

## ABERDEEN SCC ANNUAL REPORT SEPT.9<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 – MARCH 2, 2020

The Aberdeen SCC grew with many interested and dedicated members this year. We were really on a roll focusing on Parent Engagement and were sad when our school year was cut short. Our members are still in regular contact brainstorming ideas to help our children and families cope with their mental health throughout this unprecedented time.

The 2019/20 Council members are as follows:

Amy Orth – Principal

Jodi Levy – Chair

Maryanne Rempel – Vice Chair

Brandi Tomy – Secretary

Bonnie Doige – Parent Rep

Lana Pearson – Parent Rep

Barkley Twidale – Parent Rep

Jamie Wright – Parent Rep

Carla Beaulac – Parent Rep

Chelsea Baron – Parent Rep

Barb Hagele – Community Rep

Our SCC Meetings were held in the Aberdeen School in either the staffroom or room 143 on the following days:

Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

This year our main focus was Parent Engagement and what that means. We were so lucky to have our new principle, Amy Orth, join us when she did. As her interest and focus on Parent Engagement was right in line with what our members of the SCC felt was important to explore. I started off our first meeting with a quick paragraph which encompassed our goals for this year; “As school leaders, we have the responsibility to shake out the notion of what traditional parent engagement looks like. We need to be creative, think outside the box and be persistent.” Despite the shortened school year, I believe we got a great deal accomplished this year.

Over the summer the SCC members met at the school to apply positive saying decals to our hallways and bathrooms. The kids, parents and staff were pleasantly surprised to see them up when they returned in September. In addition to our regular school bulletin board that introduces our teachers

with a picture and a fun theme (this year was circus themed) we added a SCC Visual Board. The SCC Visual Board was meant as a place we could update our regular meeting dates so parents were always aware of when our next one would be held. We also posted pics of fun things the SCC were up to and book recommendations parents might be interested in.

We started our year off by providing a burger supper for our "Family Night" (previously named "Meet the Teacher Night"). We also set up a SCC table in the school commons area that was manned by SCC members so we could inform our parents about the SCC and what we were up to. We also took this chance to welcome new families to our school by handing out SCC sponsored "Welcome Baskets" that were collected, organized and given out by our SCC members. These baskets included important community info such as sports available and the sign updates, a list of services provided by local community members such as daycare, hairdressers, teenage babysitters etc. We also had coupons and local business sponsored items such as water bottle and key fobs included. The families that received these baskets were thrilled to be welcomed to our community this way. We will be continuing this tradition in the coming years.

At our first meeting we handed out the book Kids These Days by Dr. Jody Carrington as a gift to our SCC members bought with SCC funds. Everyone was excited to dive into her book as she was going to be the Keynote at our Fall Assembly.

We assigned one of our SCC members to keep our town FB page updated with SCC happenings and meeting dates.

We usually participate in the One Book, One School Program but this year we decided to change it up. We organized and sponsored a Reading Week instead. We had two Saskatchewan authors come to our school to do presentations for our students and invited parents to come in and check it out. We had Sally Meadows come out the morning of Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> and do a book presentation to our Kindergarten to Grade 4 students on her book "The Two Trees" followed by hands on science activity stations themed to dinosaurs, rocks and minerals and animals. The presentation was well received by students and teachers alike.

Allison Lohans joined us in the afternoon of Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> to present her book River Rats to our Grade 5-8's. She read some excerpts from her books and opened the floor to discussion on being an author. To include the Grade 9-12's the school staff organized a "Read to a younger student" contest. Everyone who participated in reading to/with a younger student was entered in to win one of 2 Indigo gift cards. During the Reading Week we also held a school wide reading contest where every student was sent home with a week log reading log to be handed in at the end of the week to be submitted to win an Indigo Gift card.

The Reading Week was a lot of fun but a lot of organizing and volunteer time so we might re-look at the One Book, One School Program for next year.

Our SCC helped run the Book Fair during Parent Teacher Conferences to help the school during these busy 2 days. With our focus being on Parent Engagement this year we added a "Parent Asset Mapping" booth to the Book Fair/Teacher Conference nights. Amy sent out an email outlining exactly what Asset Mapping was to our school families prior to the evening. We had a SCC manned booth set up in the

library with forms parents/guardians/grandparents could fill out. We were looking for anyone with expertise in a specific area or life experiences they could share.

We had about 60 people fill out these forms and a great deal of interest and questions. We gave the forms to Amy to keep on file and give to teachers as the info/experiences pertained to a subject they were teaching. This was a real way to have parents engaged in the learning of our students as apposed to just being involved by sending in cupcakes to a bake sale (which is still greatly appreciated!). The SCC will continue to gather this info from parents in the future.

We had tremendous interest by both staff and SCC members in the PSSD Growing Together Fall Assembly that was held in Warman on Oct. 26, 2019. We ended up sending six SCC members and the school sent two staff members. Dr. Jody Carrington's presentation was a riot and highly informative. Our biggest takeaways included the importance of understanding the lid-flip, the importance of making sure those holding our children are OK and "Lighting Up" for our kids and each other's kids is really a superpower that holds so much potential in changing lives.

The afternoon discussion panel got our wheels turning on how we could bring this type of info to our students and families. Which eventually turned into the GRIT Conference (more on that below).

We continued of Christmas Basket Raffle as our main fundraiser to keep our coffers full so we can sponsor the many things the SCC does over throughout the year.

The SCC along with Amy encourage the Aberdeen teachers to make positive phone calls home throughout the year. After discussion with our SCC and some school families we decided this was a good way to break the barrier between teachers and parents that sometimes happens and to let parents know how well their children were doing. This is an ongoing action.

In the new year, the SCC organized Teacher Appreciation Week and treated our teachers, school staff and bus drivers to coffee and baking every morning. We decorated the staff room in our Circus theme and had a fun photo booth set up. We supplied a potluck lunch in the staffroom on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>.

The SCC along with Amy had started discussions about bringing in nutritional snacks and lunches to our school as we noticed that Aberdeen's nutrition was surprisingly low on the Our School Report survey. This initiative did not get far off the ground due to the shortened school year but remains an important focus for next year.

We sponsored a speaker at our schools first ever GRIT Conference put on by Mrs. White and her Crusaders in Action students. The GRIT Conference was held on March.11<sup>th</sup> and focused on mental health and peer support. The SCC is excited to sponsor this amazing conference in the years to come. We also had SCC members volunteer throughout the day to help the CIA and Mrs. White make sure everything ran smoothly.

Right before the school year abruptly ended the SCC started to discuss ways to help students and parents become more involved in our schools mandatory music classes for grades 5 and 6. We talked about possibly providing the school with more modern musical instruments. This discussion will continue in the new year.

The SCC put the school staff in contact with the Red Cross Recess Guardians program and we are looking forward to how that plays out next school year.

The SCC and Amy will be looking at a few Grant Programs in the fall of 2020 to help take some financial pressure off families and to ensure all our students have equal opportunity to participate in our school's extracurricular activities and sports.

We enjoyed having our Division Rep, George Janzen, attend a few of our meetings. He is a wealth of information and just a great guy to chat with.

Amy and I are currently updating our SCC Constitution and will send you a copy for approval asap.

I have attached our latest Financial summary.

All in all, we had a great year with many awesome ideas from each one of our SCC members. We will be holding our 2020-21 AGM and Elections this fall.

Sincerely,  
Jodi Levy  
SCC Chairperson