunk and Treat event and offered their ball field. Discussed having tables in the tennis courts for those that would prefer this option, with a “rain event” allowing the tables to move into the school instead. Also raised was the issue of a BBQ and hot chocolate (or cider) as had been done in past years, or whether it should be maintained as a simple event given this is the first one since 2019. Research is needed to see how many spots for vehicles and tables could be made available (Colette). Various ways to inform the community were presented. Andrea will modify posters, and then send around to the PTA for review by October 10. Registration for the event will end October 20.

Wreaths: Andrea sent around the existing forms and estimated updated costs from last year. Need to review what costs will for purchase will be. Goal to distribute forms through the school shortly, in order to give people the most time possible to fund-raise. Discussion about having the forms ready and distributed before Thanksgiving, to allow people a chance to approach friends and family over the holiday. Andrea will prepare the forms; Collette will also help update the form, print, and distribute to homes. Wreaths will be delivered to Nancy’s home for distribution.

1. **Gaga ball pit:** Concern about grass as a bottom surface, as it has not worn well and the children are getting muddy and tracking mud into the school. Artificial turf, foam mats, sand, cement, spongey-asphalt, wood chips, and pea gravel, have been proposed as solutions. The playground fund has approximately $8000 remaining that could be used for this purpose. Ideally solve this matter before the frost. Collette will connect with a colleague who works on playgrounds to pick his brain.
2. **Fridge costs**: Due to the power outages from Hurricane Fiona, the breakfast program lost its food, as did the hot lunch program. Questions about who to contact to explore recouping of costs from NS Power. Tracey will investigate and contact the MLA for the area. Collette informed the PTA that NS government is also working with schools to help families as needed to recoup some costs. She talked about the “schools plus” initiative asked that we spread the word as needed. This initiative can be used to help families in need finance a wide variety of events or necessities.
3. Late arrivals: Issue of the school not being notified until approximately 9:30am if a student is absent. Ongoing concern about the time span, as some students are picked up by the bus early in the morning, and there is a 2 (estimate) hour delay.
4. **New business**
   1. New ideas for fundraisers and activities: None at this time.
   2. Other upcoming school activities: The grade 4 and 5 class trip later this month will be covered through another grant, independent of the PTA. There are no other activities raised. Also, chaperones are welcome to nominate themselves, and do not need to have a child on the trip. Further, there is assistance to help cover costs from the school.
   3. Oceanview Fisheries has reached out to Tracy MacDonald, as they are seeking employees in the local community. Information can be posted on the unofficial school facebook page, and local community pages.
   4. Genevieve asked about the water chemistry. In December 2021, the full array of tests were done and revealed that the well water was suitable for consumption. Collette will find out if she can make those results public. Collette said they have done the quarterly water test for e-coli and total chloroforms last week. Last quarter, these are in non-detectable levels, with the results from last week still in process.
5. **Next meeting:** November 7, 2022
6. **Adjourned:** Meredith adjourned the meeting at 8:14pm.