

Parent Advisory Council: Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Bentley High School Learning Floor

Members in attendance: Lane Moore, Carmen Hrynyk, Darci Cole, Kelsey Ruttan, Karla Wyld, Jamie de Gier, Shannon Landry, Tammy McDiarmid, Bobbi Talsma, Lindsay Morrison, Pam Hansen, Juanita Bender, Andrea Hughes

Meeting commenced at 7:10 pm.

Agenda:

1. Welcome to any new families/parents to our Parent Advisory Council Meeting.
2. Officers' Election:

Our former President, Sheri Green, resigns from her board position.

Motion to open nominations for Board Members made by Carmen Hrynyk.

Lindsay Morrison nominates Carmen Hrynyk for the role of President. This motion was seconded by Darci Cole. All in favour. Carmen Hrynyk assumes duties as President.

Carmen Hrynyk nominates Bobbi Talsma for the position of Vice President. This motion was seconded by Darci Cole. All in favour. Bobbi Talsma assumes duties as Vice President.

Darci Cole nominates Karla Wyld for the position of Director. This motion was seconded by Carmen Hrynyk. All in favour. Karla Wyld assumes duties as Director.

Current Members re-elected to the same positions:

Darci Cole – Secretary

Leslie Anderson – Director

Juanita Bender – Director

Shannon Yurystowski – Director

Janis Bickford – Fundraising Liason

3. School Board Chairs Liaison Meeting Update
 - Wolf Creek Public School (WCPS) is building budget awareness (where and how does the money come in and where does it go)
 - What are our plans to compensate for potential provincial budget cuts
 - WCPS is losing \$1.8 million in funding
 - 79% of the total WCPS spending is devoted to staffing

- Teacher Full Time Equivalent (FTE), Educational Assistant FTE, School Social Worker FTE & Inclusion Coach FTE have all been reduced
- These Provincial budget changes represented a \$250 per student funding reduction for the 2019/2020 school year
- Wolf Creek's insurance premiums have been increased
- The current deficit came in at \$3,000,000
- New Budget Realities:
 - i. Funding rates are to be frozen for 4 years
 - ii. Funding and assurance framework is under review
 - iii. No more class size funding
- Board Decisions
 - i. The Board is covering the ~\$3 million deficit with a combination of operational and capital reserves
 - ii. For August 31, 2020 we are projected to have \$900,000 left in Operational Reserves and \$1.2 million left in our Capital Reserves.
- Spring of 2020: Potential Scenario
 - i. Presuming we see a Status Quo Budget (same as this year) – another \$3 million deficit will need to be addressed. The Board will have to seek a variety of options to balance the budget, including:
 1. Adding new 'parent fees'
 2. Reducing staff at school and district levels
 3. Reducing operational budgets at school and district levels
 4. Utilizing limited operational or capital reserves
- Budget feedback from parents requested through a 'Thought Exchange;' more information regarding how to access the 'Thought Exchange' to come

4. Advocacy Letter

- We reviewed the letter that the Parent Advisory Council will be sending to our Minister of Education, which shares our thoughts and concerns regarding current funding shortfalls and the lack of a properly funded inclusion model
- As a Parent Council group we would like to encourage parents to write and send personalized letters, regarding the impacts of budget cuts in our unique, K-12, rural school

5. Bentley School Chest Society Casino

- Will be held on February 16 and 17 (Family Day weekend)
- A large number of volunteers will be needed for this event – more details to come in January

6. School Trustee Update: Pam Hansen

- Province wide, approximately the same amount of money was given to divisions; however, this does not take into account school population increases and other potential areas of increased spending
- Schools Councils' Conference to be held April 24 and 25, 2020

- Questions for our School Trustee, Pam Hansen, can always be directed to her via phone call, email or text
7. Principal Report: Lane Moore
- Please refer to our website for the schools' Calendar of Events
 - An Athletic Calendar is also available for practice and game information
 - Bentley School Gives Back
 - i. Bentley School is accepting gift card donations that will raffled off the night of the Christmas Concert, with proceeds going to local families in need
 - ii. Gift for Grandparents – donations are being accepted that are geared towards seniors; students will be helping to put together and distribute gift baskets for local seniors in the community
 - Save the Date – student/staff hockey game will be held on January 17, 2020, with proceeds going towards the Joslyn Snow Memorial Scholarship
8. Other Notes: Carmen has set up an account at *The Drop Coffee & Tea* (coffee shop) for the teachers at Bentley School, where people can donate money towards the fund and teachers can put this money towards their purchase.

Next Meeting: February 11, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Darci Cole.