

Fort Assiniboine Parent Council Meeting

Dec. 8/2021 (7:00-8:30 PM)

Introductions - Superintendent - Mr. Michael Borgfjord

New School Board Trustee - Melissa Hanna

Woodlands County Rep. - Peter Keulken

Teacher Representative -

Nominate Chair/Secretary for meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes from Sept. 27/2021 AGM Meeting -

Minutes from Nov.24/2021 Postponement due to Superintendent meeting

Old Business:

- 1) Programming committee - Tara McQueen appointed as Parent Society rep. -still need teacher rep/parent council rep
- 2) Parent Power School portal and online forms
- 3) Swimming/Bowling program brought forward by parents - Swimming was available at Swan Hills, but program time due to Christmas Concert Preparations did not allow for it. Due to this, bowling was not looked into further.
- 4) Is there a need to keep the front door of school locked.

New Business

- 1) Pembina Hills PAT results and Diploma exam results - Get Parent Council feedback on results and strategies for improvement
- 2) School Council - Update member forms and send to executive assistant to the superintendent
- 3) Prepare to meet with parents for student IPP Form 5-27
- 4) Division policy on use of facilities by the larger community AP 70-03
- 5) Council of School council follow-up. Meeting on Nov 30
- 6) Advise parents of upcoming Christmas events
- 7) Advise parents of upcoming annual satisfaction surveys.
- 8) Communication with Parents/Public -
- 9) Technology Use in classrooms.
- 10) School council grant funding from province.

Reports:

- 1) Parent Society Report -
- 2) Preschool Report
- 3) Trustee Report
- 4) Woodlands County Report
- 5) Principal report.
Election of officers - Needed Chair-Vice Chair-Secretary (Roles attached)

FORT ASSINIBOINE SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES

DECEMBER 9, 2021, 7:00PM-930PM

Attendance: Crystal Wood, Roxanne Cross, Jenny Kuelken, Cindy Carswell, Christina Hamilton, Dustin Hamilton, Lorna Hiemstra, Jenni Williams, Amber Levy, Alicia Nelson, Jennifer Schulte, Councillor Peter Kuelken, Mrs. Senger (via Zoom)

Nominations for this meeting:

- Interim Chairperson Roxanne Cross called the meeting to order at 7:02pm
- Interim Secretary Jenny Kuelken to record Meeting Minutes.

Welcome to our Woodlands County Representative, Councillor Peter Kuelken.

1. Approval of Agenda
 - Christine approved the agenda.
 - Crystal seconded it.
2. Approval of minutes from Sep 29, 2021
 - Roxanne motioned to have Minutes reviewed within 10 business days (due Dec 24, 2021) and if no discrepancies are received, approval will be granted. All in favour.
3. Old Business
 - a. Programming Committee
 - Tara McQueen was appointed as Parent Society Rep. Mr. Wyman is the teacher rep. Still require Parent Council rep.
 - b. Parent Power School portal and online forms.
 - Still 36 families not registered for Power School. Please offer assistance to those who need it. Some parents have chosen not to sign up due to lack of technology, internet, etc. Some parents had accounts created for them and are questioning the security of the payment plans, etc. Is paper completely out of the question? Lorna will follow-up with Melanie, the Power School contact.
 - c. Swimming/Bowling programs
 - Swimming was possibly an option this past fall. Unfortunately, it didn't work out for that season due to time constraints and already prepared education plans. Swimming lessons in the past were always in the Spring. We will revisit this in late January/February. Jenny K. to work with Lorna to facilitate a Spring session. Few options include Barrhead pool and Swan Hills pool. Bowling will also be revisited. Questioned whether bowling should be considered as curriculum or extra curricular due to the time commitment to and from Barrhead, busing, etc.
 - d. Need for school front door to be locked
 - Front door of school is locked for the safety of those inside. Lorna stated a doorbell will be added to the main entrance doors. Mrs. Fleming will be getting a new and improved headset with better reception. Parents would like to see doors unlocked. Possibly during recesses and lunch? Possibly just the front door? Mrs. Senger added that once the doors are unlocked during recesses/lunch, it becomes difficult as a Supervisor to monitor and keep track of the whereabouts of all students. Parent concerns about students needing to get in the building in an emergency. Suggestion to have main door (by office) unlocked and the second entrance doors locked instead. Lorna to look into this further.
4. New Business
 - a. Pembina Hills PAT results and Diplomas
 - Tabled to next year as no results this year. Exams were not written.
 - b. School Council
 - No new members. Therefore, no need to send to Superintendents Executive Assistant.

- c. Student IPP Forms 5-27
 - All students' parents have been contacted on an individual basis.
 - d. Division policy on use of facilities by the larger community AP 70-03
 - Lorna says use is being considered case by case. Consideration of workout room, gymnasium, number of people, risk of activity, insurance policies, etc. Cost of rental can also vary based on those considerations. Was brought up that the workout room was partially funded by a community grant. Jenni would like to know if preschool is permitted in the gym. Lorna will inquire. Anyone interested in booking a facility is asked to contact Lorna.
 - e. Council of School Council follow-up. Meeting on Nov 30.
 - Crystal listened in on meeting. Advised FAS Council that there is \$500 funding available. Roxanne to further inquire about this to Charlotte, Assistant to the Superintendent. What can we use \$500 for? How do we get approved?
 - f. Christmas events
 - See Principals Report.
 - g. Annual Satisfaction Surveys
 - Were sent out last week by PHSD.
 - h. Communication with Parents/Public
 - Consistent and reliable communication is lacking. Parents are frustrated with the inconsistency and lack of. Suggestion to survey parents with preferred ways to be engaged and notified (various digital options versus paper). Lorna to send a paper poll home with students hoping to get good feedback.
 - Parent comment about the lack of communication and consultation in the draft stages of the AP 20-07, Workplace Health and Safety: COVID-19 Hazard Control Vaccination Status. There was mention at the Nov 24 meeting with the Superintendents that community volunteers were consulted prior to finalizing this AP and yet no community member can confirm this. This is a clear example of the need for better communication.
 - Parent comment about the ice day we had last week. Buses were not in service. Parents dropped students off and there was no supervision on the playground. Lorna confirmed that morning was hectic and was rare. Staff were dealing with road conditions, etc. Lorna will add a notice to the next communication to inform parents to use the main office doors to drop off students for any future occasions where a Supervisor is not on the playground.
 - i. Technology Use in Classrooms
 - Parent concerns with type of technology, time utilized, programs utilized. Mrs. Nelson confirmed that she has yet to use technology with her students and it has been 3 months of school. Lorna confirmed technology use is part of the curriculum. Parents are urged to discuss this technology use directly with their teachers. Some have and are not getting responses. Lorna will further investigate.
 - Was noted that parents may just need more information on what programs and how long and when technology will be used. Parents would like to see more communication about this.
 - j. School Council grant funding from province
 - See above e. Council of School Council follow-up, meeting Nov 30.
5. Reports
- a. Parent Society – Crystal Wood
 - \$2200 acquired through bacon sales
 - Casino dates confirmed for April 29 and 30. Note that Fort McMurray Casino is enrolled in the REP. Next meeting on Jan 12 will have discussion about the possibility of covering the costs for volunteers who would like a rapid test.
 - b. Preschool Report – Jenni Williams – See attached.

- c. Trustee Report – Melissa Hanna – See December newsletter.
 - d. Woodlands County Report – Councillor Peter Kuelken
 - Peter provided some insight on the division of our community due to Covid and vaccinations. Vaccinated or not vaccinated, we are all here working together for the same goals. We are all parents and staff who want our school to succeed in delivering great education and clear communication is definitely a huge component. Also commented on the use of technology in the schools. It is inevitable that technology will play a role in education nowadays.
 - Roxanne would like Peter to inquire to the Library Board rep. about how the Library was excluded in AP 20-07 when it is attached to the school. Can we use that space for unvaccinated volunteers/student time?
 - Turkeys have been donated on behalf of Woodlands County for the annual Christmas turkey dinner.
 - e. Principal's Report – Lorna Heimstra – See attached.
 - Discussion around filming of students for the Christmas Concert. Lorna will be in contact with parents who have not signed student forms.
 - f. Election of Executive Members
 - Still seeking Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. What can we do to encourage more involvement in Council? Comments about time of day, length of meetings, etc were made and some felt like those considerations would not change the attendance and willingness to be a Member.
 - Discussion around dissolution of Parent Council. Dissolution can only be authorized by the Minister of Education. Once dissolved, a principal may choose to establish an advisory committee with no voting privileges. More details can be found in the attached document, Fort Assiniboine School Council Operating Procedures.
6. Next meeting date: January 26, 2022
7. Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Preschool Report

- We recently moved to the Fort Assiniboine Rec Hall. This move was decided unanimously by the parents.
- The larger space has allowed us to take on a few more registrations so we are currently up to 19 students.
- The kids have adjusted very well and are loving their new space. They are very happy to still be sharing the playground and the library with the school.
- Some of our events since our last meeting in September have included: an eventful halloween party, dressing up for camo day, making letters for Santa and walking to the post office to mail them, and we started skating this week, which the kids are loving.
- Our Christmas Party is planned for December 16 and rumour has it that Santa is making an appearance with a sack full of toys for all the girls and boys. Other activities we have planned include a potluck dinner and ginger man cookie decorating.
- We just finished up with our Growing Smiles Fundraiser which did very well. Fall Raffle will be wrapping up soon. Draw date is December 16 and will be done in the library. We also have a fall bottle drive which did very well. In the New Year we will be selling hanging baskets, doing highway cleanup and a spring bottle drive. As always, we appreciate the support we receive from the community.

Principal's Report to Ft. Assiniboine School Council Nov. 23, 2021

Winter is back!



Thank you to Nick Wieland from Woodlands County who volunteered his lunch hour to push snow and create hills for our kids to play on. He also cleared the snow on the tennis courts (our muster point and road hockey center).

Digital Demographics & Permission Forms

- Letters were sent out in September and October with pre-established accounts for parents to log-in to Powerschool and create a new password for Parent Portals. I have sent out a written request for help from parents in our two previous newsletters. This is affecting our school operations; we need this vital information from parents. Technology use, FOIP, emergency contact information, and more.
- School Council, can we please reach out to friends and assist them with logging in to the system and updating demographic information.
- **UPDATE as of Dec. 13** - Paper copies of demographic forms have been sent home

Christmas

- There will be no formal Christmas Concert BUT we will pre-record musical performances.
- White Elephant Sale - donations Dec. 6-13; sale on Dec. 14 & 15
- Whole School Turkey Dinner - Tues. Dec. 14 - served in classrooms
- Donations of Food & Gifts for FCSS - collected Dec. 1-9; drop off in front lobby
- If you know of a family in need of food and/or gift hampers, FCSS has many programs available. Contact the office for more information.
- **UPDATE as of Dec. 13** - FCSS is providing food hampers and toys for 8 Fort families

Pembina Hills Surveys

- Parent surveys will be emailed in December
- Student and staff surveys will be completed in December and January

Pembina Hills Calendar 2021-22 Update

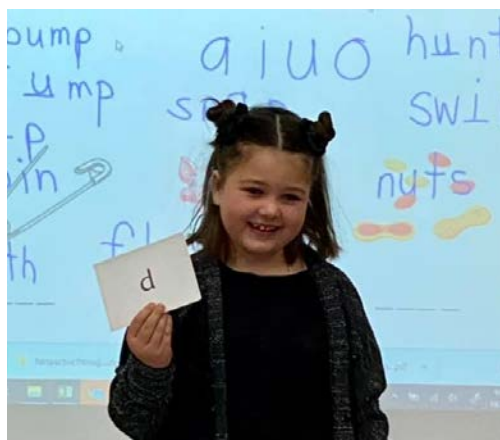
- Teachers and Principals have provided feedback to Regional Office. This in turn will be forwarded to the School Board who makes the final decisions on the calendar. In the new year, after the Board has set the division calendar, we will revisit the calendar to set our alternate days.

Programming Update

Literacy

Our grade 1-5 students and staff have been cruising along in the world of phonics and making some fantastic progress. Our lead literacy teacher, Mrs. Heather Senger, has led our elementary staff in purchasing excellent resources and implementing regular and intervention programming. Students will be re-tested in January to measure improvement in word recognition, phonemic awareness, and comprehension skills.

We are in the process of hiring a 0.2 FTE teacher to assist with Literacy Support in Gr. 1&2. This works out to approximately 5 hours of additional teaching support each week. The funding for this position is provided by a Learning Loss government grant that PHSD applied for. The position will run from Nov. 29 to the end of the school year. UPDATE as of Dec. 13 - Mrs. Kiselyk will increasing her time by 0.2 and helping with literacy in grade 2&3 on Mondays & Wednesdays.



The single biggest predictor of high academic achievement is reading to children.

Not flash cards, not workbooks, not fancy preschools, not blinking toys or computers, but mom or dad taking the time every day or night (or both!) to sit and read them wonderful books.

- Current options for Gr. 6-9 are Coding, Handbells, Art, and Tech Challenge

- Future options include: First Aid with Doris Kuelken, Sewing/Knitting with Mrs. Senger & Seniors, Winter Outdoor Education with Mrs. Kiselyk, and our Parent Programming committee is currently recruiting volunteers for archery and cooking classes.
- Gr. 6-9 students are participating in a half day workshop from [Alberta Boreal Forest Careers Project](#) on December 8th.

Terry Fox Run Sept. 30 at 2:00 pm

- We ran to the corner of the boat launch road
- Thank you to the Fort Assiniboine Fire Department who provided traffic control along the route to keep our kids safe
- Our school raised just over \$1600
- Top fundraisers were: Olivia Chan \$240, Logan Wood \$170, Aubrey Littke \$150



Fire Safety Week

- Thank you to our local Fire Department who year after year donate many hours of their time to meet and engage with our students. This year they did fire hall tours and provided goodie bags for our preschool and Kindergarten classes. Grades 1-5 had in person Q&A time with the Fire Chief. They provided a delicious pizza lunch for all K-9 students and staff, which was greatly appreciated by all!
- Woodlands County hosted a colouring contest and many of our students won great prizes including some sharp looking hoodies and mini mascots.



Drive Away Hunger Campaign (Farm Credit Canada) **Oct. 12-21**

- We collected 370 pounds of food. FCSS volunteer Greg Gramlich picked up the food and delivered it to Barrhead FCSS



Bus Safety

- Our guest presenter sure made this fun for the kids!



Goal Setting Nights - October

- It was great to be able to meet in person and have parents in the classroom again!
- We had a fantastic turnout, with over 80% parents attending either Oct. 13 or 19.

Halloween Activities

- Thank you to the Levy family for donating pumpkins for all our students again
- Thank you to parents for coming to the school to watch the costume parade and take pumpkins home.



Remembrance Day

- The Legion continues to make an annual donation to our school
- Many of our students participated in the annual Legion Remembrance Day writing/poster contest. Results are not available yet.
- We held a physically distanced assembly in our gym on Nov. 10. We watched pre-recorded musical performances from K-5 students, observed 2 minutes of silence, watched videos about the contributions of FNMI veterans and the national monument in Ottawa, and participated in a candlelight ceremony which featured the local history book containing Fort Assiniboine veterans.



Donation of Clay from Pembina Co-op

Thank you to Mrs. Kiselyk for contacting the local Co-op and obtaining a donation for our Kindergarten class. They loved the clay and used it on "N" day to make cute little nests.



Fish In School (FinS) Project - We have been accepted! Roxanne Cross has found funding to pay for our aquarium and bussing to deliver the fish to a nearby lake when the project is completed. Beginning in January, students and teachers will work together to maintain and monitor the development of rainbow trout – from egg to fry – in a classroom aquarium. Students will learn about healthy aquatic ecosystems, environmental stewardship and fisheries stocking before releasing their fry into a provincially approved waterbody.

<http://bowhabitat.alberta.ca/programs/fish-in-schools.aspx>

Gr. 6-9 Hydroponics Project

The students are just about ready to start building! Orders for materials have been placed and a letter was sent home to our Fort Families asking for assistance in purchasing and picking up PVC tubing. Mr. Wyman and Mrs. Payne will attend the next school council meeting and present an update on this exciting project.

Sports & Extracurricular

- The students and staff were very excited to see the return of school sports!
- Our Gr. 4-6 students had the opportunity to play soccer in a home and away series with Neerlandia. The top two highlights were having a shootout and celebrating together with ice cream on a beautiful fall day.
- Unfortunately we were unable to host our annual elementary soccer tournament because we were in “outbreak status”
- Jr. High Volleyball - both the boys and girls teams made the playoffs and then lost in the quarter finals at the PHSD tournament Nov. 4
- Elementary Volleyball - we have played games against Neerlandia, Barrhead, and Swan Hills. Our final tournament is Dec. 2 at the Westlock Spirit Center
- Basketball starts up after Christmas break

