

Parent Advisory Council: Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 22, 2021

Via Google Meet

Members in Attendance:

Ashley Bajema, Lane Moore, Darci Cole, Marsha Lush, Stephen Lush, Tammy McDiarmid, Leslie Anderson, Karla Wyld, Joan Dickau, Stephanie Smith, Lindsay Morrison, Ashley Fraser, Kylie Kissel

1. Call to Order: 8:02 pm
2. Approval of Minutes:
 - Ashley motioned to approve the minutes from last meeting; Marsha seconded
3. Additions to Agenda:
 - Karla Wyld – Lost and Found Items
4. New Business:
 - Trustee Update: Pam Hansen not in attendance, therefore trustee report not given
 - Administration Updates: Lane Moore
 - Dual Credit Presentation
 - Kylie Kissel joined us to speak about the Dual Credit Program offered at Bentley School and throughout the district. Kylie is the *Dual Credit and Career Pathways Coordinator* for Wolf Creek Public Schools.
 - Students in Bentley School have been able to partake in the Dual Credit, School Within a College (SWAC) program. This program partners Wolf Creek Public Schools with post-secondary institutions and colleges to offer credit to students towards their post-secondary education, while they are still in high school.
 - This program can give students a head start in their post-secondary education. It can also provide students the opportunity to explore course/career options while they are still in high school.
 - There are a variety of courses offered through various post-secondary institutions, including Red Deer College, SAIT and Olds College.
 - Stephen - The high school students really appreciate the opportunity to get a head start on their post-secondary education and take college level courses. This gives them first-hand experience of what to expect from a college level course.

- Lane – Our High School programming model allows students the flexibility in their timetables to be able to pursue courses within the Dual Credit Program.
 - Kylie – The students’ tuition, books and learning costs are covered by the district. The student is however responsible for purchasing personal supplies such as PPE.
- Continue/Consider/Change
 - Lane shared a few items that his staff had recently discussed, regarding the upcoming 2021/2022 school year: the continuation, consideration or change of the various COVID-19 protocols. Some of the feedback was as follows:
 - Staggered School Start – for the most part, the staff enjoyed bringing the students back in the fall in smaller groups. This gave teachers a chance to better connect with the students and ensure new rules and routines were well established. We might look at a modified staggered start, potentially increasing the group size to ~1/3 to 1/2 of the class at a time.
 - Day 1/Day 2 Schedule – there were pros and cons to the Day 1/Day 2 Schedule. Teachers missed having PE everyday for their students. However, a longer prep period was beneficial for teachers with the Day 1/Day 2 schedule.
 - Student Drop Off / Pick Up – the dropping off and picking up of students *outside* of the building has been helpful. This really helps alleviate hallway congestion. Additionally, we have found that the younger students seem to have an easier time transitioning to the classroom when parents drop them off outside of the building. This isn’t to say that the parent interaction isn’t missed.
 - Staggered Recess Breaks – with the staggered recess breaks, there has been a noticeable reduction in the stress and anxiety levels in students. Less students in the hallways and playgrounds have ultimately resulted in less incidents and disagreements among students. We will likely make some slight modifications to the current recess schedule.
 - Choice of Options/RTI Supports – the Junior and Senior High students are definitely missing course and programming flexibility, with the current cohort group restrictions in place. More flexibility when choosing courses and program directions would be something we’d like to see more of next year.
 - Assemblies – school wide and large group assemblies have definitely been missed. Opportunities to bring the school community together as a whole, in-person, would be ideal.

- In the coming weeks, the school will be reaching out to families who are currently participating in online learning, to determine their plans for the upcoming school year. This will help our administration in devising teacher allocations, class sizes and grade configurations for September.
- Town Council Report
 - Joan Dickau was warmly welcomed to our Parent Advisory Council meeting.
 - Joan was very pleased to be able to take part in our meeting. She has a vested interest in the school, as her children all attended Bentley School in the past. There was nothing for her to report on behalf of the town. However, people are encouraged to reach out to Joan with any questions or concerns that she can bring back to Town Council for review.
- Annual Board School Council Meeting
 - The Annual Board School Council Meeting is taking place virtually on April 7 at 6:30 pm. Ashley may not be able to attend the meeting and asked for a Parent Advisory Council representative to go in her place. Karla Wyld has agreed to represent our Council at the meeting.
- Parent Council Roles and Responsibilities
 - Lane has agreed to look into this topic and provide us with some details pertaining to some of the roles and responsibilities within our Parent Council.
- Additional Agenda Items
 - Karla Wyld brought to light the fact that since parents aren't allowed in the building, it is difficult for students to be reunited with lost mittens, articles of clothing, etc that might be in the *Lost & Found*.
 - We brainstormed some ideas, including the possibility of posting pictures of some of the *Lost & Found* items on social media, and having the items accessible on outdoor tables for parent pickup.
 - More details to come.

5. Old Business:

- Ashley wanted to follow up on a previous meeting discussion topic: the possibility of students not being accepted into certain post-secondary institutions or programs without Diploma Exam marks.
- Lane shared that since Diploma Exams are optional this year, a vast majority of post-secondary institutions *are* accepting class awarded marks for program entrance (Diploma marks not needed).
- Graduation plans for this year were discussed. As of right now, we are planning to go ahead with a similar format as last year (outdoor ceremony). Ideas and options are still being considered.

6. Round Table Reports:

- None at this time.

7. Next Meeting:

- Monday, May 3, 2021 at 8:00 pm.

8. Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.
- Minutes submitted by Secretary, Darci Cole.