

## **Parent Advisory Council: Meeting Minutes**

Monday, Nov. 27, 2023

Location: Bentley High School

### **Members in Attendance:**

Shantel Buit, Shannon Yurystowski, Susanne Mueller, Adina Armstrong, Dale Grimsdale, Trudy Bratland, Tammy McDurmid, Marsha Lush, Chris Rand, Colleen Garries, Shelby Lethbridge, Darci Cole and Michelle Lundy

**1. Call to Order:** *PAC Chair*, Shantel Buit, called the meeting to order at 8:03 pm.

### **2. Approval of Minutes:**

- The minutes from the previous meeting were approved by Nicole Jaggard and seconded by Colleen Garies.

### **3. Administration Updates – Elementary & High School**

- Dual Credit Courses offered RDP, SAIT and Olds for Grades 11 and 12.
- Steven Lush has taken students to Rimbey, Ag Expo, Career Connections and post secondary planning events. High school education is really moving towards getting students ready for careers after school.
- BGC sent out a survey for feedback from those using the program and those who are not to determine why they are not. Cost was a big reason it is not being utilized and also not being available to young enough students and not offered on days when Kindergarten kids are not in school. It is being determined if BGC could potentially be there in a full time capacity to accommodate some of these preferences.
- ACE Plan - Annual Ed Plan (PAT, Diploma and survey results) will be discussed more in depth at the next parent council meeting.
- Gift of Failure by Jessica Lahey is a great PD resource for anyone interested.
- Grades 1-8 have started embedding some French language learning into the day. They are picking it up so quickly and really enjoying this addition.
- We are just finishing volleyball and starting basketball. Basketball teams are in the process of being determined.
- The school is noticing more families struggling this year. For this reason some more expensive field trip options are being replaced with a more affordable in house options such as a movie day, ect.
- The school is also working on identifying
- Gideon Bible Distribution - Michelle Lundy motioned to move forward with the Gideon Bible distribution and Ashley Bajema seconded it. Parents have the option to request their child to receive a bible.

### **4. Trustee Report - Trudy Bratland**

- We had a Board retreat on October 22-24 and received information from various departments. It is nice to be able to meet the people who are doing the bulk of the work

in the division. Our Transportation team gave us a lot of information regarding what is happening in their department as well as how the changes in the Education Act will affect transportation in Wolf Creek.

- We have been doing a book study on Governance for School Boards and we completed it, only to need to prepare for the next one. We have good discussions and learn a lot about the role of Trustees in School Divisions - what we are supposed to do and what is not in our “job description”.
- We also reviewed the Education plan as well as our Capital Plan. The Board completed our self evaluation for the year and had a PR and Advocacy meeting before we headed home.
- Our Board meeting on October 26 included receiving information about the enrollment count (it is up), a meeting with the Minister of Education that Mr. De Ruyck and Chair Luci Henry attended - I was there, as well, in my role as an ASBA Director. Great discussion and information sharing.
- We received reports from various departments and appointed Lana Thompson as our representative on the Zone 4 Edwin Parr committee.
- I attended a mediation meeting with our ATA local, a TAG (Teachers Advisory Group) meeting and was invited to and attended the Bluffton School’s Remembrance Day Service.
- Our Board meeting was held on November 16th and we approved a timeline and set dates for our Stakeholder Engagement meetings that will be held in February.
- We approved the Modular classroom replacement submission for the Lacombe Jr. High School as the current ones are nearing end of life being almost 30 years old.
- Ian Wilson, our Health and Wellness Coordinator gave us a presentation focusing on the importance of psychological health and safety in the workplace. A very timely and important topic.
- A report about the first official pilot of the new Digital Exam Portal was received. There were two exams earlier this month and although there were some minor hiccups, all students were able to complete their exams. Thanks to the WC Technology team for their support.
- Some Board members and Central Office staff attended the ATA Induction Ceremony for new teachers after our meeting on the 16th. Twenty new teachers were inducted into the ATA. The stories we heard about the teachers were very interesting - it was heartwarming to see the enthusiasm for the profession by future teachers. ATA President Schilling was there and offered remarks about his experiences. He also complimented the Local for inviting the Board and to us for attending. That does not happen in many school divisions.
- The Board is attending the ASBA Fall General Meeting from November 19 to 21. We will be discussing and approving (or rejecting) position papers that the membership initiates and directs the ASBA to advocate to Alberta Education on their behalf. There will be keynote speakers and a professional development session, as well. Todd Hisch and Dr. Jodi Lobana were the Keynotes and each one gave a PD session. Todd is an Economist and was formerly with the ATB and Dr. Jodi is a Professor and “expert” in Ai. Her presentations were very informative and

- gave information regarding the positives and negatives of AI for Teachers, Students and Trustees. The Minister of Education spoke to our membership and alluded to an announcement on Thursday. Tuesday morning many MLA's from the Province attended breakfast with Trustees - an opportunity to network and discuss issues.
- Thursday the 23rd Trustees joined Central Office staff to hear our School Principals speak about their ACE Plans, the 27th was another round and the 28 will have the rest of them present. I attended the Zone 4 ASBA meeting in Wetaskiwin as the Wolf Creek rep and Zone Director. Gentle reminder that the Board/School Council Chair meeting is on the 30th. Agenda topics include the Education Plan, budget and Advocacy updates, results of the Stakeholders surveys and questions/concerns from Parent Council reps. The Board/Parent Council meeting was a success in my opinion and I was thrilled to have five of the seven schools I represent in attendance.

### **5. Town Council Report - Dale Grimsdale**

- The town has paired up with Santa's Anonymous
- Town Council looked back at the last two years to see if they are happy with things that have been done.
- Dick Damron Drive is going to be completely redone (sewer, water, sidewalks, ect).
- Had an organizational meeting. The boards pretty much stayed the same and Dale will be continuing for another year.
- Third reading has been read and passed to support the annexation plan for the land in the south.
- About to start budget talks at the end of this month or beginning of next month.
- Annual Town Christmas Event - Santa, Hot Chocolate, Wagon Rides, Goodie Bags, ect. There will also be Santa's Anonymous there if you want to bring toys to donate.

### **6. Parent Council Report**

- Shantel will be going to the parent council board meeting on Thursday.

### **7. Bentley School Chest Society**

- They are having a casino fundraiser on Thurs, Jan 25 & Fri, Jan 26 and we need parent volunteers. They can call or text Jan at (Jan 403-341-0069)

Shifts are:

Thurs Jan 25

- 1pm - 7:15pm \*4 people needed
- 7pm - 1am \*4 people needed
- 11pm - 1am \*1 person needed

Friday Jan 26

- 1pm - 8:15pm \*4 people needed

## **7. Questions, Comments, Concerns**

- Discussion on the importance of teaching kids how to study, how to dissect questions and be able to answer questions phrased in a variety of ways. Students struggle to pull out the core concepts. This has been a focus of teachers as of late. Critical thinking is a huge skill that the students need to start developing from a young age.
- We looked briefly at diploma results from last year.
- The gap in learning seems to be growing. In one particular classroom you have students with needs that are multiple grades below their current grade and others that are multiple grades above. This makes programming incredibly difficult when trying to teach to so many different levels and needs.
- The more intervention and support that can be provided in Elementary, the better off students will be once in JR. High and High School.

## **8. Next Scheduled Meetings**

- Monday, November 27, 2023 at 8:00 pm
- Monday, January 29, 2024 at 8:00 pm
- Monday, March 18, 2024 at 8:00 pm
- Monday, May 13, 2024 at 8:00 pm

## **8. Meeting Adjourned**

- Meeting adjourned 9:33 pm