**Sept 17th, 2024, 7pm- EGM Library**

**SPC Annual General Meeting**

In attendance: Nicole Maynard (Principal), Shannon Baxter (Vice Principal), Mary Thomson, Dawn James, Sarah Mitchell, Rhonda Dube.

**Round table introductions.**

Attachments to Minutes (provided by Nicole): Agenda, Administrative Report and Constitution.

**Agenda Items**

1. **Executive**

Pending positions: Co-chair x 2 and Treasurer. Committee members present to think about open positions. Rhonda has volunteered to fill Secretary role.

**2.0 Constitution**

Constitution document circulated and reviewed.

Proposed Amendments:

Description of chair & treasurer: It was noted that chair & treasurer duties seemed to be combined (p.3/4- Article 8: Duties of the Executive, A. Chair). No separate ‘Treasurer’ description. Mary to verify with EJR constitution and amendments to be made by Nicole.

Quorum: Number of parents for ‘quorum’ in document is 8 parents (p. 5- Article 10: Meetings, A. AGM). Nicole noted this has been rarely met in the past. Explored alternate ways of ensuring adequate number of voting members present. Proposed change it to 75% of executive council members in attendance. Terms explored from other guiding documents. Nicole to discuss with schools that lack PAC in how to determine quorum and minimum number of voting members present.

AGM: It was noted that the AGM is to be held no later than Oct. 15 (p. 4/5-Article 10: Meetings, A. AGM). It was noted that other schools hold AGM’s at the end of the school year (ie. May/June) involving incoming (grade 5 parents) since their students are ‘registered’ so included as voting members. Ideal for a ‘handover’ from exiting executive to incoming executive.

First SPC: Current document states SPC will be held within 30 days after AGM (Article 10: Meetings, B. Regular Meetings). If AGM moves to the end of the school year as proposed above, propose change to ‘The first meeting of the SPC will be held within 30 days after the first day of school’ not after AGM.

Hybrid/virtual Option: Proposed adding into constitution offering hybrid or virtual attendance at meetings which would allow more members to attend.

Constitution agenda item: Constitution to remain as standing agenda item monthly.

**3.0 Budget**

No financial records available @ present due to absence of previous executive members. Nicole to obtain. Previous expenditures reviewed: teacher appreciation. Grade 8 farewell was paid by school. Nicole noted fewer fundraising initiatives in the past d/t challenges with success of fundraising. Nicole to verify that school has ‘charitable status’. ‘Not a fundraiser fundraiser’ explored as Mary suggested this can be profitable. 50/50 draw has been previously done. Would need license, but easier to obtain license with charitable status.

Discussion of holding school dances. Two have been planned in previous years by teachers. One is being planned for fall: date not yet determined. Discussion related to Halloween theme, where some students do not attend due to not celebrating Halloween.

**4.0 Administration Report**

Administration Report circulated and reviewed.

Cell phone policy. Nicole reported it seems to be going well. All positive feedback received to her office. Nicole noted that it has provided more opportunities for socializing. Nicole provided background to the guidelines. LSRD guidelines in effect in addition to individual schools determine their own guidelines. EGM has made one additional change to include no phone usage at lunch. LRSD states schools to review school policy yearly by Nov 1. LRSD reviews their policy by Nov 1 as well.

Week of Truth and Reconciliation. Events reviewed from provided document. Nicole discussed the offering of ritual ‘Cleanse’ routinely offered. Guest speaker to discuss what a ‘Cleanse’ is. A Divisional permission form signed for full year (includes all cleanses).

Universal Nutrition Program. Nicole explained the determination of EGM as a ‘Tier 4’ need which is a ‘grab & go’ style (goldfish/granola bars/fruit). EGM is no longer able to provide home cooked food. Last week- weekly budget was consumed in 3 days. Teachers to discuss ‘respectful consumption’, while the premise that the food is available for all, with no barriers. Nicole noted that the fruit was consumed. Challenges with this include that market prices will fluctuate through the purchasing through the approved centralized. vendor. Nicole is hoping to look into offering cold items (Yogurts, boiled eggs) which may be more substantial if a student is missing lunch. Items offered are gluten free & low fructose (ie. ‘made good’ bars). Nicole is hoping the menu will expand. The current offering is outside in the hallway and refilled by the secretary.

SPC can plan hot lunches. Ie. Healthy Hunger. Interest from members in attendance seemed positive.

Extracurricular Sports. Cross country & volley ball started & coaches found. Jersey store open for students. Students can borrow a jersey with a refundable deposit.

Technology. This year EGM has had to retire a large number of computers. There are new ones to replace, but not enough to replace the number of retired ones. Students share at a ratio of 2:1- 2 classes share a cart. Students can bring own devices. Laptops also fall under the ban and intended only for use in class & not used @ lunch.

Cell phones: Statement in Administration report reviewed and agreed by all members that it was written well.

Natural helpers. Nicole provided an overview of the program. The event is planned for NOV 5, 6, 7 & 8. At the end of sept/oct a survey is sent to students to explore the struggles they are experiencing. 2 teachers and 8 students (4 boys/4 girls from each grade) are identified to participate.

Grade Level Outings. For grade 6’s, normally a day trip is planned. Camp Manitou last year was found to be expensive. Seeking new site for June. Planetarium/museum was also offered previously. Grade 7’s will embark on the overnight ski trip (dates not finalized- potentially Feb). Grade 8 students will embark on Camp Stephens. Dates TBD (Potentially 3rd week in June).

Nicole provided background to outings in that large trips were planned previously (ie. Quebec), however committing to not extending beyond what the school can afford as the school funds students (if needed) to ensure all students can attend.

New Business.

Feedback elicited from Nicole & Shannon of what they would like to see from SPC. Quality over quantity. Nicole expressed interest in hearing the parent & student voices from the school community.

Questions from members about student groups: No student council, but some student groups that present to SPC. GSA, multicultural committee, environment, Festival, Orange shirt, black shirt, jeunesse- theater group. E- sports, D & D, tutoring, chess, JAG is good club time, choir.

Update on playground initiative: $5000 had been raised, but consensus of the group was to not continue. Funds signed over to school. Issues encountered as the play structure belongs to City if Winnipeg (COW). Discussion if monies should be spent on COW equipment where there was no buy in from (COW) despite discussions with COW delegates. The structure is slated to be replaced in near future. The school has decided to explore constructing small activity stations. A Gaga ball pit was explored which requires a grassy area. Mary shared experience of exploring a Gaga ball pit in another school and that COW was going to charge rent. Nicole to check with Christen Lesperance as Sarah noted there is a pit there. Other initiatives planned: Picnic benches in ‘woodsy’ area at front of school.

Nicole shared that she is moving to Australia in January 2025, so will be active on SPC until December 2024. Her replacement is yet TBD.

Meeting concluded: 8:15pm

**Next meeting: Oct 15th @ 7pm in EGM Library.** 3rd Tuesday of each month seems to work for most members.