

Parent Advisory Council: Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 27, 2021

Via Google Meet

Members in Attendance:

Lane Moore, Ashley Bajema, Bobbi Talsma, Darci Cole, Marsha Lush, Stephen Lush, Leslie Anderson, Joan Dickau, Holly Grimsdale, Shannon Yurystowski, Wade Yurystowski, Pam Hansen, Julie Greba, Karen Jaffray, Karla Wyld, Sandra Lesyk, Stephanie Smith, Tammy McDiarmid

1) Call to Order: The *Chair*, Ashley Bajema, called the meeting to order at 8:07 pm

2) Approval of Minutes:

- The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as distributed, by the *Chair*.

3) Officers' Election:

- The *Chair* called for nominations for the position of President. No other nominations were received for this position and nominations were declared closed.

Ashley Bajema was declared President - elected by acclamation.

- The *Chair* called for nominations for the position of Vice President. No other nominations were received for this position and nominations were declared closed.

Bobbi Talsma was declared Vice President - elected by acclamation.

- The *Chair* called for nominations for the position of Secretary. No other nominations were received for this position and nominations were declared closed.

Darci Cole was declared Secretary - elected by acclamation.

- The *Chair* called for nominations for the position of Fundraising Liaison. The current Fundraising Liaison, Janis Bickford, was not in attendance. The *Chair* moved to postpone the pending position election until the next scheduled Parent Council meeting.

4) Trustee Report:

- Pam announced that this would be her last meeting as our School Board Trustee, as she did not put her name into the running for the upcoming trustee election. Pam expressed her appreciation towards the Bentley School staff and Parent Council members. The *Chair* and various Parent Council attendees thanked Pam for her years of service as school board trustee.
- On October 18, voters will be able to go the polls to cast their ballot for our next school board trustee. Our Ward C, school board trustee candidates are Trudy Bratland and Alexis Soltice.
- At the trustee meeting on August 31, it was determined that Wolf Creek Public Schools would observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30 by closing schools on that day.
- On September 7, the Wolf Creek Public Schools' Board of Trustees moved that masking would not be mandated for students and staff in the classroom. However, mandatory masking for students in Grades 4 and up, plus staff and teachers in all grades, was imposed by the Government of Alberta of September 15, 2021.
- Currently, the Wolf Creek Public Schools superintendency team is discussing the possibility of implementing district-wide, Kindergarten - Grade 6 report cards.
- The Covid-19 screening checklist has changed considerably since the beginning of the school year. The Board of Trustees is looking for clarifications from the government regarding some of the current, Covid-19 protocols that are in place.
- Pam attended a Zone 4 meeting today, with all of the trustees, to conclude the previous 4-year board member term.

5) Administration Updates:

- Covid-19 Updates:
 - As of today, Bentley School has reached respiratory illness (Covid-19) outbreak status. The school will be in outbreak status until October 7, 2021. Bentley School currently has 14 confirmed, Covid-19 cases. It has also been identified that more than 10% of the school population is not in attendance due to illness.
 - At this time, to help combat the spread of the illness, cleaning protocols have been enhanced, proper/consistent mask use is required, and daily screening checklists are necessary.
 - In the past week or so approximately 6-10 kids each day were sent home with symptoms. Please be vigilant with monitoring your child's health and keeping them home if they are unwell.
 - Parents and guardians are asked to please treat school staff with kindness and respect. This is a time of high stress for a lot of people - our administrative staff, teachers, educational assistants, bus drivers and custodians included. Our main goal is to keep the school doors open and keep kids in the classroom as much as possible. Parent and guardian cooperation and respect towards our staff is needed so that we can continue to keep the doors open and keep everyone safe.

- Schools within our district, including Bentley, are experiencing difficulties getting substitute teachers and substitute EA's to cover for sick staff members.
- A question was asked about whether or not we can pull our kids out of school during this outbreak period. In response, Lane indicated that you can opt to remove your child from the classroom, but that our teachers are only able to provide students with 2 weeks of online school work. After that, is it up to the parent to continue the at-home learning, or have their child return to school.

- Possible Partnerships: Positive Parenting 101:
 - We discussed the possibility of bringing in special guest speakers or professional development opportunities to parents via Parent Council. Carolyn McLaren, a family specialist, offers a range of courses and learning opportunities for parents. Lane agreed to create a survey in order to reach out to parents within our school community. This survey would be used to gauge levels of parent interest in specific PD topics/areas.

- Fundraising for Lunch Program:
 - On Bentley School's facebook page a parent had reached out about the possibility of donating hot lunch meals to families in need. This is a wonderful idea – the school kindly welcomes monetary donations for families in need within our school community.
 - This year, our school was a recipient of a Breakfast Program grant, which has helped to fund our currently operating Breakfast Program which Mrs. Owens helps to facilitate, providing fresh, individually wrapped toast to students.
 - Our school also operates a lunch program, where sandwiches can be given to students who do not have a lunch with them.
 - Tammy McDiarmid mentioned that if parents are looking for other ways of helping out students and families within our community, that many school supplies are needed by students in various grade levels. Please watch for more info regarding school supply donations in the upcoming newsletter.

- Assurance Plan:
 - Lane shared the Assurance Plan Framework: it is used to help create our 3 year school and district plan.
 - The 5 Domains of the Assurance Model are as follows: student growth and achievement, teaching and leading, learning supports, governance and local and societal context.
 - Wolf Creek Public Schools has indicated its top priorities: quality testing, supporting all students and collective responsibility.
 - With Bentley School's ACE Plan (assurance, collaboration, and engagement), the main focus this year will be on enhancing parental involvement and engagement. More involvement from our parent group will garner broader parental perspectives, enhance communication, and provide for more feedback opportunities.

6) Alberta School Council Engagement Grant:

- Our school council has received a \$500 Alberta School Council Engagement grant.
- We would like to use this grant in order to boost parent involvement, both in the school and within the parent council.
- Council members are asked to brainstorm ideas of how we could use this money to enhance parent involvement.

7) School Council Annual Report (due October 15, 2021):

- There are 3 questions on the report that our Parent Council will need to answer and submit. Ashley has agreed to email the questions out to the Parent Council board members in order to get their input.

8) Town Council Report: Joan Dickau

- Joan had nothing to report from Town Council. She did however mention that she will not be running for re-election this year, so this will be her last Parent Council meeting. Thank you, Joan, for serving our town over the years.

9) Round Table Reports:

- None at this time.

10) Next Meeting: Monday, November 1, 2021 at 8:00 pm (via Google Meet)

11) Adjourned:

- Meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm
- Minutes submitted by Secretary, Darci Cole