

Savona Elementary School PAC Minutes

November 9, 2021 @ 6:30pm

Present: Scott Galloway, Susan Colville, Jennifer Demasi, Kelly Kirby, Krystal Lamberton, Lily Friesen, Kirsten Pejril

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm

Reading of old minutes from September 14, adopted by Kelly Kirby

**Treasure's Report:** General PAC Account: \$

Broken down into

Playground

General

Gaming Account:

Principal's Report: See Attached

**Old Business:**

PAC will pay \$20 per hoodie for grade 7.

Teacher wish list is fulfilled.

Fruit and veggie program in effect.

**New Business:**

Eagle Bay – deposit to be sent by November 15

Hot Lunch Program – needing parent organizer and parent volunteers

Poinsettia Fundraiser – delivery scheduled December 3, 2021

PAC is making Christmas Ornaments for all the students.

Ginger man cookies decorating on December 17, 2021

Kelly will purchase icing

Susan will purchase cookies

Playground update – fundraising in effect

Meeting adjourned by: Kirsten at 7:38pm

Next PAC meeting will be on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

Wow, we are into November, Remembrance Day is upon us, Daylight Savings Time, I haven't been fired, what a start!!

I still continue to feel the community aspect of Savona daily and so appreciate it. We had our first field trip in close to a year and a half. Thank you again to our PAC for supporting the trip with funds for the pumpkins and we also used the bussing budget you provide. Community!

Since our last meeting, we have been busy setting the learning agenda for the year, getting to know our students' learning trends and levels, and assessing that learning. Personally, I am finding out how difficult it is to assess the learning of young students, as I have been a secondary teacher my entire career. It is very different when kids have difficulty reading or writing. How do you find out what they have learned or how do you have them acquire new knowledge? This is one example of why I asked for a switch to elementary, and especially a move to Savona, as I am in the trenches gaining experience and not at 30,000 feet, barking about things I have never done.

We have secured two more trips for the school - Eagle Bay from June 8-10 (barring COVID issues) and Harper Mountain for skiing (tubing was last year) on Feb. 11 and 23 (Gr. 2-7). The Eagle Bay deposit is due Nov. 15th, so the cheque was written today. We will ask for chaperones closer to the date.

Our Remembrance Day assembly is tomorrow at 10:30. We will be posting a link on our website when the video is uploaded, and I plan to send an email home stating so. I really want to push traffic to our website, which is loaded with updated information.

We had parent-teacher interviews in October, and we found the mix of in person and phone calls was an effective way to reach parents and it worked well for our teacher as well.

We have completed FSAs for Gr. 4 & 7, NFRA (non-fiction reading assessment) for all students in Grades 4-7, and the DNA (District Numeracy Assessment) for Gr. 3 & 6. Results have been entered on EdPLan insight. Teachers enter the data, and then have access to it at a class level, so they know what to drill down to for improvement by student (or by class if there is a trend). Basically, to use educationese, it is a tool for differentiation.

Before we know it, Christmas will be here, which shocks me, because once January/February hits, the year seems to evaporate away.

As always, we look forward to helping students learn and help them develop as young people as well. We use the curriculum as a vehicle to teach learning and life skills, especially around the Core Competencies. I am a firm believer that if my own boys graduated with Critical and Creative Thinkers, better or good communicators and collaborators, and with an acute awareness of their personal and social responsibility to society and themselves, then I would be a happy dad. I look forward to student self assessments, and in fact I had my science students in my 5-7 class complete one today on a recent project we completed. Metacognition (thinking

about your thinking) is a strong driver for improvement in learning, hence my passion for it. Learning is tough to measure, so why not ask the learner?

Below is a summary from the Ministry website.



Communication -The Communication competency encompasses the knowledge, skills, processes and dispositions we associate with interactions with others. Through their communication, students acquire, develop and transform ideas and information, and make connections with others to share their ideas, express their individuality, further their learning, and get things done. The communication competency is fundamental to finding satisfaction, purpose and joy.



Thinking - The Thinking competency encompasses the knowledge, skills and processes we associate with intellectual development. It is through their competency as thinkers that students take subject-specific concepts and content and transform them into a new understanding. Thinking competence includes specific thinking skills as well as habits of mind, and metacognitive awareness. These are used to process information from a variety of sources, including thoughts and feelings that arise from the subconscious and unconscious mind and from embodied cognition, to create new understandings.



Personal and Social - The Personal and Social competency is the set of abilities that relate to students' identity in the world, both as

individuals and as members of their community and society. Personal and social competency encompasses what students need to thrive as individuals, to understand and care about themselves and others, and to find and achieve their purposes in the world.

This was a bit of a ramble, but it provides some insight into the direction we will head at Savona Elementary. I would encourage you to ask your kids about their learning, beyond how was your day or what did you do today. Ask "What did you learn today?" and have them describe it. They are generally excited about it.

Scott Galloway