

Parent Advisory Council: Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 25, 2021

Via Google Meet

Members in Attendance:

Lane Moore, Carmen Hrynyk, Darci Cole, Bobbi Talsma, Marsha Lush, Stephen Lush, Shannon Yurystowski, Ward Yurystowski, Tammy McDiarmid, Ashley Bajema, Leslie Anderson, Holly Grimsdale, Karla Wyld, Joan Dickau, Stephanie Smith, Lindsay Morrison, Karen Jaffray, Ashley Fraser and Pam Hansen.

1. Call to Order: 8:03 pm

2. Approval of Minutes:

- Approval of minutes from November 23, 2020 meeting

3. Additions to Agenda:

- None

4. New Business:

- Welcome to Town Council Representative
 - We are happy to welcome Joan Dickau, town council representative, to our Parent Advisory Council meeting.
- Trustee Update: Pam Hansen
 - Once again, a big thank you to the Bentley School staff and students for their efforts this year.
 - Wolf Creek Public Schools is currently running the Bright Futures Play Academy (early learning program for 3 and 4 year olds) at a \$600,000-plus deficit. The deficit can be attributed to a lack of grants and a reduction in PUF funding, in combination with a lack of student enrollment numbers as a result of COVID-19. The division realizes the importance and benefits of this program in our communities. They are hoping that registration numbers in the 2021/2022 school year will be high enough to continue to operate the program.
 - At the December board meeting, a review of the ward boundary configuration was done. There were two major changes noted as a result of the ward review. Firstly, an additional Trustee position was created for Blackfalds. And secondly, the Bentley and Rimbey wards were combined into one: therefore, there will only be one trustee position for these areas.
 - Nominations are being taken for the Wolf Creek Public Schools 'Friends of Education Award'

- Diploma Exams: This year, Diploma Exams were made optional to students. However, students are now being asked to contact potential post-secondary institutions to clarify whether Diploma Exam marks will be required for acceptance into their programs. This comes as a surprise to many. More information and clarification was requested by Parent Council members regarding this new information.
- Administration Updates: Lane Moore
 - ACE Plan: Action – Collaboration – Evidence
 - We have taken a look at last year’s results and are putting a plan into place for the following year.
 - Celebrations over the past year:
 - Program success: LEAPS (literacy enrichment and practical strategies)
 - Program success: BOUND (building our understanding of numeracy domains)
 - Bentley School Gives Back: community donations
 - Junior High Academy options
 - Our High School has been recognized for innovation in High School Redesign. Our High School also offers dual credit opportunity (SWAC) and Academy options.
 - Various athletic accomplishments to be proud of
 - March to June – staff successfully planned and delivered at-home learning for K-12 students
 - Accountability Pillar / AERP: Areas of improvement for our school include:
 - Program of Studies – our school is at a disadvantage in this category as we do not offer certain additional programs such as French
 - Diploma Exam Participation – we have a number of students in our school who write Diplomas in Grade 11 which decreases the number of students that write in Grade 12
 - Parental Involvement – only 12 parents completed the survey, thus representing a very small number of parents. We are always looking for ways to increase parental involvement in our school.
 - Diploma Acceptable – lower Diploma Exam marks were reported for the 2019/2020 school year
 - EYE DATA – Early Years Evaluation
 - FOUNTAS & PINNELL – Benchmark Assessment System
 - STAR DATA – Literacy Benchmark

- We have increased the length of our Language Arts and Math blocks to support one-on-one and small group instructional time.
- CRM (Collaborative Response Model) days are generally used for professional development. A large focus of this year’s CRM days has been staff wellness and well-being.
- Inclusive Practices within the new COVID-19 guidelines and protocols have looked a bit different this year. We have had to be very strategic with our EA placement and movement amongst different classes in order to limit opportunities for close contact transmission.
- Mental Health Focus: Our kids have been coping extremely well, facing several unknowns and challenges throughout the year. However, we are starting to see a shift in some of our students due to the effects of isolation, a lack of social interactions outside of school and the closure of after school activities and sports. Our school staff will be placing an immediate focus on our kids’ mental health and well-being moving forward, to make sure our kids are happy and healthy.
- Differentiated Calendar 2021/2022:
 - The possibility of creating two additional days off school in lieu of Parent/Teacher Interviews was discussed, due to the fact that two additional parent teacher interview appointment days were added to the calendar. The two potential in-lieu days would fall on existing PD days, so the students would already have these days off. No one in tonight’s Parent Council meeting was opposed to this suggestion.
- CO Video – Budget Input – Thought Exchange
 - WCPS is getting ready to prepare its 3-year plan and to set its budget priorities. WCPS will be sharing a Thought Exchange that will ask, “What are the most important areas to focus on in our district as we continue to support all learners?”
 - Jayson Lovell, WCPS’s Superintendent, discussed Wolf Creek’s previous areas of focus and successes, budgeting, funding from Alberta Education and finally, the pressures we face from the decline in enrollment due to COVID-19. This decline has shaped class sizes in many schools and placed pressure on budgeting and funding capabilities within our district.
 - We’ve had a significant drop in students attending schools in Wolf Creek School Division (~500 students less). We are currently unsure how many of these students will be returning in the fall. If we don’t see a post-pandemic enrollment increase,

we can expect challenges with government funding over the next 3 years.

- We encourage parents and staff to provide feedback about what the WCPS Board priorities and areas of focus should be through a Thought Exchange. The Thought Exchange will be open starting early January, ending in February. You can share your own thoughts, review other thoughts and star rank thoughts based on how they connect with you. It is a large-scale community wide conversation for the betterment of our division, staff, schools, students and families.
- Please take the opportunity to partake in the Thought Exchange and have your ideas voiced.

– Pre-K and Kindergarten Registrations

- Due to COVID-19, some Pre-K families chose to keep their children home for the current academic year. This is completely understandable. However, we are asking parents, staff and community members to please spread the word that Pre-K and Kindergarten registrations should be done as soon as possible so that we are able to get a better idea of enrollment numbers for programming and budgeting purposes.

5. Round Table Reports:

- None at this time.

6. Next Meeting:

- Monday, March 22, 2021 at 8:00 pm.

7. Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.
- Minutes submitted by Secretary, Darci Cole.