

# Fort Assiniboine School Parent Council Minutes

## Annual General Meeting

March 20, 2018, 7:00pm

Attendance: Jennifer Tuininga, Megan Petryshen, Lorna Hiemstra, Charlene Fleming, Jenni Williams, Penny Price, Teresa Dekker, Jamie Baker

Chairperson Penny Price called the meeting to order at 7:14pm

1. Approval of Agenda

Added the review and approval of the previous AGM minutes, from January 31, 2017

Jamie Baker approved the agenda

Megan Petryshen seconded it

2. Approval of minutes from January 30, 2018 meeting

Jamie Baker approved the minutes

Charlene Fleming 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) Fort Assiniboine School Operating Procedures – there were some things that needed to be addressed and decided upon with the updated Operating Procedures. (see attached). After a discussion about this matter was had, Teresa Dekker moved to change the old by-laws to the current Operating Procedures. Jamie Baker seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion Carried.

b) Dishwashers – It has been decided on that the commercial dishwasher from Angel Valley Retreat Centre will be picked up so that it can be put into place during spring break. The PHPS maintenance crew will be in during that week to do the new kitchen renovations. Teresa Dekker volunteered to make arrangements and get it there. See attached document for new kitchen blueprint.

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 – absent

e) Pre-school Report – Jenni Williams- see attached

f) Elections – We held elections to determine who would hold the positions on Parent Council for the Fort Assiniboine School. Chair position - Jamie Baker nominates Penny Price to remain in the position for Chair. Penny accepted the nomination. Everyone voted in favor. Passed.

Vice-Chair Position – Charlene Fleming voted for Jamie Baker to remain the Vice – Chair. Jamie accepted the nomination. Everyone voted in favor. Passed

Secretary / Treasurer position – Jamie Baker nominated Teresa Dekker to remain in the position of Secretary / Treasurer. Teresa Dekker accepted the nomination. Everyone voted in favor. Passed.

g) Open Floor for comments or concerns – Corey Kitchen from Quadel Growers, has come forward and would like to help with the Breakfast Club. He thinks it's a great program and would like to donate towards that. He is looking for permission to do so in the future. There was a discussion about whether that would be allowed due to the type of business they are. Lorna was going to look into the legalities of accepting anything from the company.

6. Set date for next meeting – May 22, 2018 at 7:00pm

7. Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm

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

Mar. 20, ~~Jan. 30~~, 2018

Submitted by Lorna Hiemstra

### Music Festival

- Several individuals attended this year – Annaliese, Natalie, Kaylea, Jaydan W. Ariel
- Our K-6 classes did well with Silver performances
- Our K-2 and 3-4 classes each received \$50 scholarships!
- Mrs. Kiselyk is awesome 😊

### Student's Union

We held a **Winter Olympic/Paralympic games** on March 15<sup>th</sup> featuring three legged visually impaired snowshoeing, sledge hockey, bobsled relay, biathlon, sculpture building, indoor speed skating, floor curling and hot chocolate.

### Developing Citizenship

Our **CTF Jr. High Foods Program** prepared hot lunch (Lasagna) and homemade pizza for Pizza with the Principal this month – both delicious meals!

**Buddy Lunches** – love the tradition at Valentine's and St. Patrick's Day where our cross-grade buddies exchange special lunches – wonderfully warm and fuzzy 😊

**Jump Rope for Heart** – grades 1-9 participated in an hour of fun and fitness, which culminated in the Macarena . Over \$500 was fundraised for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

**Pink Shirt Day** – most of our staff and students wore pink on Feb. 28 to acknowledge anti-bullying and positive relationships

**Japanese Tour** – Mrs. Fleming organized a tour for the visiting contingent from Barrhead's twin city of Tokoro, Japan. The three students and their teacher toured our school, the museum (including their first wiener roast) and the Wood's Bison Ranch

### Thankfulness

- Thank you to our Maintenance Department for Staff Room Renovations (over Spring Break)
  - o We will now have a serving area for breakfast club
  - o Overhead microwaves installed in new kitchen
  - o New deep sink and industrial dishwasher installed in new kitchen
  - o Server Room (noisy computer stuff) contained in separate room

### Professional Development

Our staff had an informal AADAC Information session at our last PLC meeting on Feb. 28. There are many resources available for students, teachers, and parents. The newest staff member on the Barrhead team is Ms. Lauren Chow who is a Mental Health consultant. She had a display set up at our Celebration of Learning meetings and will be returning to do sessions with staff and students.



At our March 5<sup>th</sup> Division wide PD Day all staff members were introduced to the Mental Health Literacy program. Debbie Breitzkreitz is a trainer and was one of the presenters. The program aims to inform educators about stress, distress, and mental health disorders. We are trained to observe, but not diagnose (this is the doctors' domain). We also spent time analyzing correct terminology and social stigmas. The Mental Health Literacy program will be continued this year in our school based PLC meetings.

### Sports Report

**Jr. High Basketball** culminated with the divisional tournament Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> at the Westlock Spirit Center. The boys went undefeated in 3 games and the girls had 2 "nailbiters" including a chance to win on the free throw line with no time left on the clock (we ended up on the lower end of the score, but awesome games).

**Elementary Basketball** had a short but rewarding season. We also finished with a divisional tournament at the Spirit Center.

**Family Basketball Night** on March 14<sup>th</sup> was well attended. Close to 25 parents and 35 students showed up for pizza, shooting competitions and some family games.

We followed the Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. We watched daily video clips of inspirational performances and life stories.

### Upcoming Events/Dates:

- Gr. 8 "Cool Camp" March 22 & 23
- Spring Break March 23 – April 2
- Jr. High Ski Trip to Jasper April 6
- Bear Aware April 10
- Gr. 9 Orientation at BCHS April 12 (students 2:00; parents 6:00)
- Spring Concert April 19
- Kindergarten Registration April 25
- Swimming Lessons Begin April 24
- May 7 Gr. 1-6 go to Evergreen Theatre at Dunstable
- Quebec - May 30 - June 6
- Success coach - Katherina Friesen has been coming.

## **School Trustee Report – March 20, 2018**

### **Improving building access at Regional Office**

Facilities Director Tracy Tyreman presented a work plan and cost estimate to provide barrier free access at Busby School and Regional Office. The work required at Regional Office includes renovations to the front doors, foyer entrance doors and washrooms to remove the barriers and increase accessibility. As our partners the County of Barrhead applied and received a \$21,000 grant to support this project.

### **Principals' Planning & Board Planning**

During the month of February and March the Board joins our principals for two and a half days of planning for the 2018-19 school year. Having all of our schools together to discuss the division priorities, strategies, and budget items provides for rich discussion and enables informed decision making. The Board also holds an additional two days of planning as we anticipate the provincial budget and look to prepare our budget accordingly.

### **Board sets transportation fees for 2018-19**

For the third consecutive year, division transportation fees will not be increasing.

- In-town transportation fees will remain at \$350/year
- Rural transportation fees for students leaving their attendance area will be \$450/year
- The fee for alternate bus stops will remain at \$50 per student per year. However, if the alternate site request also requires the payment of an in-town or rural transportation fee, the alternate site fee will be waived.

### **Focus on Student Mental Health**

Our Coordinator of School Counseling Colleen Teske created a 90-minute Mental Health Literacy session that was shared with all school staff at the March 5 Professional Development day.

We must use consistent language in our schools to ensure we can help provide the right supports for students and change the stigma around mental health. For example, a student might tell us they are depressed, however depression can only be diagnosed by a professional with specific credentials.

We'll continue to work to help staff and students understand the different levels of mental health:

- Mental disorder / illness
- Mental health problem
- Mental distress
- No distress and no problem or illness

Students can experience one or more levels at the same time. Mental distress is necessary and actually healthy. In fact, students need to experience mental distress in order to build resiliency and the confidence to be problem solvers.

The better job we do educating staff about mental health, the better equipped we will be to recognize, communicate and provide support for students, or when necessary help students access the supports they need.

### **Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC) and Vista Virtual School**

Pembina Hills Public Schools has a Service Agreement with Alberta Education to run ADLC. The key components of this agreement are: instructing students of school jurisdictions in the



province of Alberta and sharing resources. We are awaiting a response from Alberta Education regarding a funding request that accompanies that service agreement.

In looking at organizational efficiencies, and the fulfillment of the service agreement we are doing some internal restructuring. ADLC's main site will be located in Barrhead and we will be closing the campuses in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge. ADLC is currently the distance education provider for Alberta schools. Under the service agreement, the cost of operating the main site in Barrhead is paid for by Alberta Education. Focusing the operations in Barrhead allows us to build the ADLC community within PHPS –creating employment opportunities within our geographic area. Cost savings will be realized from the lease arrangements at the other campuses and can go towards teachers instructing students from our partner schools.

Vista Virtual School is 1 of 26 on-line schools in the province. Currently both ADLC and Vista Virtual School share office space in Edmonton and are in the same complex in Calgary which sends mixed messages to Alberta Education and our school partners. Vista Virtual School will operate sites in Edmonton and Calgary where they have a lot of student foot traffic.

Moving forward, the board recognizes that some staff reductions may be required. Therefore, they are considering reduction plans, including the viability of an early retirement incentive plan.

### **Governance as Reconciliation, Recognition and Respect: Understanding the Indigenous Perspective**

Through the provincial board I was able to attend an intensive workshop and learn more about the history of the Indigenous people. It is fascinating to learn the history through the experiences of the Indigenous people, and then talk about how we can build that relationship as we work towards reconciliation.

### **MLA Advocacy Evening**

I attended an advocacy event for school boards within our zone that included eleven MLA's. The evening involved a short presentation and then small group discussion about the provincial funding formula and the supports we have in our schools to address mental health and other needs in the classroom. Note: *Provincial budget comes out March 22<sup>nd</sup>*.

### **Provincially**

- The Minister of Education, David Eggen has stated that they are going to do further consultation around transportation over the next year so the current regulations will remain in place.
- Alberta School Boards Association Superintendent Compensation Report – was an internal document for boards providing trending data and comparisons on Superintendent salaries. All school boards audited financial statements are available on the Alberta Education website.

### **Nationally**

School boards in Nova Scotia have been eliminated. Ontario and Manitoba will review the role of boards after the provincial elections. The English boards in Quebec are also in jeopardy again. As elected trustees, school boards bring the voice of the community to education and are able to advocate for local concerns.

## Preschool Report

- Emotion Coaching PD
  - o Sandi and I are completing an emotion coaching program. This is being put on by FCSS and Parentlink in Barrhead. We are enjoying the sessions and finding it well worth our time.
- PHPS PD Day
  - o We also attended the PHPS pd day. We attended 4 sessions in the morning and a mental health session in the afternoon. We really enjoyed our day and got some good information.
- Outdoor Playspace
  - o See attached document

## - Fundraising

- spring raffle - should be out mid April
- hanging baskets - ends Thursday, March 22.
- bottle drive / highway clean-up - May 5
- teacher appreciation - there is a work-bee on Thurs. Apr. 19, so these baskets are done in order to be handed out at the Spring Concert. on Apr. 19 @ 7:00pm.



# FORT ASSINIBOINE MOM'S AND TOT'S PRESCHOOL

## OUTDOOR PLAYSPACE

The Fort Assiniboine Preschool is planning to develop our outdoor play space. This space, once developed, will be a shared area between the Fort Assiniboine Preschool and the Fort Assiniboine School. Our goal for this area is to provide the children with a playscape much different than what is already provided to them at the Fort Assiniboine School playground. We are hoping to create more of a natural outdoor playscape that is geared for children between the ages of 3 to 7.

**Why is this important to us?** Currently the preschool children are using the Fort Assiniboine School playground. Despite this being a very beautiful playscape, much of the equipment is developmentally inappropriate for our preschoolers. Not only can this be frustrating for our students but also very unsafe. As preschool teachers, we constantly have to tell our students that they are not big enough to use that part of the playground and to go find a different area to play. It is important to us to have an outdoor space that we can take our students to, that they can play in, without feeling too small or too scared.

**What is a natural playscape?** A natural playscape is defined as a space with as little man made components as possible. Using native plants, rolling hills, lots of trees; playscapes represent a natural place such as a forest. Natural playscapes are designed with intent of bringing children back to nature. In a natural playscape children can play with natural elements such as sand, water, wood and living plants. Natural playgrounds are typically very safe because they include few to no tall structures and no equipment with moving parts.

**What does the research say?** A typical family's schedule is filled with a variety of obligations and events. Children spend a large amount of time in child care centers, schools and organized after school sports doing planned adult-coordinated activities. Research shows that children lack the free, self-directed playtime needed to invent their own activities and games. Natural playgrounds encourage children to use their imaginations and focus on creating settings that enable the type of play most important to our youngest children: social play (pretending) and constructive play (building). Given the time and access to natural settings, research indicates children have better developed skills intellectually, emotionally, socially, spiritually and physically. Benefits of increased free play time and access to natural playscapes include improved concentration and impulse control, emotional coping, stress reduction, stimulation of creativity, reduced symptoms of ADD and ADHD and improved motor coordination.



**What is our plan?** Recognizing that there may be some limitations in regards to landscaping, the preschool is hoping to create a balance between a traditional playground and a natural playscape. We have carefully chosen a select few traditional playground structures and designed them to be age appropriate for the children. These structures include the disc swing and the climbing structure. The remaining elements all stem from a natural playscape. These elements include a water and trough system, mud kitchen, sand area, music wall, lots of trees and shrubs, loose parts such as tree cookies and stumps, tunnels and bridges. We also plan on using a variety of ground surfaces including grass, dirt and mulch. The preschool has drawn out a blueprint showing the layout and design as well as created a poster filled with pictures of what we would like each specific area to look like. We hope that this will provide a visual idea of what we are planning to create in our space.

**What is our proposal?** The preschool truly feels that we are dreaming up something incredibly wonderful and important. Not only will this space benefit the preschool children in our community but also the younger grades in our school. In order to be able to include all of our chosen elements, we are proposing to expand the fenced area designated to the Fort Assiniboine Mom's & Tot's Preschool. We are hoping that with further planning and meetings we can come up with an agreed upon area that will allow our plans to become a reality.

