

Fort Assiniboine School Parent Council Agenda
September 30th, 2020, 7PM
Fort School Room 4

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of minutes from May 27th, 2020
3. Treasure report
4. Old Business
 - a. Roxanne Cross - Global Information Systems
5. New Business
 - a. Cindy Carswell - Liaison for Friendship club/Museum
 - b. Principals Report/Students union report
 - c. Pembina Hills Trustee Report
 - d. Woodlands County Report
 - e. Parent Society
 - f. Pre-School Report
 - g. Communication - Welcoming Committee Report
 - h. School Council of Council meeting November 3rd, 5-7pm
RO-1-Boardroom (25)
 - i. Feedback on Open House on September 2nd, 2020
 - j. On going changes with COVID
 - k. Meetings - Add to the minutes why we missed the March meeting, how the council would like to proceed with future meetings.
 - l. Childcare

Please wear a mask, Thank you.

Fort Assiniboine School Parent Council Minutes

September 30, 2020. 7:00pm

Attendance: Jennifer Tuininga, Lorna Hiemstra, Jenni Williams, Penny Price, Teresa Dekker, Roxanne Cross, Cindy Carswell,

Chairperson Penny Price called the meeting to order at 7:06pm

1. Approval of Agenda.

Roxanne Cross approved the agenda

Jenni Williams seconded it

2. Approval of minutes from May 27, 2020

Roxanne Cross approved the minutes

Jenni Williams 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) Roxanne Cross – GIS (Geographic Information Systems) presentation – see attached. Was very well put together and well received. Hoping this can be a CTF program in the future.

5. New Business

a) Cindy Carswell – Liaison for friendship club/ museum – the Senior would love to be able to get together with the kids again but are unable to at the present time due to COVID restrictions. Hopefully when things are back to normal can do a Pioneer day with the kids (wool spinning, butter making) Maybe pen pals would be a good option for the time being?

b) Principal Report/ Students Union Report – Lorna Hiemstra – see attached

c) PHPS Trustee Report- Jennifer Tuininga -see attached

d) Woodlands County Report – absent

e) Parent Society Report – Teresa Dekker – funding is much more limited than in the past, so parent society must be a lot more careful about where to spend money. People should expect to see more fundraising happening than in the past. Highway Cleanup was cancelled this year as well as Casinos have been closed due to COVID so there is a lot of uncertainty about when our next Casino might be.

f) Pre – School Report – Jenni Williams – Pre- School is a go this year! Starts on October 1, 2020. Sandi Larsen will be teaching along with Parent Helpers. They are hoping to do 1 parent per month to help with COVID restrictions. There will only be 1 class running this year and that class has 7 kids enrolled.

Pre-school will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:45 – 12:15.

g) Communications – Welcoming Committee Report – absent

h) Council of School Council Meeting report- Penny Price – see attached. Next meeting will be Nov 3 from 5:00- 7:00

i) Feedback on Open House – this year the open house for the school took place on Sept 2,2020 which was the day before school started. The feedback was that it was liked this way better than the previous way and we will continue to do it this way in the future. Possibly with a few changes to accommodate working parents as well. It was great to have the option for the kids to take stuff to their lockers and classrooms, so they did not have to try to take it all with them the first day of school.

j) Ongoing changes with COVID – please be sure to remain patient with people right now. There is a lot of stress and uncertainty in the world right now due to the ever changing COVID rules and restrictions. So, please just remain compassionate to everyone around you.

k) Missed meetings – The meeting that was originally scheduled for March 18,2020 was cancelled due to Alberta Government putting the province under lockdown starting March 15,2020. At that time parent council was unprepared for how to move forward with meetings and so the March one was missed. The following meeting, May 27,2020 took place via google meet.

l) Childcare – there was a discussion about how to make childcare available to parents who would like to attend Parent Council meetings but have their young children at home. Maybe there could be a local teen, that has their babysitting certificate made available to watch the said children so the parent/s could attend the meeting. Teresa Dekker made a motion to have the parent that is need of the childcare contact the Parent Council President 1 week prior to the meeting to make arrangements. Roxanne Cross seconded that motion. Carried. There was a discussion on who pays the teen for their service, if parent society would be willing to pay. There was no decision made.

Parent Council President Penny Price made it known that she will not be up for reelection in the next term.

7. Set date for next meeting – November 25,2020 at 7:00pm

8. Meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm

GIS Program for Fort School CTF

Why GIS

- What is GIS??
- GIS is everywhere
- Interdisciplinary
 - Social studies —> learn about census, do an assignment using census data
 - Health —> disease modeling
 - Environmental Ed —> Species At Risk (SAR) i.e. Trumpeter Swan
- Incorporates ICT curriculum and creates cohesion across classes
- Field/outdoor component
- Spatial mindset
- Lots of opportunity for good pay
(https://www.glassdoor.ca/Job/alberta-gis-jobs-SRCH_IL.0.7.IS4074_KO8.11.htm)
- Remote friendly

Vision for Course Structure

- Map Basics
- Fieldwork/Data Collection
- GIS Skills
- Coding
- Application of skills
- Professional Exposure

Map Basics

- Map basics (5 elements every map should have)
- Reading a map
- Making a map (purpose, good maps, bad maps) all about audience and what you are trying to convey
- ATS (Alberta Township Survey, PLSS)
- Coordinate Systems
 - cartesian coordinates
 - Datums (geography of the land)

Potential activities:

- Scavenger hunt
- Map poster contest

Fieldwork/Data Collection

- Compass (declination, magnetic north)
- GPS (accuracy vs. precision)
- Survey123 (ESRI Product) - design, planning, data analysis (stats)
- Crowdsourcing (online social responsibility)
- Drones
- Survey

Potential Activities:

- Geocaching (Family/Community event??)
- Create surveys

GIS Skills

- ESRI Online courses
 - Different levels (Tech, Analyst, Specialist)
 - Courses for apps (Collector, Navigator, etc.)
- Spatial analysis/statistics
- Open Source (MapWindow, GRASS, QGIS)
- Google Maps
- Certificates from ESRI that are recognized throughout the world

Coding/Big Data

- Python/Java for kids (object oriented programming)
 - Lists
 - Loops
- Principles of RDBMS
- Intro to database
- Web Services

Potential Activities:

- Create an app or dashboard (BB team season) <https://doc.arcgis.com/en/dashboards/gallery/>
- Create and run a DB query

Applications of GIS

- How do we pull it all together
- Integrated design

Potential Activities:

- Capstone project (design, collect data, analyze and present)
 - Creation an app (iOS, Android, Windows)
 - ESRI StoryMaps <https://storymaps-classic.arcgis.com/en/gallery/#s=0>

Professionals Using GIS

- Expose students to variety of jobs that utilize GIS
- Once a month have 1-2 professionals come in and talk about their job
 - How do they use GIS
 - schooling requirements (high school, trades, post secondary)
 - Employability
 - Pay/benefits
 - Day in the life of
- Have a set of topics/questions for each speaker to address and then Q&A
- Some examples:

○ Public Safety (fire, EMS, police)	Pilots	Logistics (Bus shop, Purolator)
○ Agriculture (farming, ABAg)	Oil & Gas	Public Health (CDC, genetics)
○ Civics (Assessor)	Utilities (outage mgmt)	Defense
○ Natural Resources	Forestry	Recreation
○ Professional Services (business intelligence)		

Fort Assiniboine School Council
Principal's Report Sept. 2020

School Start up

- Lots of changes occurred in August, like mandatory masks for gr. 4-9 and staff and staggered start-up. As a staff we were thankful for the extra time to prepare all the new health and safety measures.
- Many people to thank for all their hard work preparing for School start-up (and dealing with stressful times) - parents, bus drivers, maintenance staff, and my wonderful school staff
- On the first day of school it was magical to see all the elementary kids light up when they saw each other and play on the playground
- Despite the relatively short notice, we felt the **Open House** was well received and an excellent opportunity to communicate first hand with students and parents about the upcoming changes. There were a lot of good questions and a chance to clear up misconceptions. Jr. High students were able to bring supplies for their lockers (and not have to carry on the bus).
- **Student count:**
 - We have 4 new students, one each in grades 1,2,3, and 7.
 - We had 3 students move away
 - Initially we had 15 students indicate they would be learning at home. That number has decreased to 10 now. The deadline for students to choose their path for the year is Sept. 30.
 - Count as of Sept. 28 is 14 Kindergarten students and 71 Gr. 1-9 (76)
- School roof has been replaced, with minimal disruption to classes
- Kindergarten treehouse has a new staircase (replaced the ladder)

90 kids total in the school.

Staffing Update

- Kindergarten - Teacher: Mrs. Kiselyk, Program Assistant (PA): Ms. Lefebvre
- Grade 1&2 - Teacher: Mrs. Hoffman, PA: Mrs. Wieland
- Grade 3&4 - Teacher: Mrs. Hiemstra, PA: Mrs. O'Brien
- Grade 5&6 - Teacher: Mrs. Breitzkreitz, PA: Mrs. Kien
- Jr. High - Teachers: Mr. Wyman & Mrs. Payne, PA: Mrs. Baker
- Office - Mrs. Fleming, Mrs. O'Brien

Gr. 1&2 - Mrs. Hoffman will teach the remainder of the 2020/21 school year. Mrs. Amanda Williams has resigned from her teaching position.

Student Teacher - Ms. Emily Assenheimer is enrolled in the Bachelor of Education program at Concordia University (Edmonton). She will be doing her Phase 2&3 practicums in Kindergarten (Tues/Thurs) and Grade 5&6 (Mon/Wed) for the first 3 weeks in September and mid-October to mid-December.

Library - for more than 30 years Mrs. Davison has been the heart and soul of our Library and our community. She moved up her retirement date to the end of September. We are preparing farewell cards and gifts for her and encouraging alumni to send in messages for her. We are happy to share the news that Megan Petryshen will be our new Librarian.

Breakfast Program - we still receive a government nutrition grant that pays for a person to administer and prepare food for the program 1.5 hours per day. Currently Mrs. O'Brien is fulfilling this role. We are limiting volunteers until restrictions are reduced.

Health Guidelines - we take our directions from Alberta Health Services; information changes constantly; we remind staff, students, and parents to be patient and kind

- This year on our registration forms we asked parents to indicate Pre-Existing conditions that have CoVid like symptoms
- The primary strategy to prevent the spread of infection is the **Daily Health Check**
 - this has changed since PHPS sent home letters and magnets to all parents in August
 - Latest version has divided symptoms into 2 categories with specific return to school guidelines
<https://www.pembinahills.ca/our-division/news/student-illness-stay-at-home-guide/>
- all people entering the school are required to clean their hands (sanitizing stations are at all entrances, or some choose to wash hands in the bathroom)
- Students in Grades 4-9 and all adults are required to wear masks upon entering the building, in hallways, and when moving around classrooms
- All staff and visitors are required to sign in and out to keep a record of when they are in the building

Daily School Routine

7:50 - 8:05 Busses pull into school, Jr. High students may enter building at 8:00, masks are worn in the hallway

8:05 - 8:15 Elementary students exit busses, time on playground

8:15 Elementary students line up at designated spots to avoid congestion, gr. 4-6 put on masks

8:15 Elementary doors opened, breakfast snack served in classrooms

8:30 Warning Bell sounds

8:35 Morning Announcements over intercom, including weather report, information items, and O Canada (we do not sing), classes begin

10:15 Elementary Recess

10:30 Gr. 5&6 recess ends

10:35 K-4 recess ends

12:15-12:30 Lunch in classrooms K-9

12:30 Lunch recess for K-9

12:55 Gr. 5-9 recess ends
1:00 K-4 recess ends
2:30 K-6 recess
2:45 Gr. 5&6 recess ends
2:50 K-4 recess ends
3:50 Final Dismissal bell for K-9

Budget, Schedules, & Programming

After further reductions and changes in the Government funding formula, Senior Administration developed a formula to provide limits on staffing expenses by categories: teaching/admin, support staff (PA), and office admin. In order to comply with these limits,, Fort Assiniboine School cut over 1500 hours in PA time and 350 hours in office admin time.

Most Program Assistants begin their day at 8:30 and work until 4:00. The office is staffed from 8:00 - 4:00. Our front door is locked after 8:45 am. Teachers have picked up more supervision time in the morning and recesses.

We have similar programming and schedules to last year (see attachment). Our grade sixes will join Jr. High for Option/CTF classes; Gr. 3/4/5 will have Art/Health together, and Music will be divided into K-2 and 3-6 classes.

I need to clarify our use of the term CTF (Career and Technology Foundations) for our Grade 6-9 Option programs. Not all of our Options follow the CTF program of studies. We strive to offer choice to our students and they have a significant input into what options they would like to sign up for. We do still have local expertise and resources that we have yet to access. Due to the length of each program (2-one hour sessions per week for 5-6 weeks) we are considering asking local experts to do seminar style sessions that fit their schedule (ex. A half day workshop).

Our music room is too small and has carpeted floor, so we are improvising and using other facilities. Mrs. Kiselyk is using the outdoors, the gym when available, and during the winter we will rent the Rec Hall.

Sports & Intramurals

- We are currently offering a semi-competitive volleyball program for grades 6-9 during our Option period
 - Pembina Hills Jr. High schools have submitted potential volleyball teams to a divisional coordinator and cohorts of 50 or less are being organized; schedule is TBA
 - If we do join a Jr. High volleyball league, we will have a co-ed team and wil rely on parent drivers for transportation
- No intramurals or other extra-curricular sports are being organized at this time

- Pembina Hills Jr. High Sports committee will look at the possibility of basketball after volleyball season

Seniors Friendship Club

- Cindy Carswell is our liaison with the Seniors Friendship Club
- The club met in early September and decided to suspend all activities until the end of the year
- As far as connections with the school, 2 potential activities are still being looked at:
 - Penpals
 - Research project about our community's connection to the Doctor from St. Louis who donated land to the U of A (Legion cenotaph land)

FSL & FCSS Programs

- Our Family & School Liaison (FSL) worker is Ms. Katharina Friessen; she is also our contact person for Family and Community Support Services (her former title was Success Coach)
- Ms. Friessen is a valuable resource person for students, staff, and parents
- Her programs include individual consultations, mental health strategies, connecting families to assistance for counselling, food, and financial support

Other Health Programs

- This school year we will be accessing programming from P.A.W.S. in Swan Hills.
- Programs will be focussed on positive mental health strategies for grades 1-9
- The current proposed schedule is bi-weekly on Wednesdays

Virtue Awards & Assemblies - will be limited to once a month

- Staff and students in gr. 4-9 will wear masks
- Students will be physically distanced by class groupings
- Virtue Award winners will still receive "Pizza from the Principal"
- Pictures of Virtue Award winners will be posted on our school Facebook page and website

Royal Tyrrell Museum Virtual Presentation - our Jr. High classes enjoyed an hour with paleontology experts from Alberta's world famous museum on Sept. 23

Upcoming Events

Terry Fox Run - Oct. 1 @ 2:00

- We are not joining Dunstable or leaving the community due to CoVid restrictions
- We are still encouraging parents to join us outside to walk/run from the school to the boat launch turn-off (aprox. 2.2 km each way)
- Fundraising forms were sent home Sept. 22
- Students will be learning about Terry Fox and his Marathon of Hope in class time

Orange Shirt Day - Oct. 1

- An important part of the Truth & Reconciliation process is learning about the history of residential schools in Canada and its effect on many FNMI families
- The overall message is "Every Child Matters"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3vUqr01kAk&ab_channel=johndellca
- Students will be covering this topic at age appropriate levels through curriculum based activities
- Wearing an orange shirt is optional; we do provide orange shirts every second year (alternate with Pink Shirt Day) - this year we are providing new shirts only to our Kindergarten students

Drive Away Hunger Campaign (Farm Credit Canada) Oct. 13-22

- This year we will NOT be doing a food weigh-in; we will be seeking only cash donations for our local food bank
- We will do a "weigh-in" on Oct. 22 to see which Bear House collected the most donations (our goal in the past has been 500 pounds, so this year it's \$500)

Safety on Board - bus safety program for K-4 on Oct. 15**Goal Setting Nights - Oct. 14 and Oct. 22**

- Parent meetings will be done through phone calls or online
- Appointments will be set up through the office soon

Halloween Activities - Oct. 29

- Thank you to the Levy family for donating pumpkins for all our students again
- Activities will be limited this year; mostly classroom based
- We will not be doing Bear House mixed grade activities
- We may do a physically distanced costume parade in the gym

Christmas Concert - no live concert this year

- Our current plans are to have a drama production (not musical) and a handbell performance that will be both taped and put online for parents to watch

School Council Trustee Report - September 30, 2020

School Re-entry Updates

Guidelines from Alberta Education and Alberta Health Services continue to change, updates are reported on the Pembina Hills website as they are received. We rely on the guidelines provided by the experts and are tasked with implementation.

In addition to the regular cleaning, schools are being cleaned in the middle of the day. Schools are using a lot of hand sanitizer and cleaning products, but our supply chain is stable. The air exchange units are running continuously in an effort to keep the inside air as fresh as possible. In the past they would be shut down when schools were vacated in order to save on energy costs.

The Alberta Government, Occupational Health & Safety is doing inspections of schools across the province and three of our schools have been chosen - Dunstable, Busby and Barrhead Elementary. Staff will be coming in to look at disinfection practices, hazard assessments, visitor logs, COVID response plans, physical distancing practices and staggered breaks.

Pembina Hills is looking for further clarification on school sports, but at this time our expectation is one extra-curricular at a time. *'If an individual or team member wishes to change cohorts/mini-leagues, they should not participate in a new cohort activity for 14 days (this reflects the incubation period of the virus).'* This is from the Gov. of Alberta document 'Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation - Stage 2', updated on September 3.

Enrolment

Student enrolment in our community schools is down approximately 435 students (12%). Schools have been reaching out to families to find out where students have gone:

- About half of the students have chosen distance learning through the division's online school, Vista Virtual School
- Others have chosen homeschooling or other online schools

Vista Virtual School's numbers have increased significantly. They are currently at 642 students grades 1-9 and 2053 in grades 10-12.

Fort Assinibone's numbers decreased by 10 students (10.75%) from their projected enrolment for a total of 83 students K-9.

Provincial Achievement Tests

The Board of Trustees passed a motion to not administer the Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) for 2020-2021. Participation in PATs is optional and the data is primarily used to assist in monitoring and improving student learning. The school board and administration believe that PATs would provide incomplete data due to:

- Learning gaps that occurred from learning-at-home in 2019-2020
- Potential absenteeism that is likely to occur throughout 2020-2021

The division will continue to use specific tools to assess student needs and achievement in Numeracy and Literacy. These assessments will provide teachers with information to support student progress.

Student Transportation

Spare bus drivers have been used to fill positions from resignations and we are scrambling to fill routes if drivers aren't able to drive due to COVID symptoms. Parents may need to transport students if spare drivers can't be found.

Pembina Hills is looking for bus drivers – please spread the word!

Highlights of being a spare bus driver include:

- Training Provided and Full Reimbursement for Class 2 License
- Reimbursement for Medical Exam Fee
- Holidays and Summer Months OFF
- You can bring your Preschool Children on the bus with you
- Busses are equipped with Surveillance Cameras and GPS for safety

ADLC

ADLC will continue operations for the 2020-2021 school year and then will be closed. Alberta Education provided us with operating funding of 15 million last year, and 14 million this coming year to serve school divisions across the province. Alberta Education offered 7 million to operate for the 2021-2022 school year, but it is not possible to provide ADLC services at this level. This decision by the province to defund ADLC has a great impact on students across the province, as well as many Pembina Hills staff who have been caught off guard by this change in direction of the government. This change affects 79 teachers and 34 support staff.

Alberta School Councils' Association

This is a great place for resources, information and learning opportunities. Your membership is covered under the school division.

Report submitted by Jennifer Tuininga, Board Chair
Follow me on Facebook or Twitter, www.pembinahills.ca
Jennifer.Tuininga@pembinahills.ca 780-674-6579 H, 780-284-0971 C



August 18, 2020

Pembina Hills School Division, School Councils

Dear School Council Chair:

The work your school council does to support student learning in your school, and your school division, is greatly appreciated! Through school councils, parents contribute a much-needed perspective to be considered by principals, superintendents and trustees.

Believing that this perspective is also extremely valuable at a provincial level by way of Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA), Pembina Hills School Division has paid for ASCA membership for each of its school councils for the 2020-2021 school year.

The significance of membership in the Association is to provide school councils with a 'voice' at the provincial level in education. ASCA Member School Councils are entitled to:

- Submit a [Proposed Advocacy Resolution](#) for policy consideration;
- Vote on agenda items at [General Meetings of the Association](#);
- Speak to any agenda item at General Meetings of the Association;
- Vote for candidates running for [President, Vice President and Director positions](#);
- Sponsor an eligible parent school council member to run in the election of the Board of Directors;
- Participate on Board committees as invited;
- Participate on the [School Council Engagement Task Force](#);
- Pay reduced fees, if any, for attendance at ASCA events;
- Examine the books and records of the Association.

Every school council membership strengthens the parent voice through school councils in provincial education. ASCA is committed to ensuring parents are valued and informed education partners and presents the parent perspective, provided by its Member School Councils, to the government and others in provincial education.

Our website, www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca, provides comprehensive [resources and information](#) designed to inform, guide and empower school councils.

To ensure our records are current, and to receive timely information, please complete and submit a [Current school council contact information](#) form on our website.

If you have any questions regarding your ASCA membership, please contact TracyR@albertaschoolcouncils.ca, call 1-800-661-3470 or 780-451-7145 in Edmonton.

We look forward to working with you over the next year to represent the parent voice and support the success of your school council!

Sincerely,

Tracy Robinson
Client Support