

SAGE Steering Minutes – Tuesday, September 24 - 7:00 - 8:00 pm
MS Teams - link to be sent by Mr. Gris

In Attendance:

Andrew Downey
Carol-Lee Lodder
John Gris
Amanda
Niki Poirier
Chris T
Jennie
Ashley McGhee
Theresa Berry
Bonnie
Peter Benton
Danielle Irwin
Sarah Holden
Jamie-Lee McIntosh
Sharon Windsor Harker
Meaghan Strimas
Melanie Rampen
Jamee
Stephanie
Robyn Ellis
Jennifer
Jessica and Kam
Kerri Boyd

Absent:

Van
Jo

1. Co-Chairs report - Andrew/Jamee

Everyone in attendance did quick introductions of themselves and the names and grades of their children at Strathcona.

· Vacancies for 2024-2025 Steering Committee

We are seeking someone to act as the Chair of the Arts Enhancement Committee. This looks like helping organize the art trips, the end of year art gala, for example. This role is supported by the committee and the previous chair. There is some committee building to be done for this position and committee. Co-chairing the committee is also an option. Please reach out if you are interested in filling this role.

A few dates on the calendar to note: the puppet show just happened yesterday, the Fall Fling has a date and the retreat for SAGE parents is also being organized. The retreat used to be an annual event and happened in the late summer in a backyard, ideas were tossed around and was a great community building time. Oct 4 in the evening is the current date for the retreat, alternate date idea is after Thanksgiving if Oct 4th doesn't work out.

At the end of the agenda going forward, we want to have a spot for questions, comments and interaction with parents and the committee.

Email list issues are being worked on. If anyone has suggestions on how to improve the email list issues, we'd love to hear them.

2. Principals report - Mr. Gris

Mr Gris introduced himself. He is the temporary replacement for Mr Hill.

Rabbit and Bearpaw assembly happened yesterday. There was a lot of involvement from the students, and it connected well with the seven grandfather teachings. It was a fantastic experience.

We have a virtual assembly for the Terry Fox run on Wednesday, and the run is happening on Friday Sept 27.

The HWDSB multi year strategic plan was reviewed with the school staff on Fridays PA day as an important check in for each staff member to be sure their teaching and supporting of students has the right goals and inspiration. Learning and literacy were discussed and learned at the Thursday night staff meeting. Half of the PA day was led by the ministry of education, fire alarm and anaphylactic emergencies were reviewed. Other topics discussed were student management and well-being, wellness and engagement activities, responding to hate, human rights, and anti-sex trafficking.

\$155 requested by the music program for xylophone mallets.

There is a fence going up in the backyard of the school for student safety along the back part of the partition wall.

Sage is also being presented with an ask to support painting activities on the playground.

Mr Gris will talk to the board about the school using Victoria Park grounds for recess.

For the Fall Fling we need to make sure vendors have proper insurance.

Forest of Reading website is being encouraged to SAGE to support the continuation of this program. About \$2000 for the program for the school.

Enrollment question for Mr Gris: is there room for new students, are the classes full, and what is the process for welcoming new students? If a new student requested enrollment, they would be admitted. A parent concern is that SAGE is treated as the overflow for new students joining during the year.

Question for Mr Gris: messaging is that the school is slated for closure, but have recently heard that closures are now not going to happen indefinitely. Can we assume that the school is not slated for closure, especially seeing as the roof was just done this summer? Funding for schools is based on how many students are in the school. Trustees make decisions about schools when an accommodation review is being made. Mr Gris has not heard about any accommodation reviews happening right now. The website always has info on the state of repair etc for each school.

How are schools slated for funding for school playground structures and equipment? It seems most schools have something for their kids, our school has nothing. Why has Strathcona not received any funding for the playground? It would be challenging and expensive. We are looking at the ground being painted as an alternative. Funding would have to be raised through fundraising. Naturalized play structures could be considered, still \$40,000+ Corporate partnership is a good option.

Mr Gris will look into having a superintendent come to a future meeting to share info on applications for SAGE Quest at Kanetskare.

3. Teacher's report - Ms Boyd

Application process is also something to discuss. Lower JK enrollment may have been affected by the new 6 month earlier application time for the 2024-2025 school year.

Rabbit and Bearpaw presentation is tying nicely into the curriculum for the month.

Another tree planting trip is being planned for the 1-5 SAGE classes. Hoping to make this a yearly fall trip.

4. Treasurer's report – Niki

We got our first report right before this meeting. As the new treasurer, consulting with Jamee is needed before a detailed report can be shared. Consideration for requested funds for various items above can be responded to after the report is gone over.

5. GEC Report - Sharon

Brainstorming document has been carried forward from last year to continue planning.

6. Fundraising Report – Jamie-Lee

Fall Fling is the first fundraising event Oct 19th for the school year. We are putting the call out for vendors at the moment. This is the primary fundraising event, along with the Spring Fling. The best way to direct help strathconasagefundraising@gmail.com Any help in any capacity is much needed and appreciated. This is for the whole school, only a part of the money raised is for SAGE.

Starting Sept 27, Fresh from the Farm fundraiser is happening. Forms need to be in by Oct 14th.

7. Scheduling next meeting

October 22nd will be our next meeting, at 7pm.