

## Parent Advisory Council: Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 18, 2024

Location: Bentley High School

### **Members in Attendance:**

Shantel Buit, Shannon Yurystowski, Adina Armstrong, Dale Grimsdale, Trudy Bratland, Tammy McDurmid, Marsha Lush, Shelby Lethbridge, Michelle Lundy, Colleen Garries, Therese Nadeau and Karson French.

**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 Shantel Buit and seconded by Nicole Jaggard.

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

- Waiting for funding approval.
- Book fair is on now and the rest of the week. Parent teacher interviews are over the next two days (Mar 19-20).
- We are working on new timetables next year. There will be core courses morning and afternoon (instead of just morning) and it is a 5 day week instead of a Day 1 and 2.
- Handball sports club has started, mini handball and curling. Basketball finished last weekend.
- Cell Phone Use Policy:
  - We are seeing social media anxiety disorder, spine and neck issues, interrupted sleeps checking notifications, cyberbullying, ect.
  - Ontario has banned cell phones since 2019, Quebec has followed suit, B.C. is banning by division.
  - Policy: No uses **for any reason** during class time (this includes hallways, bathrooms, ect). If students are late for class because they were checking their phone this can be considered a breach of the policy as well.
  - Motion to implement this policy was unanimously accepted by the parent council.
- We currently have many high needs students and are looking at the same thing for next year.
- School Events/Field Trips:
  - Skiing: Kids had fun spring skiing (besides one broken collarbone).
  - Quebec Trip is coming up soon.

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

- We discussed the topic of AI platforms and education. The Technology Department people have formatted a draft Administrative Procedure and it is being vetted by the Administration Association.

- We had a presentation from the FNMI Success Coaches in the division. It was a very informative session. I was impressed by the scope and initiatives that are in place.
- We also had a presentation from Mr. Steven Schultz and student Sarah Thornhill's time at the COPS28 Climate Summit in Dubai. They told us of the events that they attended and how Sarah came to be invited to attend the Summit.
- We reaffirmed our Budget Priorities for the upcoming budget deliberations. We also confirmed that we will sponsor two registrations for the Alberta School Council's AGM in April.
- I have attended two Parent Council meetings and two Stakeholder sessions as well as a number of Alberta School Boards Association virtual meetings - the latest was this morning.
- Activities that I participated in or attended in the later part of February include:
  - I attended the two Celebrations of Life for Terry Hoganson,
  - ASBA Strategic Planning sessions
  - Watching the Wolf Creek Wellness presentation by Dr. Robyn,
  - Attending the keynote speaker at Teachers Convention (I did not, had an ASBA Zoom)
  - Zone 4 Virtual Meeting hosted by Battle River - received the ASBA Budget Presentation
  - I attended the WCOS parent meeting,
  - Attended the Student Stakeholder meeting and facilitated the group of students I was assigned to,
  - Joined the TEBA Virtual update,
  - Joined a number of Virtual presentations for Trustees - governance, Public Education, Rural Education
  - Some Board and staff attended the Alberta Rural Education Symposium March 3 - 5 in at the River Cree Resort. It was an opportunity to network and receive information provided by Keynote Speakers about education in rural settings and some of the innovative things that are happening in Alberta and across Canada with respect to education. Dr. Ken Coates, the last and in my opinion, best speaker and my takeaway from him was that if Alberta fails, Canada fails.
- Our March Board meeting was held on March 7 and we enjoyed a presentation from Reed Toussant who is one of three Rimbey boys who were key players in a top notch skating and sport arena being built on the Rimbey Elementary School grounds.
- We reviewed and approved our 3 year Capital plan, renewed the BGC Leases for Terrace Ridge and Lacombe upper Elementary School. We are planning a Budget update meeting but are still waiting on receiving the Funding Model Handbook which the government assures us will be coming "soon".
- March 11 we met to discuss requests from some of the non-teaching staff groups regarding wages, salaries and benefit requests. Many of these requests are dependent upon receiving the Funding Model for Wolf Creek.
- I was in Edmonton March 14 and 15th for Alberta School Board's Directors meetings and again March 18th to participate in a discussion with Alberta Education regarding Parental Rights. A Virtual meeting was held March 18th about the shortage of French language teachers.

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

- We funded all of our Grants (more people requesting Grants this year).
- The Southside Annex plan is finalized. Lacombe and Bentley finally came to an agreement about the land on the Southside and now it has to be brought before the Minister.
- Oxford designs for the parks are on hold right now and in place we are trying to generate money to fix or replace the ice plant to ensure the arena is kept in operating order.
- We are reviewing the land use bylaw (it is very outdated). The garbage bylaws are also being reviewed as well.
- The Grocery Store will be opening soon, it will be called The Market.
- EPR (extended producer responsibility) Bentley is registered for it starting in 2025.

## **6. Parent Council Report**

- Boys/Girls Club is being underutilized on regular days, but on PD Days and extended breaks (ex: Spring Break) they are incredibly full. In order to keep them in Bentley we need to see the after school care being more widely utilized.
- Discussion to appoint a delegate to attend the AGM on the 27th/28th of April.
- Some topics discussed at the AGM are hot topics and will potentially be added to the next meeting's agenda.
- Fundraising: we completed the casino fundraiser and the Chest Society money is coming at the end of June. Coffee fundraiser is happening currently - deadline is Wednesday.

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

- We would like discussion of the AGM resolutions in the next meeting.

## **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 9:18 pm.