

Fort Assiniboine School Parent Council Agenda

January 15, 2019, 7pm make up meeting for

November 27, 2018

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of minutes from September 25, 2018 meeting
3. Treasurers Report
4. Old Business
 - a) Casino
5. New Business
 - a) Principal Report / Student Union Report
 - b) PHPS Report
 - c) Woodlands County Report
 - d) Parent Society Report
 - e) Pre-School Report
 - f) Council for School Council Report
 - g) PAT Exam results
 - h) Curling
 - i) Open floor for comments or concern
6. Set date for next meeting
7. Meeting adjournment

Fort Assiniboine School Parent Council Minutes

January 15, 2019, 7:00pm

Make up meeting for November 27, 2018

Attendance: Jennifer Tuininga, Megan Petryshen, Lorna Hiemstra, Charlene Fleming, Jenni Williams, Penny Price, Teresa Dekker, Kristin Machuk, Terha Forbes

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

1. Approval of Agenda

Amend the agenda to add, School Calendar under New Business.

Charlene Fleming approved the agenda

Jenni Williams seconded it

2. Approval of minutes from September 25, 2018 meeting

Megan Petryshen approved the minutes

Terha Forbes seconded it

3. Treasures report - Teresa Dekker

The account balance remains unchanged at \$584.18. Teresa Dekker adopts her report as read.

4. Old Business

a) Casino – it was talked about how finding volunteers proved to be quite challenging for the 2018 casino fundraiser, and what can be done about it in the future?

5. New Business

a) Principal Report / Student Union Report – Lorna Hiemstra -see attached. Also, just as an added note: There have been a few new families move to Fort Assiniboine area so there are now 85 students in the school.

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

c) Woodlands County Report – absent

d) Parent Society Report – Kristin Machuk – The Casino fundraiser was done in October 2018. Went over well without any hiccups. The next Parent Society meeting is planned for Jan.21, 2019 at 7pm at the school. Highway Cleanup will be May 4, 2019. Jenni did not have the financial reports quite finished but will have them complete by the next Parent Council meeting

(Jan.29) to present. Joseph S. Greilach Professional Corp. will be doing the review. Teresa will confirm. The new Parent Society by-laws were reviewed and changed last year, they have been approved.

e) Pre-school Report – Jenni Williams- There are 15 students enrolled in the preschool program this year. The Christmas party was a great success. There have been lots of positive feedback on what's been happening in pre-school. There was a poinsettia fundraiser done before Christmas that was very successful. They are doing a Little Ceaser's pizza fundraiser right now. It will be done on Jan. 17. Pre-school fees are set at \$30/month per child. Running 2 days / week.

f) Council for School Council Report – Penny Price – There was a meeting on November 6, 2018 at the PHPS office in Barrhead, that our School Council Chair, Penny Price, attended. Generally, all the Chairs from in the PHPS District are in attendance. It is a great resource for learning about what is happening in our School district. There was a discussion about fundraising rules. There is some confusion about accepting donations for the schools from over 18 organizations. Such as bars, marijuana facilities, etc. Assistant Superintendent Mark Thiesen is looking into it. Eleanor Hall School does a really nice colored pamphlet they distribute to the Community as to inform people what is happening in the school throughout the year. It was brought up to discuss maybe doing the same thing here. Next meeting is May 14, 2019 at the PHPS office in Barrhead. Anyone is able to attend.

g) PAT Exam results – The results from last years PAT Exams were presented by Mark Thiesen at the Council for School Council meeting. Results are attached, If there are any questions about the results you can contact Lorna Hiemstra.

h) Curling – There are little curling rocks at the curling rink that were originally purchased with the school kids in mind, that are not currently being used. Is this an activity that could possibly be added to the gym program? Also, drop in curling is on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. Anyone under 18 must wear a helmet.

i) Open Floor for comments or concerns –

-There are some concerns and questions about the new K-4 curriculum. Lorna will do a presentation on this at the March meeting.

- a Parent brought up a concern about the fact that there is not always someone sitting in the office. In the event of an emergency, it is scary to think that no one might be there. Is there a way that the staff can have something arranged so there is someone who can cover the spot when needed?

- It was brought up that there are not land lines in all the classrooms of the school. In case of emergency the staff should always be able to call out. Lorna is going to let Tracy Tyreman know about this to have it fixed.

- Junior High Ski Trip is in the early planning stages, but will probably be end of March or April.

- is it necessary to continue with the magazine fundraiser? Not very many people like it and so therefore it is not a very successful fundraiser. Is it a possible to do something else instead?

There will be a survey sent out to see what parents think.

j) School Calendar – There are some proposed changes for the 2019-2020 school year calendar. PHPS is looking for feedback on some of the changes. Such as, no more early dismissal. The draft calendar will be approved in February. If anyone would like to see the proposed school calendar, please speak to Lorna.

6. Set date for next meeting – January 29 at 7:00pm (will be the AGM)

7. Meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm

Ft. Assiniboine School

Principal's Report for School Council

Submitted by Lorna Hiemstra

Jan. 15, 2019

Staffing & Student Update

- New Hire - Program Assistant (PA) in Kindergarten Mrs. Serina Vanberg
- Reduction in Support Staff
 - o One less PA in Grade 1&2
 - o Reduction in hours spread throughout K-9; priority is still on student service
- We have had several new families move into our school since October and we are at 85 K-9 students

Developing Citizenship

Student's carved pumpkins (donated again by Matthew & Amber Levy) and decorated our 2nd annual mini Pumpkin Walk. Mrs. Lawton donated her giant inflatable monsters again and Mrs. Davison opened the Library Halloween evening to give out treats. It was well attended and we hope to continue this tradition.

Student's Council organized Halloween center activities for K-6 on Nov. 1. Student Leadership was enthusiastic and put in some hard work and creativity. Fantastic costumes and volunteer response from parents. Thank you for some valuable parent feedback; we had some learning challenges and we will adjust the "scariness" of activities for next year and/or offer some alternative choices.

Positive Mental Health

Our Success Coach and Student services team are wrapping up 2 groups in the Rainbows program (for students dealing with a loss of family member, divorced parents) and another one will be starting in February.

Ms. Friesen continues to organize engaging lunch hour activities for K-4 and Gr. 5-9 groups like Hunger Games dodgeball, Minute to Win It, Yoga, Girls Lunch, and more.

Community Pride

We are so blessed with parents and community who help our school. Once again, Woodlands County donated the turkeys for our whole school Christmas dinner on Dec. 18. Thank you to all the parents and volunteers (including Jen Tuininga) who came in and cooked and cleaned and joined us for a delicious meal. Thank you to Teresa Dekker for playing piano for students to sing Christmas carols in the hallway. Thank you to all who brought donations for our annual White Elephant Christmas Sale. It is true Christmas spirit seeing students picking out gifts for their family members and how proud they are to bring home a wrapped surprise.

Upcoming Events/Dates:

Family Trip to watch U of A Basketball Feb. 2 Would you be interested in attending the University of Alberta Pandas and Golden Bears Basketball game versus UBC at the Saville Center in Edmonton? Cost would be approximately \$15 per person including busing and game ticket. Children 11 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Arctic Explorer Visiting Jan. 24 @ 9:00 am We are looking forward to meeting John Dunn and hearing about his 1100 days of exploring Canada's Arctic: including over 11,000km on skis. Within the framework of the expedition story, many topics are included in his presentation: goal setting & problem solving; creativity & innovation; healthy living & physical exercise; geography, history & the Inuit; climate change & the environment. Go to his website at www.arcticlight.com

School Trustee Report – January 15, 2019

PHPS Enrolment

Similar to past years, grade 1-12 enrolment is down 40 students or 1%. This varies by school. Fort Assiniboine's numbers are the same as last year.

No schools considered for closure next year

The school board accepted administration's recommendation that no schools be considered for closure next year. Each year administration reviews the division's schools against the criteria in Policy 15 to determine if a school or program should be considered for closure. This year, none of our schools met the criteria, which include:

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

For the past four years, Fort Assiniboine School has been identified in the School Viability Report as meeting the criteria of grades 7-9 enrolment < 20 students.

Fort Assiniboine School 7-9 enrolment:

- 2017-2018 17 students
- 2018-2019 20 students (10 in grade 7; 8 in grade 8; 2 in grade 9)

Based on existing enrolments moving forward into the next grade level and ECS class sizes of 8, the school is projected to exceed 20 students in the junior high in the next 5 years.

Alberta Education

The draft K-4 curriculum has been released. For a comparison document that shows what the current curriculum covers and the changes see the following link:

<https://education.alberta.ca/media/3795582/shifts-december-2018.pdf> Over 40,000 people participated in the two telephone town halls regarding the curriculum. Field testing is to begin in the fall.

2019-20 school year calendar approved

See the calendars section of our website for a copy of the **2019-20 school year calendar**. The first day of school for students will be September 3, 2019. There will continue to be 184 days of instruction for schools in the towns of Barrhead and Westlock. Schools with alternate calendars will have fewer days of instruction—these calendars will be considered in February 2019.

New for the 2019-20 school year:

- There will be no early dismissal days
- Schools will be seeking input from parents on how best to have ongoing conversations regarding their child's progress – and to find out if traditional parent-teacher-student interviews are meeting their needs

While there will be no days in lieu of parent teacher interviews, teachers will have two additional days for self-directed professional development, without decreasing the number of days of instruction.

Transportation - MELT Training: The new Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) program will not impact existing Division drivers, but individuals applying for class 1 or 2 licenses after October 10, 2018 will be required to take MELT. There is a separate MELT program for bus drivers which combines it with the S Endorsement, making the total training time 62 hours. We are always trying to recruit new bus drivers!

Thoughtexchange Website on Student Citizenship Awards

The exchange was open for 15 days — from October 30th to November 12th. 161 people participated in the exchange, submitting and rating 164 unique thoughts. The board has created criteria for the awards based on the feedback received from the Thoughtexchange. A policy reflecting the changes to the awards will be reviewed at the January 16th board meeting. We are pleased to share the results of this exchange on a public website <http://phpschools.thoughtexchange.info/november-2018/>

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