

## **Parent Advisory Council: Meeting Minutes**

Monday, November 23, 2020

Via Google Meet

### **Members in Attendance:**

Lane Moore, Carmen Hrynyk, Darci Cole, Bobbi Talsma, Marsha Lush, Stephen Lush, Shannon Yurystowski, Tammy McDiarmid, Ashley Bajema, Leslie Anderson, Holly Grimsdale, Karla Wyld and Pam Hansen.

**Call to Order:** 8:02 pm

### **Agenda:**

1. Approval of minutes from October 5, 2020 meeting
  - Approved by Marsha Lush; Seconded by Darci Cole
  
2. Trustee Update: Pam Hansen
  - Thanks to the staff for their continued efforts during a particularly difficult year.
  - The Wolf Creek Public Schools' superintendent, Jayson Lovell, will be stepping down. His last day as superintendent will be August 31, 2021. A new superintendent will be appointed by March 4, 2021.
  - Wolf Creek Public Schools is conducting a review of its ward boundaries. Due to growing populations in Lacombe and Blackfalds, coupled with declining populations in rural areas throughout the division, a ward realignment is currently taking place.
  - Blackfalds is slated to get a new high school. It will be built as a private-public partnership (P3).
  - The Alberta School Council Association has lost 75% of its funding. They continue to operate for the interim, however, they may not be able to sustain the association for much longer.
  
3. Administration Update: Lane Moore
  - We have had two students in the High School test positive for COVID-19.
  - Both confirmed cases were the result of community transmission; they had both been exposed to an individual who had tested positive (this individual was not a student of Bentley School). Once the school received word of the first confirmed COVID-19 case, the response team at Bentley School quickly produced lists of the student's close contacts. After the first case, 20 grade 11 and 12 students were notified and told to remain at home, as well as 3 staff members. After the second case, another 12 students were notified.

- Overall, 3 staff and 32 students have been directly impacted. The impact on the overall school population was minimized due to our strategically set up cohort groups.
- Huge kudos to our staff members for being ready on a moment's notice to initiate online learning to students that must remain at home. These teachers are also simultaneously facilitating the in-school classes, with help from substitute teachers, to those students still in the building.
- In the event that online learning becomes a reality for students in the near future, teachers will be taking time in the coming days and weeks to prepare students for the online learning environment.
- Some families have recently and voluntarily opted for online learning.
- Our students have been very upbeat and have handled the news of the two cases in Bentley School very well.
- The two COVID-19 cases at Bentley School serve as a good reminder to remain vigilant with mask wearing and hand washing.
- We are confident that we are doing everything in our power to keep kids safe in our building.

#### 4. Stephen Lush:

- Thank you to Marsha, Lane and Wolf Creek head office staff for their support and efforts during this time.
- Stephen had a conversation with the Jr. and Sr. High classes about the two confirmed cases.

#### 5. Bentley School Gives Back:

- As a school community we place importance on 'giving back' during the holiday season to families in need.
- Our first initiative is *Gifts for Grandparents - Toonie Drive*. We will be hosting a *Toonie Drive* with the donations going to local care facilities for the purchase of gifts for the seniors. Each classroom has been provided with a bin to collect the donated toonies. The collection deadline is December 10.
- Our second initiative is our *Families in Need Raffle*. We are currently accepting donations of cash or gift cards until December 10. The format for the fundraiser will be an online raffle. Tickets will be available for purchase after December 1 (1 ticket for \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20). Proceeds from the raffle will be passed on to a family, or families, in need this holiday season. More information to come.

#### 6. Christmas Program:

- This year we are planning on live streaming our Christmas Concert in the afternoon of December 18. The grade 5s will be hosting the *America's Got Talent* style program. The concert will be recorded and played during the evening as well.

7. Gideon Bible Distribution:

- The Parent Advisory Council voted to allow the distribution of Gideon Bibles to grade 5 students on an opt-in/opt-out basis. Parents will be given the option to have their child opt-in or opt-out of the bible distribution. This year, due to restricted access in the school building, Lane will be passing out the bibles to those requesting one.

8. Parenting Support Session: “Helping our Children and Youth Cope”:

- On December 1, 2020 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm there will be a virtual learning opportunity available to children, adolescents and families that focuses on mental health, well-being and building resiliency during the current, global pandemic. A registration link will be available in the near future. More information to come.

9. Other Notes

- Due to students homeschooling and participating in online learning, Bentley School is down approximately 45-50 students overall.
- However, a number of students have recently come back to the classroom.
- A priority for our staff members this year is mental health and well-being. We are so fortunate in Bentley to have such an incredible group of people on staff.
- Pam Hansen: A common question coming from Sr. High students across the division, and their parents, is regarding Diploma exams. As of right now, there is still no answer about the commencement or cancellation of Diploma Exams for January.

**Next Meeting:**

- We have two potential dates for our next Parent Council meeting: Monday, December 21, 2020 or January 25, 2021. We will post notice when a firm date has been selected.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Darci Cole.