

Parent Advisory Council: Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 28, 2022

Location: Bentley High School

Members in Attendance:

Stephen Lush, Trudy Bratland, Ashley Bajema, Darci Cole, Holly Grimsdale, Dale Grimsdale, Kelsey White, Colleen Garries, Lane Moore

1. Call to Order: *PAC Chair*, Ashley Bajema, called the meeting to order at 8:03 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

- During the first part of November Trudy virtually attended ACE Plan presentations from the Rimbey area Schools as well as the Ferrybank and Leedale Colonies. On the 7th, a few of the Board members virtually attended a Governance workshop in preparation for our ASBA Fall General meeting.
- On November 10, some of the Board members attended the ATA Induction for new teachers.
- On November 15, Trudy attended a TEBA meeting at Central Office and then joined Superintendent De Ruyck and Trustees as they toured Alix Mac and Mecca Glen Schools. They toured other Ponoka area schools as well as the Clive school.
- The rescheduling of the Parent Council/Board meeting is on the November agenda. It will likely be held in the New Year as we are approaching a busy time of year for most folks.
- Our November Board meeting's agenda included the approval of purchasing new buses and a presentation from Sean Lougheed and Korey Van Kuster on the ST Math program. It was determined that the Parent Council/Board meeting will be rescheduled for February and a date will be determined in January. We have decided to change the location to the Learning Centre in Ponoka as it will be a better fit for technology as the Alberta School Council Association will be presenting. The Board, Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer will attend the Alberta School Boards Association Fall General Meeting that is being held November 20-22 in Edmonton.
- Having attended the ASBA FGM, we participated in the presentation of Edwin Parr Awards for the successful candidate in each Zone on Sunday night, the business portion of the Association all day Monday and professional development sessions on Tuesday morning after having the Minister of Education and new Premier of Alberta address the delegates.
- Tuesday afternoon Trudy attended the Audit Committee meeting for ASBA as the Zone 4 Director and after that joined the TEBA Annual General Meeting.

- Trudy was one of three Trustees to attend the November 23 TAG meeting with teacher representatives from each school site. The conversations and questions were very interesting; open and honest discussion followed.
- On the 24th the Board met with their auditors to discuss and approve the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2022.
- On the 25th, Trudy had the pleasure of attending the Rimbey High School drama presentation - "The Butler Did It," which was very entertaining and well done. This is their first in two years.
- The last Zone meeting for 2022 was held in Wetaskiwin on November 28 and some Trustees attended in person, some virtually. These meetings are a great way to network and work together on various issues that affect our school boards.

4. Administration Updates – Elementary & High School

- Due to an absenteeism rate greater than 18%, our school is classified as "outbreak status" until December 10th; we continue to monitor the outbreak
- The division is experiencing a shortage of substitute teachers and educational assistants (EAs); to help offset this shortage, a new substitute "position," known as *instructional supervisors* (trained EAs) can now be called in to fill a teacher's absence.
- In Kindergarten, we have hired a new EA, so that we're now able to offer a third day of Kindergarten programming to 4 high needs, inclusion students.
- Screencastify has been used to create a Panther Podcast in order to respond to the results from the latest Panther Poll.
- Volunteer grandparents within the community have been graciously donating their time and efforts to run our toast/breakfast program. A big thank you to these volunteers!
- Division 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be putting together raffle baskets in order to support our Bentley School Gives Back initiative to help support families in need in our community, during the Christmas season!
- The school will also be putting on a Toonie Drive for our "Gifts for Grandparents" initiative: High School students will deliver arrangements created by Earthy Accents to various seniors in our community. We have always received such positive feedback from this gift giving initiative.

School Events, Sports & Clubs

- A & B basketball teams have been decided; C teams are in discussion.
- There will be a basketball tournament at the school the weekend of December 10th. When we host tournaments, a small amount of money is raised, which helps to offset our player fees and keep costs down.
- The High School received a vaping presentation which was really well done and necessary.
- K - 12 classes recently received presentations from the Central Alberta Sexual Assault Support Centre. The feedback from these presentations has been very positive from staff and students.

Gideon Bible Distribution

- Every year, our PAC votes on whether or not to allow the distribution of bibles to grade 5 students. Parents must give consent in order for their child to be given a bible.
- Ashley made a motion to approve the distribution; seconded by Darci; all in favour.

5. Town Council Report - Dale Grimsdale

- Dale shared that the Remembrance Day ceremony at the school was very well done.
- On December 3rd, from 6:00 - 9:00 pm, there will be a Santa visit at the main town park. There will be wagon rides, hot chocolate and a fire!
- The Town of Bentley website has received a new logo/brand!
- The old Oxford School has been demolished. Town Council is planning on enlisting a community response to help decide what will be put in place of the old building.
- Dale also shared some information about a scholarship for students focusing on environmental initiatives after high school: it is sponsored by the Parkland Airshed Management Zone (PAMZ)
- The outdoor rink will be installed again this winter.

6. Questions, Comments, Concerns

- Q: How are cleaning protocols enhanced while on "outbreak status?"
A: All high touch/high traffic area cleaning is enhanced, however, there is no additional funding provided to schools during this time.

7. Next Scheduled Meetings

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

8. Meeting Adjourned

- Meeting adjourned 9:10 pm