

## Fort Assiniboine School Parent Council Minutes

January 30, 2018, 7:00pm

Attendance: Jennifer Tuininga, Megan Petryshen, Lorna Hiemstra, David Garbutt, Charlene Fleming, Jenni Williams, Dallas Wyman, Cindy Carswell, Kristin Machuk, Sandra Larsen, Penny Price, Teresa Dekker

Chairperson Penny Price called the meeting to order at 7:08pm

PHPS Superintendent David Garbutt attended our Parent Council meeting, it was great to have him! He was here to introduce himself, also to explain the roles of the Parent Council / School Principal / Trustee / Superintendent. In the case of concerns about the school they should be addressed in that order. See also Communications Protocol on the PHPS website. He then opened himself up for any concerns anyone might have. A parent brought with them a letter wrote to him concerning some issues with bussing. There is no food allowed on their bus – He said this issue is a choice for the individual driver. There have been problems with leaving a mess on the bus in the past so some of the drivers just avoid that problem by saying no food on the bus. This should be brought up with the individuals bus driver. Another concern was about busses running in cold weather. There is no easy answer for this issue. In the case of a storm particularly a snow storm the concern for the district is visibility. If the visibility is not good, and it is not safe to have the bussed on the roads the busses will not run, however the school will remain open in these cases. In the case of cold weather, there is no temperature that dictates weather the school is open or not. The decision ultimately lies with the driver. They know their routes and busses better than anyone else, so they make the final decision. Pembina Hills District covers such a wide area the temperatures fluctuate greatly from one side of the district to the other. If you, as a parent feels that it is unsafe for the kids to go on the bus the teachers will respect that decision. In a particular incident recently, it was very cold weather, however there was diploma exams happening at BCHS. If that day the busses had been cancelled those kids would have had to get to school for that exam otherwise would have to rewrite in Edmonton in April. The transportation department must consider quite a few variables when making these types of decisions. For more information see attached information sheet on “Bad Weather” or visit the PHPS website at [www.phpschools.ca](http://www.phpschools.ca). Another concern brought up was the issue of bringing extra items on the bus. At the beginning of the school year last year there was a new rule brought in that said: “if the item doesn’t fit in your existing backpack it is not allowed on the bus”. However, it became clear very soon that this was not going to work, so that rule was scrapped right away. It was up to the drivers to let their passengers know this. The rule about this is to “be reasonable”. If in doubt, ask your driver! Items such as musical instruments, extra snacks for class parties, bigger items in need for field trips (rubber boots for farm field trip), skates; as long as they are in a bag with skate guards are allowed. If the item fits on your lap or underneath seats they should be fine. Again, it is best to ask the driver if you are in doubt. Another concern brought forward was by a parent concerned about her children’s bus route. This particular bus route does a lot of zig zagging around resulting in some of the kids being on the bus for very long periods. What can be done about this? David said that this needs to be made

known at the transportation office. During the summer months all the bus routes are reviewed and then changed if needed. If the problem is still not resolved, please let him know and then he can try to help himself.

In closing, David Garbutt wanted to make sure everyone knows that if there are any concerns to please speak to someone at any PHPS level about them, If the problem is not known about, then it won't be fixed. Also, to please invite him to come to our parent council meetings so that any concerns can be discussed as a group. He will try his best to make himself available for discussion and feedback.

1. Approval of Agenda

Megan Petryshen approved the agenda

Charlene Fleming seconded it

2. Approval of minutes from November 28, 2017 meeting

Megan Petryshen approved the minutes

Penny Price seconded it

3. Treasures report - Teresa Dekker

The account balance remains unchanged at \$84.18. Teresa Dekker adopts her report as read.

4. Old Business

- a) Dishwasher – Coincidentally, Teresa Dekker learned that Angel Valley Retreat Center has a used commercial dishwasher that they are looking to sell. They are willing to sell it at a cost of \$1000.00. Although it is worth a lot more than that, they felt it is their gift to the school to sell it for much cheaper. We are very lucky to live in such a wonderful community! Teresa will be in contact with someone to get the dimensions to fit it into the new kitchen. She talked to Jeff Hammer- the Health Inspector, who said he knows the machine and knows that when it was hooked up at the Retreat Center everything worked properly and as far as he knows there should be no problem with it. He can give it his stamp of approval once moved into place.

5. New Business

a) Principal Report / Student Union Report – Lorna Hiemstra -see attached

b) PHPS School Trustee Report- Jennifer Tuininga -see attached

c) Woodlands County Report – absent

d) Parent Society Report – Kristin Machuk – see attached

e) Pre-school Report – Jenni Williams – There are currently 12 preschool students, 2



Kindergarten students also have joined preschool. T.A.- Cindy Carswell has become a helper in the pre-school class and her presence is very much appreciated. Thank you, Cindy. There are some upcoming fundraisers that Pre-school has planned. They will be doing a paint night on March 3 at the school, they are leaving it an unlimited amount of people welcome for that class, so hoping for a good turnout. There is a sign up for this class at the school office and Preschool bulletin board or contact Jenni Williams, Sandi Larsen, or Tara Greff at the Preschool for more info. The flower/vegetable basket fundraiser will be done again this spring. Mark Chan at Linda's Motor Inn / Fas Gas is collecting bottle donations for the preschool as well, if anyone has any extra bottles they would like to donate that would be great. There will once again be raffle tickets being sold upcoming in the next few months. Jenni has been working with the kids a lot about feelings and emotions. It is going great.

f) School Calendar – the 2018 – 2019 school calendar is attached. Whomever was present at the meeting reviewed it and liked the changes made. The PHPS school board will approve it at their February 28 meeting.

g) PHPS Parent Surveys – The feedback from these surveys are greatly valued and very much appreciated! They should be done calling parents by the end of January.

h) Staff Appreciation – There was a discussion about what has been done in the past. Charlene Fleming made a motion for Parent Council to ask Parent Society for \$500. The Parent Council will then donate that money to the Pre-School to make the staff appreciation baskets again. Jenni seconded that motion. All in favor. Carried.

i) By-law/ Operating Procedures – The name "By-Laws" has been changed to "Operating Procedures" for School Councils. The Fort Assiniboine School Parent Council Operating Procedures have been reviewed by Celeste Burdinsky from Alberta School Council Association. A copy is attached. Please review as they will be discussed and voted on at our next meeting.

j) Open Floor for comments or Concerns –

- Jack Adkins is a tobacco reduction consultant from AHS Addictions, he will be at Fort Assiniboine School on February 7 to do some presentations on vaping and drug use, focusing on Marijuana. Anyone is welcome to attend. He will be doing a presentation at 1:00 for grades 7 – 9, and another at 2:30 for grades 5 and 6.

- On February 26 there will be a drug awareness information night at Barrhead Composite High School. Anyone who is interested in going is to inform Lorna, so they can plan accordingly. They are not sure what the turn out will be. They are going to determine the location at the school depending on the number of people attending.

6. Set date for next meeting – March 20, 2018 - Annual General Meeting

7. Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm

## Ft. Assiniboine School Principal's Report for School Council

Jan. 30, 2018

Submitted by Lorna Hiemstra

### Developing Citizenship

Our Kindergarten program has scheduled visits with the Fort Assiniboine **Seniors Friendship Centre**. Grandparents and students love to have lunch together and visit ☺. The Kindergarten class also experienced some Swiss Christmas traditions with Nicole Boner bringing in traditional foods and activities.

I was very proud of our students and community at our **Christmas Concert**. The turnout was fantastic. The play, including the Chinese dragon, was well received, and the new sound system was wonderful. The community donated a large amount to both the Food Bank and Santa's Toy Box.

Our annual school wide **Christmas Turkey Dinner** was extra special this year and fed an extra 50 people. Thank you to Woodlands County for donating the turkeys this year and the many parents who donated food, desserts, and cooking time.

Our **White Elephant Christmas Sale** was well supported again. Thank you to community and families for donations. The students love buying affordable gifts for their family members. Our Jr. high and student's council did most of the wrapping.

Our **CTF Jr. High Foods Program** prepared a delicious hot lunch of chicken fajitas and beef tacos this month. All students have taken food safety under the direction of Debbie Breitz. We look forward to more delicious hot lunches.

**Denise Miller from Swan Song Productions** visited our school on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> and made presentations on Native Story Telling to our grades 1-4 and 5-9. Highlights included animal legends and the history of David Thompson exploring and mapping Alberta and the West.

### Thankfulness

Thank you to all the parents who come out and tie skates on Thursdays at the ice arena.

Thank you to **Bill Gowdy and LaFarge** for bringing in experts in geology and biology and teaching our students about tectonic plates, gravel pit reclamation, and animal studies. The highlight was meeting their barn owl "Colonel Slade" and all the students had an opportunity to pet her super soft feathers.

Thank you **Woodlands County** for clearing the heaps of snow off our tennis court allowing us to have a clear and safe muster point in case of fire drill (and our road hockey players appreciate it too).

Thank you to **Sandra Gerhardt** for donating a decorative bench for students to sit on in our music room. The bench is bright green with custom made frogs on each end (you can see a picture on our Facebook page).

### Professional Development



Our staff is participating in a numeracy workshop **"Guided Math"** at Barrhead Elementary School on Jan. 31.

All our elementary teachers, as many throughout Pembina Hills, are actively participating in a new spelling program **"Words Their Way"**. It is different from traditional spelling tests and lists and very hands on learning for our students. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher directly.

March 5<sup>th</sup> is our Division wide PD Day (on a Monday). All of our staff will receive information on Mental Health Literacy. Our program assistants will choose skill and information sessions specific to their grade level and teachers will be in larger grade groups to analyze Numeracy and Literacy progressions.

### **Sports Report**

**Jr. High Basketball** is half way through their league. This is our first year in a league in many years and we are working hard on the basics. It was fantastic to see a bleacher full of Fort Bear parents/fans at the Barrhead tournament on Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>. We culminate our season with a divisional tournament Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> at the Westlock Spirit Center.

**Elementary Basketball** plays 3 league games in February and has a divisional tournament on March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Westlock Spirit Center.

We are looking for some help to introduce curling to our students. Please let me know of anyone who would like to volunteer their time.

There is **Family Curling Wednesday nights** at the Curling Rink. Please consider dropping in with your kids. Contact Ken Lee for more details.

**Winter Olympics** in Pyeongchang, South Korea Feb. 9-25. Local bobsledder Melissa Lotholz is going and we'll be cheering her on. We will host our own Mini-Winter Olympics the week of Feb. 20-23.

### **Upcoming Events/Dates:**

- Family Movie Night Fri. Feb. 2 – Despicable Me 3: Doors open at 6:30, movie begins at 7:00
- Feb. 5 – Jr. High Basketball to Swan Hills 11:30 – 3:30
- Feb. 6 – Elementary Basketball to Swan Hills 12- 3:30; Skating today
- Feb. 8&9 Teacher's Convention
- Feb. 12 – Jr. High Basketball host RF Staples –Girls 2:15; Boys 3:15
- Valentine's Buddy Lunch on Tues. Feb. 13
- Feb. 14 – Jr. High Basketball to BCHS – Both teams play at 3:30
- Feb. 15 – Elementary Basketball to Dunstable – 12-3:30
- Feb. 20 – Jr. High Basketball host Neerlandia 3:30 and 4:30
- Jump Rope for Heart Feb. 23
- Feb. 28 – Pink Shirt Day
- Parent Teacher Student Interviews "Celebration of Learning" March 8 & 14
- Music Festival in Barrhead March 7-15
- Gr. 8 "Cool Camp" March 22 & 23

## School Trustee Report - January 30, 2018

### Key dates for 2018-19 PHPS Calendar

First day of school – Sept 4

Christmas break – Dec 24 – Jan 4

Teachers convention – Feb 7-8

Spring break – March 25-29

No school – Oct 5, Oct 19, Nov 23, Mar 8, Mar 15, Apr 12

Last day of school – June 27

**School division funding** To gain an understanding of the funding framework for K-12 education and the categories of funding see the Alberta Education document online: Education Funding in Alberta – Kindergarten to Grade 12 – 2017/2018 School Year.

- The PHPS operating budget is \$59 million dollars (\$59,879,808), and ADLC has a budget of \$22 million (\$22,523,969) = \$82,403,777

**How does Alberta fund the education system?** Total operational funding for Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) comes from two sources:

- General Government Revenues – \$4.7 billion
- Education Property Taxes (including opted-out boards) – \$2.4 billion
  - This \$7.1 billion dollars is funding for the day to day operation of schools. School boards decide how funds are spent locally within provincial requirements, School Act and Regulations, and the Guide to Education and Funding Manual.

### Number of Alberta Schools & Authorities

Authority Type	Authorities	Schools
<b>Public</b>	42	1498
<b>Separate</b>	17	391
<b>Francophone</b>	4	40
<b>Charter</b>	13	22

Including private, provincial and federal authorities there are **2,388 schools in Alberta**

### School board provides input into provincial budget - Budget survey online until Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>!

As part of the Provincial Budget Consultation the school board submitted the following:

- High school funding – Recognize it costs more to deliver a high school education. Funding for high schools should be applied consistently across Alberta
- Transportation – Predictable and sustainable transportation funding model that considers maximum ride times. In the interim it is critical that:
  - school jurisdictions receive rebates for the carbon levy
  - the fuel price contingency funding be reinstated or incorporated in the funding rates



- Complex needs – School jurisdictions require financial resources to address their local and unique needs, including access to specialized staff in rural and remote communities
- SuperNet – With the contract for the management of the SuperNet ending this year, it is critical that service to schools be uninterrupted and affordable
- Facilities – Ensure adequate and sustainable funding to maintain existing school facilities, including playgrounds

### **Student Services — supporting schools and students**

Director McGarva reported on the ways Student Services supports schools and their students through staff deployment, distribution of resources through an allocation model which identifies the level of support students require, and utilization of partnerships.

Student Services is working to improve the coordination of services and communication through:

- regular focused meetings
- individual staff rosters
- a case management communication tool
- use of a software program to help manage student IPP's (Individual Program Plans)
- involvement in professional development and a professional learning community

**Board Professional Development** Trustees attended the Alberta School Boards Association *Winter Leadership Academy* that had sessions for board chairs, new trustees and returning trustees on governance, financials, community engagement, media relations, legal issues, parliamentary procedures and more.

### **Provincially**

- Alberta Legislature spring session begins March 8<sup>th</sup>
- We are awaiting the regulations for Bill 28 which made changes to the 1988 School Act. Board Policy changes will follow where needed once we receive details of the legislation which are to include changes to transportation funding.

Follow me on Facebook or Twitter!

[Jennifer.Tuininga@phpschools.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Tuininga@phpschools.ca) 780-674-6579 H, 780-284-0971 C

## Parent Society Activity Report- January 30, 2018

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- New Funding Request Procedure, forms Available upon request or at the office
- AGM February 6, 2018 7:30 pm in room 4
- Financial Report from last board meeting attached.

FUNDING REQUESTS- none at this time

NEXT SOCIETY MEETING – AGM February 6, 2018 7:30pm

Submitted by: Kristin Machuk, Parent Society President

[freedomcalls@me.com](mailto:freedomcalls@me.com)

780 284 3335



Fort Assiniboine Parent's Society

Financial Report- General Account

SEPTEMBER 23 – NOVEMBER 23 2017

Opening Balance: \$45,660.78

Debits:

Jennifer Christianson – HWC 2017	\$100.00
Nicole Dunham – HWC 2017	\$35.00
Fershell Brunen – HWC 2017	\$100.00
Nicole Dunham – HWC 2017	\$45.00

TOTAL: \$280.00

Credits:

September Interest	\$1.47
October Interest	\$1.51
Voyager Brigade	\$1,276.02
November Interest	\$0.00

TOTAL: \$1279.00

Closing Balance: \$46,659.78

Outstanding Debit: Pre-school - \$1500.00

Fort Assiniboine School Parent's Society

Financial Report – Casino Account

SEPTEMBER 23 – NOVEMBER 23 2017

Opening Balance	\$4,427.76
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Debits:

TOTAL:	\$0.00
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Credits:

September Interest -	\$0.00
October Interest -	\$0.00
AGLC Deposit	\$37,648.27
November Interest -	\$0.00

TOTAL:	\$37,648.27
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Closing Balance:	\$42,076.03
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**Fort Assiniboine School**  
2018-2019 Alternate Calendar

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6k	7	8
9	10	11K	12	13K	14	15
16	17	18K	19	20K	21	22
23	24	25K	26	27K	28	29
30						

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2K	3	4K	5	6
7	8	9K	10	11K	12	13
14	15	16K	17	18K	19	20
21	22	23K	24	25K	26	27
28	29	30K	31			

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1K	2	3
4	5	6K	7	8K	9	10
11	12	13K	14	15K	16	17
18	19	20K	21	22K	23	24
25	26	27K	28	29K	30	

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4K	5	6K	7	8
9	10	11K	12K	13K	14	15
16	17	18K	19	20K	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8K	9	10K	11	12
13	14	15K	16	17K	18	19
20	21	22K	23	24K	25	26
27	28	29K	30	31K		

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5K	6	7	8	9
10	11	12K	13	14K	15	16
17	18	19K	20	21K	22	23
24	25	26K	27	28K		

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5K	6	7K	8	9
10	11	12K	13	14K	15	16
17	18	19K	20	21K	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2K	3	4K	5	6
7	8	9K	10	11K	12	13
14	15	16K	17	18K	19	20
21	22	23K	24	25K	26	27
28	29	30K				

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2K	3	4
5	6	7K	8	9K	10	11
12	13	14K	15	16K	17	18
19	20	21K	22	23K	24	25
26	27	28K	29	30K	31	

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4K	5	6K	7	8
9	10	11K	12	13K	14	15
16	17	18K	19	20K	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Last exam, on 27 (phys and Sci)

Alternate School Calendar Approved by Board Motion XXXX/XX/XX

#	1st & Last Day for Students
#	Civic/Stat/Board Holidays
#	No staff/students days
#	PAT and/ PDE schedule
#	In Lieu of P/T/S Interviews
#	PD day (no students)
#	Convention (no students)
#	Staff day (no students)
#	Early Dismissal (-60 min)
#	Alternate Day (no students)

   solid pink - bear days





# Bad Weather

With bad weather come the questions:

Are buses running today?

Should buses be running today?

Why aren't the buses running today?

Why is the bus to Dunstable running but the bus to Fort Assiniboine isn't?

and... I can't believe the school buses are running today!



**\*\*Note:** Even if the school buses aren't running, schools will be open.

## **Who decides if the school buses will or won't run when the weather is bad?**

Our school buses travel approximately 11,000 kilometres each day. Because weather and road conditions vary from region to region, decisions about whether or not to cancel a school bus or buses are made as close to the local community as possible.

### **On a route-by-route basis**

Your bus driver will decide whether or not the school bus will run. Our drivers are the most familiar with the weather and road conditions on their routes. When a bus driver decides to cancel the bus because it's not safe to drive, the driver will notify:

- parents on the route
- the school principal
- Transportation Director Shantelle Haitel

### **On division-wide basis**

If a big storm is brewing, Transportation Director Shantelle Haitel will be up early in the morning to gather information so she can decide before 6 a.m. if our school



buses will run or not. She also monitors the Weather Network; reviews Environment Canada reports and gathers reports from school bus drivers who live across the division.

If we cancel school buses across the division – or in parts of the division – we communicate this information as follows:

- bus drivers will contact parents on their route
- via the bus status report on the division and school websites
- by posting notices on the division website the PHPS Facebook page [🔗](#).

**What can parents do?**

Make sure your child is dressed for the weather. If you are concerned about sending your child to the bus stop or school because of bad weather or roads – even if our buses are running – you can always keep your child home.

For more information contact Shantelle Haitel at 780-674-8510.

Home / Transportation / Bad Weather