

Parent Advisory Council: Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 13, 2024

Location: Bentley High School

Members in Attendance: Ashley Bajema, Trudy Bratland, Suzanne Mueller, Landon Stones, Stephen Lush, Marsha Lush, Shannon Yurystowski, Adina Armstrong, Michelle Lundy, Dale Grimsdale, Holly Grimsdale, Nicole Jaggard, Shelby Lethbridge and Colleen Garries.

1. Call to Order: *PAC Chair*, Ashley Bajema, called the meeting to order at 8:05 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the previous meeting were approved by Nicole Jaggard and seconded by Shelby Lethbridge.

3. Administration Updates – Elementary & High School

- It is the time of year to be finalizing a lot of the teacher and EA's hires for next year.
- We are happy to welcome our new Principal Landon Stones and a second Vice-President Jill Howe who will be joining Stephen Lush as Vice-President as well.

4. Additions to the Agenda

- AGM - we want to be more prepared for next year so that Resolutions can be discussed. Perhaps voting for a delegate and voting together on issues so that the delegate can represent the group majority at the AGM next year.
*ADD TO THE FIRST MEETING NEXT YEAR
- All Track and Field positions are filled.
- Suicide Prevention: there is a program that can be given to highschool students and parents to provide them with coping mechanisms.
 - Motion to purchase a \$400 package and some gratitude journals to use our \$500 Grant. This would include a presentation to students and parents to be delivered next year (2024/2025). Motion was seconded by Michelle Lundy and passed by parent council.
- BCG Update: Initially we had 60 families interested in this program. On average, we only had about 5-6 children a day as opposed to the 13 we needed to continue the program running. For this reason, this program will not be able to continue in Bentley.

5. Trustee Report – Trudy Bratland

- 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.
- In April the Board met to discuss the Budget allocations so that our School sites will have an idea of how their teacher and EA allotments will be distributed - we received the funding manual from the Government late in the day on the Thursday before Easter...

the Central Office staff did an excellent job of going through the manual and getting ready for our meeting.

- On April 11, the Board and some Central Office staff met with School Council representatives. A lot of information was shared and it was nice to see many of our parent Councils represented. Our last Board meeting was on April 18, and our Agenda included ratifying minutes from meetings we held in March regarding salary and wage requests, Calendar, Education Week, Friends of Education Award deliberations, presentations from BGC and the Ponoka & District Chamber of Commerce and planning for the superintendent's evaluation.
- On April 22 I attended the Zone 4 meeting in Rocky Mountain House. The Edwin Parr Banquet and celebration plans were firmed up and we received a presentation from the ASBA regarding the Spring General Meeting agenda which included Budget and Position Statements overviews.
- Four Trustees, staff and Elders attended the FNMI Gathering in Edmonton. The theme was Kinship Relations for Student Success. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the culture and world of First Nations people in Alberta. Cadmus Delorme, a former Chief of the Cowessess First Nation in Southern Saskatchewan was one of the Keynote speakers and his talk was most entertaining as he was the only one in his family who did not go to a residential school.
- On April 29, I was involved in interviews for the Position of Principal at the Eckville Elementary School, attended a virtual meeting with the Teacher Employer Bargaining Association and the WCOS Parent Council. April 30th was the evening that Greg Estevez gave a presentation on A.I. for parents and staff in the division. It was most informative and interesting.
- I attended the Eckville Jr./Sr. High School parent Council meeting on May 1 and a TAG Meeting on the 7th. TAG being Teacher's Advisory Committee where one Teacher from each school meets with Central office and has questions answered, partakes in discussions and networks with colleagues.

6. Town Council Report - Dale Grimsdale

- The Market Grocery Store has opened officially in Bentley. Royal Feeds has also opened up in town (sell tack, feed, pet food, ect).
- We are tackling the ice plant and the county of Lacombe is going to fund half of it so we are getting a brand new ice plant. It is a larger capacity unit and it will be able to do the ice in the arena and the curling rink. The slab will be the next upgrade that we are fighting for.
- We worked on the Bentley Strategic Plan this month. We updated it to increase its relevance for today. We encourage public engagement to have your voice heard on the direction that the town council is heading and focussing on.
- We sold a lot in the new housing development from a builder. There is some interest in some of the other lots by other builders.
- The Southeast Area Structure Plan was approved by Lacombe County.
- We are looking at revising the garbage bylaw and animal bylaw (will be looking at the bylaw regarding urban chickens).

7. Next Scheduled Meetings

- Monday, September 23, 2024

8. Meeting Adjourned

- Meeting adjourned 9:43 pm