

**Lord Selkirk Elementary PAC**  
**May 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes**  
**Selkirk Library**

- Meeting called to order at 6:40pm by Alexis
- Land acknowledgement by Alexis
- Introductions by everyone
- Agenda put forward by Alexis, second by Jasmine, all in favour
- Minutes from April 4, 2023, Alexis motion, second by Janet, all in favour

**Chair Report**

- Welcome and it is a full agenda, so moving on to the Admin update.

**Principal and Vice-Principal update**

- Vince is on leave, and Mike will stay until the end of the school year and prepare for the new year.

Interim Principal Mike McEwan commented that Staff is wonderful, professional, committed to the students. It does take and community to raise a child and this is a community. This is a great place for your kids to be and if my kids were school age, they would be happy to be here.

See full transcript of admin update below.

**Treasurer Update (Rose):**

General account is approximately \$44,600, gaming is approximately \$3,400.

**Community**

Chess club was started 14 years by Cy with 4 kids, over the years, has over 300 kids in the program. Volunteer Dad Cy bought 50 chess sets and supplied them. But the school has been paying for some portion. Cy has created a chess system and it is an amazing program at Thursday lunch.

- Cy will retire and Matt will take the leadership role moving forward. Would be asking for support from parents who would be able to come and help.

**Question:** How many parents? *About 5*

**Question:** How does it work? *Right now it is Cy, Matt, and Mr. B.*

*Wouldn't need to come every week as a volunteer, just be able to cover off Matt.*

11:45-1:15

**Question:** What else do you need to make chess club a success? *Chess sets are 15 years old and are missing pieces. Would like to have approximately 10 boards.*

*Funds for final program activities and farewell that Cy likes to hold.*

**Question:** Would online be an option for playing? *It is not a good idea to play online, would encourage a board for playing.*

### **Amelia - plants for Selkirk?**

- Amelia's company Diamond Head has extra plants they would be happy to donate to the school. Would need them to be planted before the end of the school year, and watering if that could be supported over the summer. Would need to go through the grounds group. Mike will follow up on it tomorrow with Amelia directly.

### **Janet – Update on spending Royale surplus (+\$20,000 not in the budget)**

Selkirk Teachers and Staff Surveyed in the last week of March

- The survey was shared with teachers and staff by Admin
- We have 65 teachers/staff at Selkirk
- We got 31 total responses- nearly half

### **TOP Question: How should we spend the extra funds?**

11 - Classroom Equipment & Workshops

8 - Classroom Tech Upgrades

5 - More Field Trip Funds

3 - Community Events

3 - Outdoor Capital Projects

2 - School Wide Workshops

### **Comments / Notes**

- Tech Updates = projector installation / iPads / Headphones
- Classroom Equipment = lots of ideas including books, science equipment, sport equipment, toys, manipulatives, art supplies and more.
- Ideas for Outdoor (mostly) capital projects:
  - Trees planted for shade beside the outdoor classroom area so that it can be used on sunny days.
  - Repaint Snakes and Ladders
  - The topic of more greenery/re-wilding our school yard has come up in staff meetings/amongst teachers. It's a larger conversation involving district facility workers, but something that would be amazing in the long-term.
  - Noise cancelling matt for the cafeteria
  - School Bus
  - Field upgrades
- Savings for next year: Please consider a cushion of funds to assist annual endeavours such as Grade 7 Camp, Sports Day lunch/treat (this year we have government funds to provide this to students), Classroom play equipment repair/replacement, community building activities

**Based on these results, Janet proposes the extra \$20,000 in Royale money be distributed in this way:**

\$4,500	Additional discretionary funding for teachers and staff (\$100 each). No receipts required. Teachers can spend as they like for their class.
\$5,000	Support Tech committee request for overhead projectors/installations
\$5,500	Make this available for teachers to buy classroom equipment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Specifically items that last for many years like: books, science equipment, STEM equipment and sporting equipment</li> <li>❖ Available in \$100-\$500 mini grants</li> <li>❖ First come first serve for qualifying requests using a Google Form teachers can fill out</li> <li>❖ All purchases and receipts tracked.</li> </ul>
\$5,000	Reserve for next year- potentially for outdoor capital project or other

**Discussion:**

- Vanessa on behalf of the Selkirk Tech Committee: we have been working over the last 5 years to have mounted projectors in every classroom, need to have 7 more. The projectors may last for 10 years, they will remain useful for a long time. They are convenient and safe – no cords to trip over. Maintenance is covered by the IT dept. It’s not ideal to have them in some classrooms and not others (as it is now).
- Question: Is there no other source of funding for these projectors?? Vanessa: No.
- Vanessa: Up to you, but I think funding should be for the school, not be classroom/teacher specific.
- Dawn: Should we spend more money on the projectors because it seems to be what the school really needs? And they are more long term than classroom equipment that can break or get lost. Could we do \$7,500 on tech and less on classroom equipment?

**Vote for funding:**

Bike to school week: party on Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup> after school, bike decorating, bike mechanic, etc. advocating for more biking. There is already \$500 secured from VSB. Last year \$1000 was allocated. Last year there was a lot of money spent on prizes, will not do that this year.

The following spending is proposed:

- Theresa Maier Award \$350
- Chess club plaque for Cy: \$400
- Chess club tournament: \$550
- Active travel: \$900

**Motion** to spend money on all expenses noted above: Alexis moved, Rose Seconded: **Vote: 12 in favour no one opposed total funding= \$2200. Motion passed.**

**Vote on spending the \$20,000 from Royale:**

**Vote to give \$4,500 to teachers, \$7500 to tech and \$3,000 in discretionary funding for classroom equipment: 7 in favour, motion passed.**

*Stella and Vanessa to support Rose in distributing the \$3,000 in discretionary classroom equipment funding in a way that is equitable between primary and intermediate.*

**Vote to give \$10,500 to tech: 3 in favour, motion not passed**

**Discussion regarding Strong Start Program, and vote to include SS in \$100 distributions to teachers:**

**Context for discussion:**

- The exec doesn't agree about this. We will discuss briefly, and then vote.
- This discussion arose because there was a request from Strong Start in the survey to get funding for a new event. It's too late for this event to happen this year anyway, and it would be in partnership with the Kindergarten teachers, who could request funding support from the PAC in the future.
- What we need to decide today is: Do we include Strong Start in the \$100 distributions for teachers/staff?

**Comments:**

- Anna: My interpretation of our constitution is that we get to decide where the funding goes and there is nothing stopping us from supporting SS if we want to.
- Vanessa: SS is already very well supported by the school, the admin, the staff and me personally. They have many sources and funding and PAC doesn't need to be one of them.
- Corene: Funds raised by the PAC through initiatives with Selkirk Parents (like the Royale) should stay in Selkirk Elementary School. That's what parents expect when they are donating and we should follow through on that.
- Janet: The Royale fundraising letter was community oriented and did mention the French program and SS as features of the Selkirk School community.
- Jen: I think funds raised by parents should stay in the school.

***Vote:*** Strong Start should receive the same \$100 one-time discretionary classroom funding (using the Royale surplus) from the Selkirk PAC as all other teachers and staff at Selkirk.

Anna moved the motion to vote, 6 in favour, 2 opposed: motion passed.

*Noted that this funding decision is one-time only. It does not extend to classroom stipends or discretionary funding for next year.*

***Attendees:***

*Anthony Sehon, Mathew Ross, Anna King, Dawn Mesana, Janet Edmison, Jasmine Lee, Rubina Bediruan, Emily Beam, Jennifer Nguyen, Amelia Needoba, Alexis Davis, Rose Houser, CJ Rauscher*

*Administration: Principal Mike Mcewan, Vice-Principal Stella Chow*

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**Principal – Vice-Principal's update – Tuesday, May 9, 2023**

**1. Mike McEwan will stay at Selkirk as Acting Principal until the end of June.**

It has been a pleasure to come out of retirement and assist the Selkirk School community while Mr. Edwards is away. After a long career as a teacher and administrator with the VSB, I still consider it my district and feel a responsibility to help when I can. I will be at Selkirk, as Acting Principal, for the remainder of this school year.

I would like to thank all the students, staff, and community for the warm welcome that was extended to me upon my arrival.

**2. Saleema Noon**

Presentations started today and went well. They will continue for the rest of the week.

The parent Zoom meeting was well attended - about 50 parents. I had an inquiry from a few parents who had missed the meeting wondering if it was recorded so that they could watch it now. It was explained at the parent meeting that, for privacy reasons, it wasn't.

**3. Badminton season coming to an end; track & field starting!**

Thanks to coaches for offering their time to coach and running additional lunch hour drop-ins for badminton practice. Track & Field season has started! This year there is a Senior track & field team – thanks to Laurie Reid, Ashley Haynes and parent Rose Houser for helping with coaching. Please reach out to the coaches if you are able to help out with driving or helping at the mini meets.

**4. Sports Day - lunch provided**

Sports Day is Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. The primary classes will be at Brewers Park – Gladstone Leadership class will help setup and run sports day stations! Intermediate sports day will be held at Selkirk – upper intermediate classes are busy planning stations for Grades 4-7. Pizza lunch, drink, and treat will be provided to all students, funded by the Student & Family Affordability Fund.

#### **5. Staffing/Planning for next year**

We received our staffing for next year about a week ago. We have been given staffing for the same number of divisions on both the English and French Immersion sides (29 divisions in total).

We are in the initial stages of building an organization for next year. We are very full and class size/ class composition rules give us little flexibility. We understand that things can change over the summer.

#### **6. Welcome To Kindergarten**

Welcome to Kindergarten is an annual transition event for all incoming Ks to Selkirk. The school will host short 45-minute sessions for incoming K students to meet the Selkirk team and learn more about Kindergarten! French Immersion sessions will occur Thursday morning on May 11<sup>th</sup>. English sessions will occur throughout the day on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **7. School Calendar/Reporting**

We must send our proposed calendar to the Board in the next week or so for approval. There is little we can change at the school level. Two of the Pro-D Days are flexible dates, and the dates for the Parent Conferences must be set within a prescribed window.

We will share it with the school community before the end of the month. There will also be three reports next year, so the conference dates are spread out a little more.

#### **8. School Streets**

The launch yesterday was tremendous. Lots of positive comments from parents and students. Today's Play Streets was equally well attended and appreciated. We are off to a great start. Thank you to the PAC for organizing and to all the volunteers who are making it happen.

#### **9. School Gardens (SPEC)**

Our garden lessons have started again. Sharlene has been on site this week talking about garden planning, plant life cycles, and weather with our classes. They are lucky to have some great weather for outdoor learning!