

Fort Assiniboine Parent Council Agenda

May 26, 2021

Start time - 7:00PM

Estimated end time - 9:00PM

Chair - Crystal Wood

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of minutes from March 24, 2021 meeting - Attached
3. Old Business:
 - a. Student engagement on optional class choices - Lorna
 - b. Literacy Presentation - Mrs. Breitzkreitz
 - c. Alberta Education planning day outcomes
 - i. Outdoor classroom/playground committee requested
 - ii. Grant writing committee requested
 - iii. Parent/School community volunteer online reading program

4. Reports - All reports attached prior to meeting

* Please review reports as they will not be read at the meeting due to time constraints*

- a. PHSD Trustee report - Jennifer Tuininga - Attached
- b. Principals report - Lorna Hiemstra - Attached
- c. Parent Council report- Crystal Wood
- d. Parent Society report - Tara McQueen/Teresa Dekker - Not Available
- e. Pre School report - Jenni Williams - Not Available
- f. Communication/Welcoming committee - Crystal Wood/Teresa Dekker - Nothing to report
- g. Parent class representatives - Not Available

5. New Business -

- a. Business arising from the reports
- b. Budget for following year
- c. Staffing for following year
- d. Programming committee - Roxanne Cross
- e. Bridge to Care - Possible enrollment/Division consultation
- f. School Council Effectiveness Checklist - Draft attached
- g. Retirement/Going away party for outgoing staff - ?

Next meeting date - AGM - September 29, 2021

FORT ASSINIBOINE SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES

MAY 26, 2021, 7:00PM (MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM)

Attendance: Crystal Wood, Roxanne Cross, Jenny Kuelken, Jennifer Tuininga, Cindy Carswell, Lorna Hiemstra, Debbie Breitreitz

Chairperson Crystal Wood called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

1. Approval of Agenda
 - Roxanna approved the agenda.
 - Crystal seconded it.
2. Approval of minutes from March 24, 2021
 - Crystal approved the minutes with exception of one amendment to 4.b. – second bullet as per Jennifer Tuininga’s feedback.
 - Roxanne seconded it.
3. Old Business
 - a. Student engagement on optional class choices - Lorna
 - Mr. Wyman and Mrs. Payne were consulted by Mrs. Hiemstra who stated the students were asked for preferences and ideas at the beginning of the year and continued to ask them throughout the year. The optional classes that were held were all student-based decisions.
 - b. Literacy Presentation – Mrs. Breitreitz
 - Slideshow presentation with a lot of great literacy background and insight. See attachment.
 - c. Alberta Education Planning Day outcomes
 - i. Outdoor classroom/playground committee requested
 - Progress with this committee is in limbo. Lorna suggested getting back on track with Jenni Williams requesting funding from Parent Society. Perhaps Roxanne would take lead and get Administrator, Parent Society, Parent Council and teacher(s) together for discussion. The two components of a classroom and play area need to be detailed in depth; locations, requirements, etc. Roxanne noted previous quotes for costs will be different now that lumber costs have increased drastically. Jennifer noted Tracy Tyreman, Facilities, would need to be included. Lorna noted she has shared Dunstables playground workup and that we should contact Barrhead Elementary since they recently built a new playground.
 - ii. Grant proposals task force requested
 - Administrator and teacher driven group, originating from the School Planning Day in April, seeking a volunteer leader and recruits. Lorna will add this committee to the volunteer request list sent home with students at the beginning of the school year.
 - iii. Parent/School community volunteer online reading program
 - Lorna will add this committee to the volunteer request list sent home with students at the beginning of the school year. Can also note parents can volunteer other community members; aunts, uncles, grandparents, retirees, etc.
4. Reports
 - a. PHSD Trustee Report – Jennifer Tuininga – See attached.

- Jennifer – she will attend one more meeting with us. Elections are on October 18, 2021.
 - b. Principals Report – Lorna Hiemstra – See attached.
 - c. Parent Council Report – Crystal Wood – See attached.
 - d. Parent Society Report – Tara McQueen/Teresa Dekker – Not available.
 - e. Preschool report – Jenni Williams – Not available.
 - f. Communication/Welcoming committee – Crystal Wood/Teresa Dekker – Nothing to report.
 - g. Parent Class representatives – Meghan Koster, Jenny Kuelken, Jenni Williams, Megan Petryshen, Teresa Dekker – Nothing to report.
5. New Business
- a. Business arising from the reports
 - Lorna provided more details on the increase of 0.52 FTE for certified staff. Several ideas in mind but are awaiting direction of Preschool which will make a difference.
 - b. Budget for the following year
 - We have been allotted additional funding for staffing and discretionary spending.
 - c. Staffing for the following year
 - Lorna stated she is currently working on possible changes and invited Parent Council to meet to discuss these changes and to share parent feedback. Meeting will be scheduled for June.
 - d. Programming resource task force – Roxanne Cross
 - Lorna to consult with teachers and provide a date for a meeting.
 - e. Bridge to care – Possible enrollment/division consultation
 - Jennifer stated they are a separate organization not affiliated with Pembina Hills.
 - f. School Council Effectiveness Checklist – Draft
 - Roxanne shared a draft on screen. Hope to send this survey home with students for parent feedback to be received by school year end.
 - g. Retirement/Going away party for outgoing staff
 - Lorna stated that a memory book was in the works. Any memories, notes, pictures, etc could be submitted to Maureen by June 5. Cindy will try to contact former students for submissions as well. Lorna also mentioned a special last day of school event that will be a surprise!
6. Next meeting date: AGM on September 29, 2021
7. Meeting adjourned at 8:49pm.

School Trustee Report - May 26, 2021

Education Plan Priorities

The priorities for the 2021-2022 school year remain the same with one small change to #1:

1. Student-Staff Relationships (Staff instead of Teachers)

Positive relationships between students and staff are the foundation upon which we build students' resilience, confidence and mental well-being.

2. Literacy and Numeracy

Literacy and Numeracy are critical for Student Achievement in all areas of the curriculum.

3. Support for Staff

A collaborative environment enables staff to teach a diverse student population through purposeful inclusion and supports the implementation of effective practices.

Allocation Formula

A distribution of \$900,000 of reserves will result in an increase of discretionary funds available at each school for the upcoming school year. The division is also able to maintain or increase certificated staff at most schools. Fort Assiniboine will see a .52% increase in certificated staff and a net increase of \$19,799 in discretionary funds. Support staff hours for program assistants, success coaches, and office are maintained at 2020-2021 levels in the allocation formula.

There is also a substantial increase in average teacher cost for 2021-2022 due to the August 31, 2021 closure of Alberta Distance Learning Centre. The closure will result in fewer less experienced teachers within the division as 97% of certificated staff fall within the mid to highest range of the salary grid, with 78% at the top of the grid.

Board sets Capital Plan Priorities

The Board adopted the following priorities for the 2021-2024 Three-Year Capital Plan:

1. Barrhead Composite High School - Full Modernization and Right Sizing
 - Previously we had asked for a \$44 million replacement school, but with the cost of a full modernization at \$29 million and the current economy we felt we had a better opportunity of securing a modernization
2. Westlock Elementary School - Partial Modernization

Transportation Information

Between September 2020 and February 2021, drivers reported 42 fly-bys

- o Pembina Hills installed exterior cameras on two of our buses at \$950 per bus
 - RCMP still can't seem to get clear enough information to issue fines
- o Extended stop arm is being piloted in other provinces
 - Our cost to participate in the pilot project would be \$5,000 per unit

Parents are now able to submit transportation forms and payments online

Bus Speed Limits

The *Student Transportation Task Force Report* was recently released and Recommendation No. 6 stated that: "Alberta Education work with Alberta Transportation to explore changing the current 90-

kilometre-per-hour maximum speed limit for school buses to allow school buses to travel the posted speed limit.”

Although we were excited to see our joint advocacy come to fruition there is to be another working group struck to research the recommendations, and their work will not be completed until September 2022.

Pembina Hills will not pilot draft K-6 curriculum

The board passed a motion to approve the recommendation by senior administration that Pembina Hills NOT participate in piloting any part of the draft K-6 curriculum. The recommendation was developed following a very informative process of gathering feedback with teachers, and considering how spending energy, resources and time on a piloting process would impact our students and teachers.

Key reasons for the decision include:

1. Impact on Education Plan Priorities
2. Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on student achievement
3. Teacher well-being
4. Logistics of piloting
5. Issues with the Draft Curriculum

Read more about the review process and reasons for the recommendation in the news article: [Recommendation re: piloting draft curriculum](#).

Satisfaction rates achieve 10-year high: Survey results

Assistant Superintendent of Education Services, Mark Thiesen presented the 2021 Pembina Hills Satisfaction Survey Summary to the Board of Trustees. Each year, the school division surveys parents, staff and students in Grades 4-12 on their satisfaction level in a variety of areas. The results are used by schools and the division to develop their annual education plans and find ways to improve the educational experience of students. **Individual school results** can be found in the “Performance Measures” document found under “Our School” → Assurance Reporting, on each school’s website.

The data is collected and organized into four themes. The overall satisfaction rate for each theme shows significant improvement, with all areas achieving their highest rating in 10 years:

1. Safe and Welcoming Learning Environment – 91.3%
Even though COVID-19 threatened our health and safety, the survey questions in this theme have progressed positively.
2. Satisfaction with Leadership – 87.3%
After several years of slight decline, satisfaction has improved significantly over the last three years.
3. Instruction, Assessment and Inclusion – 92.3%
Despite the downward pull of this year’s reduced satisfaction with extracurricular opportunities, this theme continues to progress in a positive direction mostly on the strength of increased student satisfaction with other related elements.
4. Overall Quality of Education – 96%
All groups surveyed continue to convey very high levels of satisfaction with the overall quality of education in Pembina Hills. [Read the full summary of the Satisfaction Survey results here.](#)

Superintendent Hiring Process

As you are aware, Superintendent David Garbutt is retiring, and the Board is recruiting for a new superintendent.

Thank you to those of you who participated in the *Superintendent Recruitment Survey*. The board received a total of 165 responses from senior and school administration, staff and parents. The responses were used to help the board prepare an ideal candidate profile.

- The top qualities identified in the surveys were that the candidate should be **honest / trustworthy** and exhibit **integrity**.
- The top skills that the candidate should have are excellent **communication** skills and strong **leadership** ability.

The [ad and ideal candidate profile](#) will be open until May 21st. It has been posted on the PHSD website and advertised across the country. The shortlisting of candidates will occur on June 3rd, and interviews will be held June 16 and 17th. The Board will have a new Superintendent in place by mid August, depending on their availability.

Trustee Elections

The Pembina Hills school board will be made up of six trustees following the October 18, 2021 elections. Candidates are needed! It is a rewarding way to be involved in your community and contribute to the education of our students.

Visit the [Election 2021 page](#) on our website for more information including:

- [Candidate package](#)
- [Electoral ward map](#)
- Electoral ward descriptions
- Trustee handbook

Nomination packages can be picked up at Regional Office at 5310 – 49 Street in Barrhead.

Report submitted by Jennifer Tuininga, Board Chair
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Principal's Report to School Council May 28, 2021

Section One: April & May News

Genuine Ukrainian Easter

We are fortunate to have a local grandmother who is passionate about sharing her knowledge of Ukrainian culture. We enjoyed some fresh baked Ukrainian bread and almost a full day of decorating eggs. Nancy Schuurman put in many hours preparing materials for our grade 3&4 class and the results were fabulous. It is tedious and delicate, our students showed great patience and care and were proud of their work!



Green Shirt Day - April 7

One of the positives that came in the aftermath of the Humboldt Broncos tragedy was the “Logan Boulet Effect” and an increased awareness of the power of organ donation. We took some time to share his story and celebrate his legacy.



Good Deeds

Our Kindergarten class went to see our retired librarian Mrs. Davison and brightened her day Kindergarten, Grade 1&2, and Gr. 6-9 Outdoor Ed completed community clean-up around the Fort, including the ravine behind the County Recycling bins



CTF & Options

Last session we offered Soldering, Minecraft, Fitness & Nutrition, and Joy.

The final round of options in May/June includes Photography, Softball, Film Studies, and Outdoor Ed.

We are particularly proud of the unique choices that we can offer our students in a small school. For example, the Joy group brainstormed and completed projects to bring Joy to others. The students made paper flowers, baked goodies, inspirational and humorous quotes, artwork, and distributed baskets to various people in our community. The school received many positive comments, including one couple who emailed back to say:

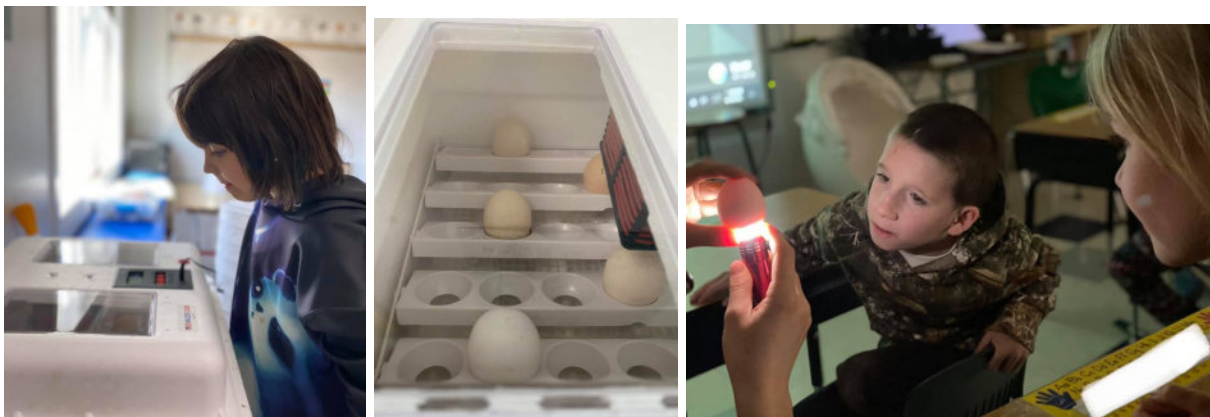
[Dear Students](#)

[Thank you so much for the basket of joy. The treats were yummy, but more than that, the joy and feeling of kindness that the delivery brought to us really touched us. You are good examples to us, showing how important kindness is during these difficult times. Thank you again. Sandra and Alan Dabels](#)



Spring Chicks

Thank you Teresa Dekker for bringing in an incubator and eggs for our students to observe the miracle of birth and life cycle of a chick. The excitement and wonder created in our students are priceless!





Jr. High Badminton Tournament

Despite not being able to travel for interschool competition, the Jr. High PE class had an exciting and competitive tournament experience, complete with medals for the winners of singles and doubles divisions.



Presenters and Virtual Field Trips - New and Different Learning Opportunities

We may not have been able to do bus trips this year, but we have taken advantage of new virtual based learning opportunities. The Kindergarten class learned about pollinators and did a cool hands on pollination experiment from a virtual workshop. Mrs. Kiselyk also ordered "Space Tomatoes" through a program that sends schools tomato seeds from the International Space station. Our K-4 have received these seeds and are attempting to grow them now.

We were able to take advantage of a walkable field trip right in our back yard to the Fort Assiniboine Museum. Our Grade 3&4 class will also visit in May/June as part of our Social Studies Curriculum studying the Fur Trade.



Fort Museum

We are grateful for community volunteers like Mr. Ed Graham, who give selflessly of their time for our students. The Kindergarten class got a full tour of the museum, a lesson in making rope, and received handcrafted wooden cars (which they painted with their Grade 5&6 buddies).



Hats on for Mental Health

We fundraised close to \$100 which will be donated to our local Ripple Connections.



Just for Fun

Positivity and Joyfulness are a part of a safe and caring learning environment. On April 22 (Earth Day) we had crazy hair day and May the 4th brought out some Star Wars fun. Gr. 1 student Penny Wallis made the front cover of the Town & Country with her fantastic Princess Leia dress-up. We also have made a conscious effort to spend more time outside with our students, including some nature art shown below.



Bus Driver Appreciation

Our students took time to write kind words and thank our bus drivers personally for their dedicated service. Mrs. Petryshen provided baked goods and beverages and the school purchased personalized mugs for our drivers Michelle, Ed, Lorna, Len, and Jeannette.



Maintenance Update

- Our new intercom system has finally been installed
- We have had the fencing repaired in our staff parking lot, the tennis courts, and the softball diamonds

High School Registration

- Grade 9 students have had a virtual presentation from BCHS and have registered for their high school courses
- Tours of BCHS are still up in the air until CoVid restrictions change

School Based Planning April 23

- Staff met virtually to review our Survey results and update last year's School Ed Plan
- Thank you to parent rep Jenny Kuelken for joining us and adding a strong parent voice
- The Ed Plan is a large working document (23 pages) that evolves over several months. I hope that parents continue to provide suggestions. I will submit final comments to Regional Office for the end of June

Section Two: May & June

Budget

- please see attachment that shows our 2021-22 allocation
- The Fort School sees an increase in Teacher FTE and discretionary funding

Staffing

- Mrs. Hoffman will be leaving our school at the end of this school year as a direct result of the ADLC Teacher Reduction Plan. We are grateful for her youthful enthusiasm and dedication as a young teacher. She has worked tirelessly creating engaging learning opportunities for her students and a safe and caring environment. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors. She is an excellent teacher and we hope she finds a position to continue her career. We may see her back soon as a substitute teacher.
- Mrs. Heather Senger will be teaching Grade 1&2 next year. Mrs. Senger brings with her a wealth of experience in leadership, homeschooling, Literacy and K-9 teaching. Currently Mrs. Senger is the department head lead teacher in charge of 17 teachers at ADLC.
- After 25+ years of teaching, **Mrs. Breitzkreitz has announced her retirement.** Mrs. Breitzkreitz is the epitome of a dedicated teacher. The school is preparing a special gift and is seeking parent, staff, student, and community input. If you would like to write words of congratulations/thankfulness and/or include pictures for Mrs. Breitzkreitz, please contact Mrs. Fleming or send by email to maureen.fleming@pembinahills.ca
- Mrs. Patricia Rogerson will be teaching Grade 5&6 next year. Mrs. Rogerson has taught in a variety of settings for 20+ years. She is currently teaching at ADLC Division 3.

Environmental Grants & Projects

It has become obvious that it is time to coordinate our people and resources as we have 3 groups applying for various grants. On April 25 I emailed to arrange a meeting with representatives from Preschool, School Council, Parent Society, and myself representing the school for May 11. In the meantime schools were closed and my priorities moved to online learning so the meeting was postponed.

After our School Council meeting, we can set a new date to coordinate a potential Outdoor Classroom committee.

Yearbook Update (Mrs. Payne) - We have a dedicated group of 9 students from Grades 6-9 working on a school year book during their lunch hours. We received enough orders to go ahead with a yearbook order. The yearbook will be ready to hand out in September. They will be sold for \$25 each. . Contact Mrs. Fleming if you are interested in purchasing a yearbook.

Kindergarten Registration and Open House - delayed to May 26; parents have already completed an online registration and now can book one on one appointments to meet with Mrs. Kiselyk

Events & Dates for the End of the Year

- Jump Rope for Heart - we are sending out pledge form soon with return date of June 10
- National Indigenous Day - June 21 - classroom based activities
- Elementary Carnival for K-6- June 24 hoping for good weather to enjoy outside games
- Kindergarten Grad - no ceremony but grad pictures with Fort coloured caps and gowns will be taken and distributed by Mrs. Kiselyk
- Grade 9 Farewell - no ceremony, but students will have a grad cake and small celebration amongst staff and peers
- Jr. High Last Day of Classes June 17, exams the following week
- Awards - no ceremony or assembly - awards for Jr. High honours, merit, and citizenship; elementary awards for citizenship and merit will be handed out at school
 - Pembina Hills awards for citizenship may be presented - TBA
- **Last Day of Kindergarten - June 24**
- Last Day of Classes - June 25 - report cards will go home for K-4; report cards will be mailed for Gr. 5-9

May 26, 2021 - Parent Council Chair report

-attended the Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) 3 day conference and AGM. It was very informative, and I would highly recommend we have more members attend next year. There was a lot of information for the fundraising groups as well, and I had about 9 events I would have really enjoyed participating in that there was just not time to take everything in.

-attended the Council of School councils meeting - Jennifer highlights most of what was talked about in her report. One item of interest was that some of the other school councils were doing guest speakers, and it was also discussed at the ASCA conference that other councils hold "information nights", or do small workshops on leadership, or team building. Would there be any interest in our school council to try some of these?

-looking for feedback from the school community on how we are doing as a school council. We would like to put out a survey questionnaire to parents, the draft has been attached, any additional information parents/teachers would like to share would be greatly appreciated.

-Jenni Keulken attended the Ed planning day at the school on behalf of the Parent Council. Sounds like it went well, and as the first time being invited to attend as a Parent Council, it was a learning event for all of us. We hope to have a rep available to attend again next year.