

Fort Assiniboine School Parent Council Minutes

November 28, 2017, 7:00pm

Attendance: Teresa Dekker, Jennifer Tuininga, Megan Petryshen, Lorna Hiemstra, Terha Forbes, Charlene Fleming, Amy Hoeksma, Jenni Williams, Dale Kluin

Teresa Dekker called the meeting to order at 7:07pm

1. Approval of Agenda

Megan Petryshen approved the agenda

Amy Hoeksma seconded it

2. Approval of minutes from September 26, 2017 meeting

Megan Petryshen 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) Water Fountain –the Water Fountain has been installed and the kids are very much loving it!

b) Sound System – the new sound system has been picked up! Everyone is excited to use for the upcoming Christmas Concert! The cost ended up being just under \$6200.

c) Hat Rule – After the votes were tallied, the decision has been made to take off your hat when entering the building. 75% of the family vote decided this way. Lorna Hiemstra is asking for Everyone's cooperation in this matter.

d) Dishwasher – There is nothing to report on the commercial dishwashers. There will be 3 sinks installed in the staff kitchen when it gets renovated to reach safety standards.

e) Security Door – There has been a security door put in at the Library. To keep record of everyone who enters the school, no one can enter through the library anymore. It serves it's purpose, but it is something everyone in the school has to get used to. Mrs. Davidson, adds that it is very quiet in the library now.

5. New Business

a) Principal Report / Student Union Report – Lorna Hiemstra -See attached. Lorna wanted to add that there has been a great response to our school facebook page.

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

c) Woodlands County Report – Dale Kluin – see attached

d) Parent Society Report – Teresa Dekker – The next Parent Society meeting will be held in the staff room at the school on Wednesday December 6 at 10:00am. Elections are to be held at this meeting. Also, since our last meeting the Parent Society Membership forms have been sent home for all the parents in the school, to be returned if they wished to be members of the Parent Society. There have been only 7 forms returned. Jenni Williams added that the casino payout is \$37648.27.

e) Pre-school Report – Jenni Williams – “Growing Smiles” fundraiser (Christmas wreaths and pointsettias) went just okay. There have been a few new kids added to the attendance in preschool bringing the class up to 12 kids. They are busy practicing for the Christmas concert and that is going well and the kids are having fun. There is a paint night organized for a fundraiser, which is set for December 2. There is still 1 spot available if someone wants to go.

f) Council for School Council Report – Penny Price - absent

g) Curling Rocks – Teresa Dekker made it aware that the Fort Assiniboine Curling Society has little rocks to accommodate kids and teach them the game of curling. It would be nice to use this resource if there was time allotted in the school year for this. Lorna Heimstra was unaware of this and so seemed excited to hopefully schedule some time to use them. She said that there was a plan in place to teach the kids in gym how to curl using the gym floor so this is great news!

h) Open Floor for comments or concerns – A Parent asked if the school is doing the Christmas shoebox again this year? The school staff has decided that instead of that they are going to help out a local charity. There are local families that are in need at Christmas time and so helping them would be a great alternative. If anyone knows a family in need, let Mrs. Hiemstra know and she can try to set up some help. There will be a note sent home about this.

- A Parent asked if there is going to be any organized activities after school as there has been in previous years? Mrs. Lovelock has in the previous years looked after organizing this but is right now gone on a medical leave until further notice. Mrs. Hiemstra is going to look into seeing about getting something going after Christmas holidays possibly.

- Dale Kluin wanted to make special note that the kids did an amazing job at the Remembrance Day ceremony at the school. Would like to see it advertised more so that the public knows about it and can come to enjoy the kids hard work. Charlene Fleming agreed to this statement about how well the kids did at the ceremony.

- Skating for gym will be starting again this year in about January / February

- Swimming lessons are going to be a part of the gym program again this year. Dates are to be determined

- The Halloween Pumpkin walk was a success to everyone that took part, it is something that the school will hopefully do again next year.

6. Set date for next meeting – January 30, 2018 at 7:00 pm – Dave Garbutt is planning on attending

7. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm

Ft. Assiniboine School

Principal's Report for School Council

Nov. 28, 2017

Submitted by Lorna Hiemstra

Developing Citizenship

We participated in **November** today. Many of our students sported a fuzzy moustache in support of Men's Health. Donations still to be tallied.

I was very proud of our students and community at our **Remembrance Day** ceremony. It was nice to be recognized by Dale Kluin at the community ceremony. Thank you to Mrs. Kiselyk for the work with music classes and Constable Hynes who amazed us with his voice and made us shed a few tears from the lyrics.

Our grades 3-9 participated in a **mock civic election** and a referendum on wearing hats in school. We had a tour of the Legion election site and the election workers were generous with their time explaining and answering questions. Democracy rocks!

We participate in **Fire Prevention Week** Oct. 16-19 with students designing escape plans for their houses, tours of the fire hall, a firefighter obstacle course in full gear (jr. high) and poster and essay contest. We are so grateful for the generosity of our Fire Department who fed the entire school a pizza lunch and donated some fabulous prizes for our students, including a ride home in the fire truck.

We participate in **Bus Safety Week**. Pembina Hills brought in a professional trainer who did interesting and informative activities at each grade level, culminating with an emergency evacuation practice.

Bear Houses collected 560 pounds of food for the Farm Credit Canada Drive Away Hunger campaign. FCC donated \$600 back to our breakfast program! We also had a fun afternoon of cross-grade activities in our pajamas playing board games together.

Thankfulness

We have so many things to be grateful for in our school. Mrs. Davison hosted the **Book Fair** and donated lots of prizes to our students and extra books for our classrooms.

Our **water bottle filling station** and fountain is fully operational now. Thank you Parent Council for your generous \$2000 donation. The students regularly use it and are benefitting from the improved hydration.

Thank you Penny for representing our school and speaking up for rural education at the **Council of School Councils** meeting on Nov. 7th. Penny's speech was heard by the Hon. David Eggen Minister of Education.

Our **sound system** arrived yesterday! Thank you Price family for the loan of your system for the last few school events, much appreciated.

Thank you for the fantastic **parent volunteer** response for our field trips to the Telus World of Science!

Sports Report

Elementary Volleyball Tournament at Westlock Spirit Center Nov. 30.

Jr. High Basketball will play in a regular league in Jan/Feb with Swan Hills, Barrhead gr. 7/8, Neerlandia, RF Staples 7/8, Rochester, and Clyde. Schedule will be available soon.

Elementary Basketball season will be Jan/Feb with final tournament at Westlock Spirit Center on March 2nd.

Communication

- Goal Setting meetings were well attended; please contact teachers or myself for an appointment at any time in the school year if needed
- Our new website has been developed and will be launched this Friday

Staff Professional Development

- We had a division wide PD day on Nov. 20 and all Pembina Hills teaching and support staff completed an in depth analysis of Numeracy and Literacy progressions and an introduction to the history of Treaties. We are striving to make cross-curricular connections at all grade levels
- Debbie Breitreitz is attended a 3 day training on Mental Health Literacy in October and is training our staff at PLC meetings
- Debbie and I attended a 1 day Mental Health training session Nov. 27th on Emotional Coaching and strategies to help students recognize and deal with stressors

Upcoming Events/Dates:

- Dec. 14 - Christmas Concert
- Dec. 18&19 - White Elephant Sale (donations welcomed; wrappers needed)
- Dec. 19 - Whole School Turkey Dinner – turkeys donated by Woodlands County
- Dec. 19th – Santa in the Library from 1-2

School Council Trustee Report – November 28, 2017

New PHPS board takes oath of office

Following the retirement of the 2013-17 school board, MLA Glenn van Dijken administered the oath of office to the trustees who will form the 2017-21 school board:

Nancy Keough, Town of Swan Hills

Jennifer Tuininga, Barrhead North - Chair

Judy Lefebvre, Town of Barrhead

Kerry McElroy, Barrhead South

Jackie Comeau, Westlock North – Vice Chair

Wendy Scinski, Town of Westlock

Jackie Carson, Westlock South

Director for Zone 2/3 Alberta School Boards Association

I will also continue serving on the provincial board. Ten trustees from the various zones across the province, and a President and Vice President elected at large make up the board. I was appointed to the Policy Development Advisory Committee whose members then lead the fall and spring meetings of the association. Province wide there was a 45% turn-over of trustees in the municipal elections.

Classrooms benefit from \$797,000 funding infusion

Classrooms across PHPS will benefit from the \$797,000 the division will receive through the Classroom Improvement Fund (CIF). This funding may be used for things like additional staff time to build knowledge in supporting students for the future, resources in literacy and numeracy, professional development and assistive technologies.

The one-time fund must be used during the 2017-18 school year and was part of the central agreement reached between the Alberta Teachers' Association and the Teachers Employer Bargaining Association in May 2017.

Fort Assiniboine went to literature for K/1/2. And a teacher aid for Kinder.

PAT and PDE results will inform and focus instruction

While individual school and classroom results vary, the division's Provincial Achievement Test results indicate that Grade 6 Math, Science and Social Studies require attention in general. Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability test results have generally improved and are notably better than provincial averages. The report also shows that more of our students are writing Grade 12 Diploma Exams with English Language Arts 30-1 and 30-2, Social Studies 30-2 and Math 30-1 exam results exceeding the provincial average.

Student Enrolment in Town of Westlock Schools down significantly

Compared to last year, total student enrolment has declined by 54 students. We have 3818 students in our 11 community schools, 2 outreach centres and 2 Hutterite colony schools (excluding Vista Virtual School). This figure is down 53 students from last year in Gr. 1-12, a decrease of 1.51%.

- Town of Westlock schools are down 69 students
- Town of Barrhead schools are down 19 students
- Swan Hills School is down 7 students
- All remaining schools combined increased by 41 students! (Fort went up by 2 students)

No schools will be considered for closure next year

The school board accepted administration's recommendation that no schools be considered for closure this year. According to Policy 15, each year administration reviews the division's schools against the following criteria to determine if a school or program should be considered for closure:

- Are there health and safety threats?
- Is the school hitting a critical minimum enrolment?
- How many students are expected to attend in the future?
- Are fewer than 60 per cent of the students in the school's attendance area attending the school?
- Does operating the school create excessive costs for the division?

In making this recommendation to the board, administration also considered the quality of education programming the students are receiving.

Only one school – Fort Assiniboine – met the minimum enrolment criteria to be considered for closure. The school's junior high has 18 students, which falls under the critical minimum enrolment of 20. This was the only criteria that was met. The difference is not significant enough to warrant consideration for closure for the 2018-19 school year.

Check out the website! www.phpschools.ca

- Subscribe to PHPS updates on the bottom left corner
- Look for the bus route status on the top right
- **The public is welcome to attend our school board meetings. The next meeting is on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at the PHPS Regional Office in Barrhead starting at 9:30 a.m. or on Wednesday, December 13th at the Sunny Bend Colony School.**

Provincial meetings

The school board attended the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) Annual General Meeting and the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Fall General Meeting in Edmonton.

There was a Legacy Panel Discussion on Public Education in conjunction with the PSBAA Annual General Meeting. The following cabinet ministers were in attendance:

- Hon. David Eggen, Minister of Education
- Hon. Sarah Hoffman, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health
- Hon. Joe Ceci, President of Treasury, Minister of Finance
- Hon. Richard Feehan, Minister of Indigenous Relations
- Hon. Honourable Margaret McCuaig-Boyd, Minister of Energy

The Moderator for the Panel was MLA Annie McKittrick, Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of Education. Presenter Brian Woodsland spoke about

At the ASBA Fall General Meeting, school boards across the province discussed and voted on various proposed policy positions including:

- Requesting the government undertake a comprehensive review of the K-12 Funding Framework in its entirety in consultation with school boards - *carried*
- Requesting the government renew and re-dedicate their commitment to continuous improvement for student and family "wrap-around" services - *carried*
- Requesting that all school zones in the province be harmonized with municipal playground speeds to reflect the same 30 km/hour speed limits from 7:30 a.m. until 9:00pm - *defeated*
- Funding for high schools - *carried*

We also heard some great presenters on trusteeship, indigenous learning, personalizable education, teamwork and trust.

Alberta Education

- Bill 24 regarding GSA's is awaiting royal assent. Alberta Education will be working with Boards to assure that Bill 24 regulations are met in policy by June 30, 2018.
- Bill 28 dealing with amendments to the School Act is expected to pass third reading this week and includes: common entry age for kindergarten, service agreements with First Nations school boards, age of access for funding education in Alberta, transportation funding relative to the 2.4 km requirement
- Professional standards for principals and superintendents are being developed

Follow me on Facebook or Twitter!

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