

Parent Advisory Council: Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 3, 2022

Location: Bentley High School

Members in Attendance:

Stephen Lush, Trudy Bratland, Ward Yurystowski, Ashley Bajema, Darci Cole, Holly Grimsdale, Dale Grimsdale, Lola Talsma, Colleen Garries, Shannon Landry, Tammy McDiarmid, Nicole Jaggard, Jacquie Burris, Adina Armstrong

1. Call to Order: *PAC Chair*, Ashley Bajema, called the meeting to order at 8:04 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes:

- The minutes from the previous meeting were approved by Colleen Garries and seconded by Ashley Bajema.

3. Trustee Report – Trudy Bratland

- The last Trustee Board meeting was on Sept. 15 and since then, Trudy has attended 5 Parent Council AGMs.
- The Board met in Ponoka and participated in a Franklin Covey workshop about Understanding Bias to Unleash Potential.
- Trudy attended the Rimbey Jr./Sr. High School Graduation on Sept. 24
- Wolf Creek hosted the ASBA Zone 4 meeting - Eight Central Alberta School Boards meet regularly to discuss issues, network, support each other and our advocacy roles.
- On Sept. 29th the Board met with Auditors to prepare for the upcoming Audit of last years' books. They then had a partial PR and advocacy meeting before attending the Orange Shirt Day Celebration hosted by the Ponoka Library and WCPS - the Ponoka Schools attended - Drummers and Dancers entertained us, bannock and refreshments were served.
- On Sept. 12, 13 and 14th the Board attended the Public School Board's Association of Alberta Fall General Meeting and participated in their business meeting as well as Professional Development opportunities.
- On Sept. 16, 17 and 18th the Board Retreat was held and there were presentations from and discussions with the Superintendent and other Central Office staff regarding the Education Plan, Budget update, and Capital Plan. They discussed the Blackfalds School and its grade configuration and boundaries.
- The Trustee's Annual Board Self Evaluation was conducted by an outside consultant and they began their book study on "The Governance Core," written by Davis Campbell and Michael Fullan.

- At their October Board meeting, they learned of a Pilot Project for busing students to Ponoka Schools and it appears to be very successful. Attendance for a number of students has increased dramatically.
- Dual Credit opportunities, flashing red light violations and a lease to support the expansion of the Ponoka Youth Centre to the Terrace Ridge School in Lacombe was granted.

4. Administration Updates – Elementary & High School

- We have 434 students enrolled in Bentley School (~35 more than predicted for Sept. 2022 and 11 more inclusion students)
- We received additional teacher FTE in order to lower our class size numbers in grades 5 and 6 for Language Arts and Math
- We also reconfigured Grade 1, Grade 1/2 and Grade 2 into 2 separate Grade 1 classes and two separate Grade 2 classes for the morning
- We currently have 15 full-time Educational Assistants
- Our grade 3 and 4 classes still have higher than ideal numbers
- In Kindergarten, we are short on EA support. As a result, we were only able to provide 2 days a week for our inclusion students (normally we offer 3 days a week)
- 'Out of Boundary' students will be having notices sent home in the new year to explain that their enrollment will be reviewed on a yearly basis due to our high enrollment numbers and inclusion needs
- At our next PAC, we will review our Assurance Model with the newly collected data
- For our staff PD, teachers are conducting walk-throughs in other classrooms, with a focus on the excellent learning environment model

School Events

- This year, we have a volunteer-run breakfast program - a huge thank you to all of the generous grandparents who run this program for our school!
- The Terry Fox event raised \$3,454.00
- Grade 9 - 12 students may be excluded from the Terry Fox event in the future, due to attendance concerns
- Bentley School Open House/Meet the Teacher and Kari Lotzien parent presentation took place on Sept. 29.

Sports and Clubs

- So far this year, we have hosted 3 volleyball tournaments
- We have 8 volleyball teams this year!
- School Reach has started for students in grades 7 - 12
- Cross Country Zones, Provincials and CWAJHAAs left
- Wolf Creek Cross Country champions 2022!
- Easton McKinlay placed 2nd overall at High School Golf Zones and 35th out of 134 at Provincials in High River and Turner Valley

5. 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. Colleen Garries was nominated for the position of Vice President by Ashley Bajema; seconded by Darci Cole.
Colleen Garries was declared Vice President.
- 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 Advisory Council meeting.
- Current Directors: Karen Jaffray, Shannon Yurystowski, Nicole Jaggard, Shannon Landry

6. Parent Council

- The Parent Engagement Grant was used to bring in a presentation by Kari Lotzien, called 'Anchored Parenting.'
- It was a very valuable and enjoyable presentation. There were approximately 12 people in attendance.

7. Town Council Report - Dale Grimsdale

- The main street sidewalks are coming to completion
- The town council is looking into a partnership with Eco Tree (a non-profit organization). A letter from the school was sent to the town to inform them that they were not in favour of the partnership with Eco Tree.
- Dale attended the Alberta Waste Water seminar which discussed various lagoon maintenance options.
- It was voted that the Oxford School Building be demolished; some bricks will be saved in order to commemorate the building.
- The Town Council will be looking for public engagement/feedback on what to do with the space once the Oxford Building is gone.

8. Questions, Comments, Concerns

- Colleen brought up the topic of after-school care
- There is definite need for both after-school care and general child-care options in Bentley

- There is a possibility that the *Boys and Girls Club* may be able to offer after-school care options (for a fee, of course), but there would have to be enough interest and a suitable space provided.
- Parents were asked how they are liking the SeeSaw app so far - very positive feedback was provided by parents in attendance.

9. Next Scheduled Meetings

- Monday, November 28, 2022 at 8:00 pm
- Monday, January 23, 2023 at 8:00 pm
- Monday, March 20, 2023 at 8:00 pm
- Monday, May 29, 2023 at 8:00 pm

10. Meeting Adjourned

- Meeting adjourned 9:40 pm