

## **St Ann's Academy Parents' Association (SAPA) Meeting Minutes from April 14, 2020**

**Present:** Mike Simpson, Patrick Niwa, Crystal Chartrand, Joel Loehr, Rosie Caputo, Lauren Phillips, Amita Malhotra, Chad Belbin, Lisa Anderson, Binny Gupta, Sherry Sanderson, Heather Vohradsky

### **1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer**

Mike welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order at 6:30 and Joel lead the opening prayer.

**2. Adoption of agenda** – m/s Chad/Crystal - carried.

**3. Adoption of minutes** – m/s Chad/Amita – carried.

### **4. Administration Report**

Mr. Niwa reported that school feels like it hasn't resumed, and while it was nice to see parents and some students last week to pick up their belongings, it is not ideal for school to be so quiet. Teachers are working very hard to deliver learnings, some are spending their own money on technology in order to teach virtually from their homes. The survey of parents identified only one family that didn't have a laptop or tablet, and another family provided one for them.

### **5. Presidents Report**

No formal report.

### **6. Treasurer's Report and Report on Completed Activities**

Lisa reported on finances to February 29, 2020 (report was emailed to SAPA on April 7, 2020). Lisa, Joel and Mike brainstormed some ideas over the past two weeks about how much of the SAPA budget is normally spent in April to June on sports, arts and trips. Lisa inquired with BC Lottery Corporation about flexibility to support the school if the regular budget can't be spent. It was confirmed that the funds raised are to be spent in the school year (about \$15 000/year) and we have spent \$11 000 to date. Lisa reported that if needed, up to \$42 000 could be made available to support the school community, subject to BCLC gaming rules for the funds.

### **7. Old Business 2018/19**

*Doves* – a buddy event, now likely postponed to coincide with the schools 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021.

*Strategic plan* – Advancement officer to advance.

*Alumni event* – Postponed.

*Parent/Student education event* – The educational film Screenagers was scheduled to be shown in school on April 30, and then the evening of May 5 to a broad audience. Patrick has paid for this, SAPA will reimburse the school, and it will likely be postponed until next school year.

*Updates to SAPA Handbook* – Mike noted that updates to the handbook are underway and will be finalized with addition of raffle procedures from Lisa. It was noted that there needs to be some cleaned up language and consistency with the scholarships. To be finalized by June 2020.

**8. Correspondence:** None.

**9. Funding Requests:** Mr. Niwa noted that normally the requests for SAPA budget for the next school year are initiated after spring break but that hasn't happened yet. He will initiate this with staff with an extension beyond the normal May 1 deadline. Ideally we would have the majority of them for the May 12 SAPA meeting, to initiate the budget to be approved in June.

**10. New Business:**

*Impact of COVID-19 on SAPA Budget and Activities* – The focus of the discussion was on how, if at all, SAPA could repurpose its budget to support the school, students and the school community since most budgeted items in the remainder of the year won't proceed. The following ideas were raised:

- Support teachers with their costs for technology hardware (e.g., webcams, microphones)
- Support teachers with any additional internet or cell phone costs
- Support technology in the school (for when students return) (Mr. Niwa spoke of wanting to move technology out of the computer lab, and into the classroom)
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) equipment that was listed on the BCLC spring raffle licence (to be costed and budgeted for 20/21 school year)
- Another class set of chromebooks (new STEM equipment may not be compatible)
- Wait and see what teachers and staff need, as they get more experience with virtual teaching
- Move forward with other school equipment discussed in the past year (e.g., PA system, gym divider, etc.)
- Support parents and families with technology costs and “home schooling”

**Motion** – Make available immediately up to \$5000 of the SAPA gaming funds for emergency financial technological needs of teachers and staff to adapt to distant/virtual teaching/learning, allocated as school administration sees fit. m/s Rosie/Chad, carried.

Sherry and Lisa saw no red flags with allocating gaming funds for this purpose, therefore no proposal will be sent to BCLC. Patrick will communicate this offer to teachers and staff.

**11. Committee reports**

*Staff Appreciation* – discuss again in May for a possible June event. Brainstorm options in advance.

*Paint Night* – Cancelled due to fundraiser fatigue and COVID-19.

*Scholarship* – Rosie and Lauren volunteered for the committee (ideally they need one more to have an odd number). Rosie will follow up with Ms. Spina about extending the deadline; since there won't be a graduation ceremony on May long weekend, there is no rush to receive applications.

*Colombo Cares* – Fundraising event scheduled for April 15 was cancelled as Colombo Lodge is closing for the month of April. They will follow up with us to reschedule in the future.

**12. Closing Prayer** by Patrick and adjournment at 7:40 pm

**Next SAPA meeting - Tuesday May 12 @ 6:30 pm**