

Parent Advisory Council: Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 20, 2023

Location: Bentley High School

Members in Attendance:

Stephen Lush, Marsha Lush, Trudy Bratland, Ashley Bajema, Darci Cole, Holly Grimsdale, Dale Grimsdale, Tammy McDiarmid, Lane Moore, Shannon Landry, Adina Armstrong, Anjuli Evans

1. Call to Order: *PAC Chair*, Ashley Bajema, called the meeting to order at 8:01 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes:

- The minutes from the previous meeting were approved by Darci Cole and seconded by Ashley Bajema.

3. Trustee Report – Trudy Bratland

- The WC Board met with MLA Ron Orr on February 17 and had good discussions regarding the difficulties we face in the division
- Trudy was able to attend the Teacher's Convention on the morning of February 23rd and enjoyed their Keynote speaker Dr. Phil McRae who spoke on resilience
- The week of February 27 to March 3 was busy with Zone meetings, the Parent Engagement session, tours of the Blackfalds Schools, a PR/Advocacy meeting and meeting with the Lacombe Town Council to discuss their future plans
- On March 13, a meeting was held - preliminary discussions took place regarding the budget that was announced by the Government
- A number of Central Office staff and Trustees attended the Alberta Rural Education Symposium and found the Keynote Speaker to be very informative

4. Administration Updates – Elementary & High School

- Check out the Bentley School website calendar for the most update information; there is also a separate athletic calendar that can be accessed through the website
- Parents with children in grades 4, 7 and 10 were given a district-wide survey; the results were shared with the PAC
- 44 parents completed the survey
- In a small school, we are limited by the options that we are able to offer
- Admin is looking into an online second language program for our students
- The Bentley School calendar has been approved for 2023-2024, including 3 PTI in-lieu days
- Admin has been looking at class sizes and possible grade configurations for next year
- Our school has increased by approximately 70-80 kids in the past two years
- After Spring Break, admin will find out whether or not their budget request has been approved
- Next year, two grade 9 classes will be moving across the street to the High School

building

- Junior and Senior High option classes will continue to be meshed together for Options next year
- By the end of April, we should have our staffing in place for next year

School Events, Sports & Clubs

- Just finished up basketball (8 teams this year) and ski club
- School Reach kids are going to Provincials
- Badminton is going strong and we have 93 kids in grade 4/5/6 handball
- Curlers lost in Zone final to the team who Provincials
- Jr. High curling finished up last week; inner school bonspiel happening this week
- We will be kept busy right up until Track and Field starts up
- High School Science teacher, Mr. Button, has started up a chess club in all grades - the response from students has been overwhelming
- A Fashion Show has been set for May 5th and a School Play will be held this Spring
- Bentley School hosted a career fair for Grade 7-12 students - 16 colleges and universities were in attendance

5. Parent Council

- The Bentley School PAC is looking for ideas to use a \$500 school council - parent engagement money
- "Bentley Amazing Race" was suggested by Adina to use the \$500
- Has Junior High considered having a farewell for transitioning to High School?
Response: Because the Junior Highs are already spending time in the building, the need for a farewell isn't as crucial.
- Ashley attended the Parent Council Board Meeting on February 8 and 5:00 pm
- The Parent Council Engagement Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm (virtual meeting) - both Ashley and Colleen were in attendance

6. Town Council Report - Dale Grimsdale

- With the grocery store being closed, we unfortunately lost our Post Office
- A local company in town has met the federal requirements to house the Post Office; more information to come
- The Town has lobbied various businesses and companies in hopes of finding someone to purchase the grocery store building (no leads as of yet)
- The Town would like to put on a Canada Day event, however, the Canada Day Committee is in need of volunteers
- The Medicine Lodge Ski Area is working together with the Town to look at various options to utilize the hill during the summer months
- The Town received a Green Spaces Grant and Tree Grant - they are hoping to plant 30 aspen trees along the main entrance to Bentley
- The Town has recently switched to a more local hauler to move the recycling bins, which will hopefully save the town ~\$1,000 a month

- Check out the Town website for BINGO dates

7. Questions, Comments, Concerns

- Q: How do parents feel about the amount of homework that is being sent home to your children?
A: Most parents feel as though there is an appropriate amount of homework being sent home and that 'homework just for the sake of homework' is not beneficial.

8. Next Scheduled Meetings

- Monday, May 29, 2023 at 8:00 pm

9. Meeting Adjourned

- Meeting adjourned 9:43 pm