

Parent Advisory Council: Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 17, 2025

Location: Bentley High School

Members in Attendance:

Ashley Bajema, Michelle Lundy, Trudy Bratland, Holly Grimsdale, Landon Stones, Susanne Mueller, Adina Armstrong, Shelby Lethbridge, Shannon Yurystowski, Sandra Ild-Boulding, Erica Duberville, Dale Grimsdale, Karla Wyld and Tammy McDiarmid.

1. Call to Order: *PAC Chair*, Michelle Lundy, called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes:

- The minutes from the previous meeting were approved by Shelby Lethbridge and seconded by Shannon Yurystowski.

3. New Business

Administration Update

Elementary and High School Educational Updates

- ICE Presentation is taking place on April 1, 2025.
 - Grade 5-6 at 11am
 - Grade 7-8 at 1pm
 - Grade 9-12 at 2pm
 - Parents at 6pm in the high school gym
- Scholastic Book Fair is on March 31 - April 4. Family Event April 1 from 3:30-6pm.
- Elementary report cards are coming out on Seesaw this week.
- It is staffing/timetable season. We are trying to continue to offer most/all high school courses each year and add 5 minutes to elementary PE classes. We have to submit our plans and wishes for teacher FTE, but nothing will be certain until we are given our teacher FTE allotment from the division.
- Registration for 2025-206 is open.
- AB Education Assurance Survey: a reminder for all parents to complete this!
- Swim to Survive Lessons start in April for K - Gr. 6
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters in-school mentoring programs start in May for Gr. 5. Watch for permission forms coming home in April for Game on and Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies.
- PTI this Tuesday and Thursday. Booking is available online now.
- Differentiated calendar proposed dates: May 15 and June 29, 2026.
 - These are in lieu of after-hours events such as meet the teacher night (Good Neighbour), IPP interviews and Grade 10 orientation.
- The Newsletter has changed a bit and it is in an easier format to scroll and view.

Athletics Updates

- Basketball season has finally wrapped up with the Sr. boys basketball team hosting Zone's on the weekend and finishing 4th.

- Jr and Sr High handball season started a few weeks ago. After Spring Break, Sr High will be starting league games. Jr. High are in 2 tournaments - one in Red Deer on April 4 and 5 and provincials on May 2 and 3 in Edmonton.
- Jr. High SchoolReach team competed in REgionals on the weekend and finished 4th which qualified them for provincials on April 12 in Red Deer.
- Bentley School Travel Club trip to Europe has been approved by the board. The trip is for grades 10-12. Parent Information Night on April 3 and 6pm in the high school.
- Mr. Tory has started Grade 5-6 dodgeball once a week. We are looking to expand this.
- Badminton practices started this week.
- Ski and Snowboard Club wraps up on Friday.
- Jr. High Curling has their Wolfcreek bonspiel on THursday, March 20th in Lacombe.

PAC Book Distribution (ASCE Grant) Update

- The PAC Book Distribution went well at the Hockey Game so a few copies of the books were handed out. We will also have some handed out at Parent Teacher Interviews and the last few copies will be handed out at the next Parent Council Meeting.

Elementary Track and Field BBQ

- Typically Parent Volunteers set up and help run the BBQ.
- Thursday June 5th, with an alternate day of the following Monday.
- Parents can preorder in advance and then parent volunteers come in to prepare it.
- 8 Volunteers is ideal for helping to run it (typically times are about 9am -1pm).
- Watch for an email to sign up volunteers for this event.

Spring Symposium

- Annual virtual conference April 26, 2025. They allow one person from each council to attend.
- The deadline to register is April 14, 2025.
- If anyone is interested in joining this, please reach out to Michelle Lundy over email.
- There are some resolutions to be voted on at the Symposium, if possible it would be great to look these over to form a stance on these.

4. Trustee Report - Trudy Bratland

- We held the Stakeholder Summit on January 31 in Lacombe. More than 200 people were registered. Update on the Stakeholder Summit - the day was very well attended by staff, parents and students who were complemented on attending the Summit on a day when there was no school. We received a lot of information from our facilitator, Mr. Jordan Tinney and were involved in table discussions. After a delicious lunch, we were divided into groups of four and held structured interviews with each other. Finally, we indicated our preferences for "The Future We Want" on sheets of paper attached to the walls of the meeting room. The staff have tabulated the information and have distributed the information to participants.
- The February Board meeting was held on the 13th and I was unable to attend but Agenda items included confirming the minutes of the Advocacy Community Engagement and PR Committees, reviewing the base calendar, sponsorship of the ASCA Conference,

setting dates for the Audit Committee, Board/Support Staff Liaison meeting and the proposed Budget timelines. The Agenda for the Board/Parent Council meeting to be held on April 10 at 5:00 was included in discussions. We received reports from the various departments within the Division, including the Superintendent and his team. The next meeting is scheduled for March 13th which is earlier than usual so that the Superintendents will be able to attend their CASS meetings.

- Trustees and some Central Office staff attended the Alberta Rural Education Summit March 2nd to 4th and found the information provided at that conference to be valuable - The Theme for the conference was "Ensuring Equitable Outcomes for Rural Students". Sessions on Transformational Family and Community Engagement, Generative AI and the Changing Landscape of Education, and a panel discussion with the Minister of Education provided a lot of information for the participants.
- On March 10 we met for a Salary & Wage committee meeting to discuss proposals from staff groups that are not teachers or unionized. We have a three year rotation for three groups of staff members and this year it was Group A - School Support staff. We compare our compensation to the compensation given to other divisions in Zone four and strive to be competitive and fair to the staff in Wolf Creek.
- The Agenda for our March 13 Board Meeting included approving the Wolf Creek Edwin Parr nominee- Heidi Cabay, an update on the work of the Indigenous Education Team, a discussion regarding the change in funding for Jordan's Principal, Transportation limits and fees, approval of the Jr/Sr High and Bentley field trips. I have the pleasure of attending the Wisdom & Guidance Committee meeting on March 18 before I go to Edmonton for ASBA meetings.

5. Town Council Report

- We did the second and third reading of the land use bylaw (it was very outdated).
- This year is election year, so anyone interested in running for council should look into this.
- Taking student applications for the summer.
- The town is also looking for a Campground Caretaker
- RCMP did their Bentley report. Fraud is up 300% (often this includes facebook scams and online scams), but everything else is significantly down.
 - In the RCMP's opinion Bentley has a very low crime rate.
- Lots are selling in the development on the outside of town. There is also a new piece of land just off the highway that has been given to the Town of Bentley and Council is in talks about possibly developing this piece of land into a dog park.
- A lot of Insurance Companies are not automatically including payment to the fire department if a call out is required. So please double check your insurance policy to make sure you are not on the hook for a large fire department bill.
- Tax Assessments for Bentley residents should be arriving in the mail soon.
- The arena being renovated and new floor put in means no rodeo this year. Because of this the parade may also be moved days so keep an eye out to see the dates for everything.

6. Next Scheduled School Council Meeting

- May 29th, 2025 at 7pm - Trudy will be unable to attend, but will send out her report.

7. Meeting Adjourned

- The meeting adjourned 8:09 pm