

Parent Advisory Council: Meeting Minutes

Monday, Sept. 23, 2024

Location: Bentley High School

Members in Attendance:

Ashley Bajema, Michelle Lundy, Trudy Bratland, Jill Howe, Holly Grimsdale, Dale Grimsdale, Landon Stones, Susanne Mueller, Adina Armstrong, Shelby Lethbridge and Marsha Lush.

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 Shelby Lethbridge and seconded by Michelle Lundy.

3. SEL Presentation (virtual) @ 815 pm

- Barb who leads the Social Emotional Learning in Wolfcreek School and Tara who goes into schools within wolfcreek to present on different Social Emotional Learning topics.
- Wolf Creek Public Schools Social Emotional Learning Program: WCSD was awarded a grant in 2022 which was used to develop this program. The program seeks to teach the 5 competencies and are linked to the curriculum.
- Social emotional learning is teaching students those skills they will require all throughout their lives (positive thinking, self-esteem, resilience, social skills, ect).
- Social emotional learning is not a discussion of culture, race, or gender identity. Everyone is equal and it is developed for ALL students. It also does not replace counseling.
- This program has gotten positive staff and student feedback.
- This program will be coming to Bentley on Tuesday's starting in October and will be presented by a Wolfcreek SEL worker.

4. Trustee Report - Trudy Bratland

Hello, and welcome to the new school year - I hope it will be a great year for all of us.

The Board held their first meeting of this year on August 22 and our Agenda included:

- A discussion regarding the distribution of the increased base funding that was received over the summer
- An update on the cell phone policy
- The Mental Health pilot funding renewal received by the Division
- Evaluation of the CEO and the Board
- Registration for the ASBA and PSBAA Fall General Meetings
- Distribution of staff in the schools
- Support staff remuneration
- Reports from the various department in the division
- The grand opening of the Blackfalds High School

- And set dates for future meetings.
- We had Audit Committee meetings, ASBA and PSBAA Spring General meetings, the Retirement and Recognition banquet and two Board meetings during May and June.
- During May and June I had the pleasure of attending the Graduation celebrations for the West Country Outreach, Eckville and Bentley Schools and attended the Rimbey High School graduation on Saturday September 21 when 54 graduates (the whole grade 12 class) received their diplomas.
- Our September meeting's Agenda included discussions regarding the distribution of the funds that the Government gave to school divisions over the summer months, the CASA (Mental Health) classroom that we received grant money for, the Agenda for the upcoming Board retreat, tendering for new buses, receiving reports from departments housed at Central Office and the CEO and Board self evaluations.
- We have set the dates for the Board/Parent Council meetings - Monday, November 4 at 5:00 and Thursday, April 3 at 5:00.
- It is difficult to determine the direction for this year until the "head count" numbers are received and reported on September 30th.

5. Administration Report

- Enrollment numbers are at 432 (includes Bright Futures) down from 457. We were able to hire an additional Assistant Principal who will be able to help with additional programming for students who need more targeted support.
- We also hired a Core Class Jr High Teacher for the mornings.
- We have 2 split classes in the elementary.
- Staff PE are focussing on Vertical Alignment (communicating through the Grades so that they are properly prepared and set up for success for future Grades).
- Our volunteer Breakfast program is back up and running - thank you to our volunteers who make this happen!
- Terry Fox day is Oct. 4th.
- **Sports:** 3 Volleyball tournaments thus far.
- 1 student (Easton) participated in Golf Provincials today and will be tomorrow as well.

6. Nominations and Elections

- We are actively looking for new members to fill some positions on the Board.
- Ashley Bajema has stepped down as Chair and moved to Vice Chair - all were in favour. We are looking for someone willing to step up and fill the role as Chair. The school will be advertising for this position and will be helped along by Ashley to learn the position.
 - Some duties of the chair include: make the agendas prior to meetings (4 meetings a year), the chair receives emails from the Trustee, you are the contact person for central office (few times a year) and there is a weekend retreat general meeting and two others that the chair is able to attend.
 - Chair -
 - Vice Chair - Ashley Bajema

- Secretary - Shelby Lethbridge
 - Director - Michelle Lundy
 - Director - Shannon Yurystowski
 - Director - Susanne Mueller
 - Director - Adina Armstrong
 - Fundraising Liaison - Janice Bickford
- We are really looking for more parents to just come out to the meetings, there is no obligation to join the board or come to every meeting. It is a great way to hear what is happening in the school, division and town.
 - ASCE Grant - was an hour long presentation and was well done. The Zoom was more difficult with so many students, but overall it was a good program to have in the school.
 - We are looking for ideas on how to use Grant money this year to improve parent engagement and any ideas and suggestions are welcome!
 - Each director will be coming with an idea of how they would like to spend the Grant money (ideas, cost, research, ect).

7. Town Council Report - Dale Grimsdale

- A local artist from Lacombe is going to be doing a mural on the side of the municipal office.
- The dual ice plant was delivered on Friday and will run both the hockey arena and curling rink.
- The land use bylaw has been a priority topic. There will be a public session Oct. 9 at 6p, -8pm to go over this. The land is currently zoned for trailer park expansion, but is going to be turned into a recreational area (soccer, track, ect).
- Bentley Ag Center has food, entertainment, touch a truck, ect happening on Wednesday Sept. 25 - same night as the school open house so come and check out both!
- Oct. 5 - Fall festival in the Elks Park and there will be a market, music, games, ect.

8. Next Scheduled Meetings

- Monday, November 25, 2024 at 6:30pm - with Childcare
- Future meetings will be set at the next meeting.

9. Meeting Adjourned

- Meeting adjourned 9:35 pm