

Fort Assiniboine Parent Council Agenda

November 26, 2019

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of minutes from September 24. 2019
3. Treasures Report
4. Old Business
 - a. Follow up on parent concerns & meeting with David Garbutt
5. New Business
 - a. Open floor for questions or concerns
 - b. Principal Report/Student Union Report
 - c. PHPS Report
 - d. Parent Society Report
 - e. Pre-School Report
 - f. School Council of Council Report
 - g. Christmas concert, turkey dinner & white elephant sale
 - h. Communication with Partents
 - i. Education survey
6. Date of next meeting
7. Meeting adjournment

Fort Assiniboine School Parent Council Minutes

November 26, 2019, 7:00pm

Attendance: Jennifer Tuininga, Lorna Hiemstra, Penny Price, Teresa Dekker, Dale Kluin, Roxanne Cross, Jenny Kuelken

Chairperson Penny Price called the meeting to order at 7:07pm

1. Approval of Agenda

Teresa Dekker approved the agenda

Roxanne Cross seconded it

2. Approval of minutes from September 24, 2019 meeting

Roxanne Cross made a motion to approve the minutes

Teresa Dekker seconded it

3. Treasures report - Teresa Dekker

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

4. Old Business

- a. Follow up on extra meeting held with Dave Garbutt – It was appreciated that Dave set up the meeting in a timely matter after there had been some concerns brought up. There was a parent from the school who was not able to attend the meeting so to get her concerns resolved there was a private meeting set up with her and Mrs. Hiemstra. Chairperson Penny Price handed out a copy of a school council work plan. Which is a guideline as to what should be talked about at Parent Council meetings. See Fort School website if you require a copy.

5. New Business

- a) Open floor for questions or concerns – there is a parent that has some concerns about the technology use in the school. First – how much screen time the kids are having. This is something that Alberta Education has put into the curriculum so is not decided on a school to school basis. A second concern is what type of content the children have access to. The computers, macbooks, and ipads within the classrooms all have filters in place to restrict any content that is inappropriate to students. It was a question if the computers in the library have those same filters in place? No, they do not. Students in grade 5/6 and Junior High talk about safety on the internet and social media as part of the health program.

Other suggestions that was brought up, was the possibility of doing a CPR/ First Aid course as a CTF program? This suggestion as well as maybe more will be discussed at the next meeting.

- b) Principal Report / Student Union report – Lorna Hiemstra - see attached
- c) PHPS Report – Jennifer Tuininga – see attached

d) Parent Society Report – Teresa Dekker – there is a meeting coming up on December 2 at 7:30 In the school. At this meeting we are hoping to fill our current vacant President position. Also, we have a casino fundraiser coming up on Jan 3 and 4 ,2020. So far, it is looking good for volunteers. Hotel and Advisors are booked, papers are all in, hope the weather is good for travel and hope it all goes well.

e) Pre-school Report – absent

f) School Council of Council Report – Penny Price – it was brought up that volunteers coming into the schools need to have criminal record checks done. Penny talked about what other schools are doing to get more parents coming to the council and society meetings.

g) Christmas Concert / Turkey Dinner / white elephant sale – The school Christmas concert date is December 12 at 7pm. There are approximately 10 poodle skirts needed, if anyone has one or knows of anyone that has one lying around please get it to Lorna for her class song. Student union will do a bake sale at the Concert. Whole School Christmas Dinner is set for December 17. Woodlands County is donating the turkeys again, so thank you so much for doing that! White Elephant Sale is set for Dec. 16-17. If anyone has any items they would like to donate that would be greatly appreciated! Santa will be at the library on Dec.19 at 2:00.

h) Communication with Parents – Some topics that were brought up were: would there be parents that would like to get their school forms in electronic version instead of paper? Would this be a more reliable way of making sure that parents are getting what they need? Currently the forms are sent with the youngest child in the family in their daily agendas. Another topic brought up was if there is interest in having some speakers come in to talk to parents about things like for example, technology, vaping, devices in the classroom. * note there are no personal devices allowed in the classrooms currently*

i) Education Survey – there is talk in the government right now about changes to the public education system. There is a survey open to the public online. See Jennifer Tuininga's report for the link.

j) Woodlands County Report – Dale Kluin - The County of Woodlands remains in financial distress. There are taxes owed to the county right now up to the amount of \$9 million dollars. This has left the County with no choice but to slash the budget from \$18 million to \$16 million per year, also they have cut 12 jobs withing the County. Over the next 5 years the county taxes will go up by 3% per year. There was a concern that the county might cut funding to the Fort Library. Although Councilor Dale Kluin assured us that currently, there has been no such discussion of that happening.

6. Set date for next meeting – January 22, 2020 at 7:00pm * this will be the AGM*

7. Meeting was adjourned at 9:36 pm

School Council Report - November 2019

Enrolment

While overall enrolment in the division is down by 1.4% (46 students), no schools meet the criteria for school closure. Total number in community schools was 3776 – this number fluctuates as students move in or out of the division.

Trustee Keough resignation

As a result of the resignation of Trustee Keough, Trustee McElroy will be the representative for the Swan Hills School.

2020-2021 school year calendar approved

The Board approved the 2020-2021 school year calendar, after being presented with five options to consider. Alternate school calendars will be considered in February 2020. Start day for students is September 2 and end day is June 25.

AP 20-03 School Dispute Resolution (External Communication Protocol)

This has not changed from our original External Communication Protocol AP – only the name has changed to align with requirements under the Education Act. This AP addresses who to contact when you are experiencing something you may view as problematic. It is imperative that you contact the person who is responsible for the decision first, so as not to be redirected.

Ward Review

We are working on the details of the ward review. We have asked the permission of school councils to engage our parents and community members at a January/February meeting with a presentation on the ward review options, timelines and process.

Water Lead Level Testing

Due to a research study being published around concerns about lead concentrations in school water our facilities director had water tests performed at all of our schools. The lead content at all sites is below the acceptable limit of 5 parts per billion.

Alberta School Boards Association FGM – Nov. 17-19

Position statements going forward to government:

- Charter Schools: That government enforce the regulations on Charter Schools and wind down Charter Schools once their learning style, working style or pedagogy is being offered by the local public, separate or Francophone school board.
- Choice in Education Act: That the choice in education act continue to support and enhance the 61 public, separate and Francophone School Boards.
- Naming of Public School Boards: That the minister support public boards in altering their division name under section 116 of the Education Act to include the word "public" in their legal division name.
- Vaping: That the Ministries of Education and Health collaborate and share research about the effect of vaping... And that all levels of government expeditiously amend statutes under the Tobacco and Smoking Reduction act and Tobacco and Vaping Product Act and regulations to align the restrictions on the consumption, promotion, marketing and sale of vaping products to Alberta's youth with those on tobacco products.

- **Inclusive Practices:** That AB. Education Review current inclusion practices, with involvement from all stakeholders, to assess the strengths and challenges of these inclusion practices, report findings, and provide the necessary funding to implement evidence-based practices that support the diverse learning needs of Alberta students.
- **School Bus Speed Limits:** PHSD – that buses are able to operate at the posted speed limit, passed with the support of 90% of school boards, representing 77.33% of students
- **FTE for Early Childhood Education:** That government utilize the actual full time equivalent for ECS when determining school boards' utilization of schools.
- **Superintendent Regulation:** That the government restore the local autonomy of School Boards, by rescinding the current Superintendent of Schools Regulation and amend the Education Act to remove the requirement for Ministerial approval of Superintendent appointments.

Tobacco and Smoking Prevention Act

The public also has an opportunity to provide feedback on how to improve legislation around vaping. The on line survey closes November 29th

<https://www.alberta.ca/tobacco-and-smoking-reduction-review.aspx>

Here's an informative video titled: "Are Students Juuling in your classroom?"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLD7kW_uVEY

Choice in Education Act

I have participated in a webinar on this topic, and we await the Act with some trepidation. The government is seeking feedback from the general public on the various school systems we have in the province. They have said there will be no changes in funding, but that they are enshrining a parents right to choose. The survey needs to be completed by December 6th

<https://www.alberta.ca/choice-in-education-engagement.aspx>

Budget

Alberta Education has informed us that the new education funding framework will not be released until February with an implementation date of September 2020. The education budget will remain the same for the next 4 years at \$8.223 billion.

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