**Fort Assiniboine Parent Council**

**Minutes-Annual General Meeting**

**Meeting Date: Wed. Sept. 28, 2022 @ 6:00 pm In Library**

**Attendees: Danielle Calahasen, Roxanne Cross, Cindy Carswell, Jennifer Schulte, Alicia Nelson, Miranda Pybus, Lorna Hiemstra, Cory Kitchen, Melissa Hanna**

1. **Call to Order** @ 6:07 pm
2. **Introductions.** Co-Chair (Theresa Deker) sent her regrets. Additions were made to the agenda.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** Minutes were circulated but not yet approved.
4. **Old Business**
   1. **School Supplies**. K-Grade 5 are supplied their school supplies for a fee. The amount will be calculated shortly. Last year no supply fee was charged due to a surplus of supplies. Fees for supplies are charged at cost to parents. There is $700 in arrears from previous years parents not paying.
5. **Reports**
   1. **Parent Society**: No members present. Currently there are two fundraisers going, bacon and chips.
   2. **Preschool**: No members present.
   3. **Trustee**: The first Board meeting was held. Judy Lefebre stays as Chair with Sherry Allen as Vice-Chair. There has been a salary adjustment for non union staff and increase of 3.75%. There has also been a bus driver retention allowance in addition to rates. Wages will increase from June23-Sept 27.

Barrhead High School out of country field trips have been approved for Italy and London. Long service awards are going to Jolene Lefebvre tomorrow for 10 years of service. Meetings will be resuming with one at the regional office and one at a school each month.

* 1. **Woodlands County**: Not in attendance.
  2. **Principal**: Swimming Lessons were held in June. All students received lessons, not just free time. There was complaint over the lack of quality instructors, however it was also noted that all the instructors were new to the Barrhead pool. Lessons were paid for by parents, the school covered the cost of the bus driver and the Parent Society covered the cost of bussing. The June BBQ was well attended by the community and was hosted by the Parent Society and the Parent Council. A big Thank You to the Fort Assiniboine Fire Department for coming out on the last day of school. We had Sigmund Brower attend on the last day of school as well and inspired the students in reading and writing. Each student received a free age-appropriate book. The WRRA came out and did interactive rodeo sessions with the students in the gym. LaFarge delivered sand for free and Pembina paid the labor to install the new sand pits. Pembina Pipelines donated some bookshelves and desks to the school. Bear Houses were started up again.

Upcoming Events: FINS program was approved and renewed, however this year we will pick up the fish eggs from Whitecourt so they are not sitting so long. Hopefully more will survive this way. We received an Alberta Arts Grant and $8100 for a Theater company is coming to incorporate a drama play with curriculum. Our focus for the Play will include Math and the Fort Assiniboine’s 200-year anniversary. This play will be in May and will be presented after 4 days of planning with the students. The students will either be acting, singing, writing, directing, or working on the lights and sound. Due to this the Christmas Concert this year will be downplayed a bit, to be singing, not a play.

* + 1. **Plans and Budget Changes** No changes to the budget this year. Mrs. Dezayer had an increase in hours in place of Mrs. Breikreitz (whom is now retired) Though the increase did not completely equal up, there is a literacy helper that comes in to assist classes while teachers are instructing. Darcy comes in 1-2 days per week and integrates literacy into all subject areas.
    2. **Vision of School/School Board, School Focus** Education Plan remains the same with focus on Literacy, Numeracy, Wellness, and First Nations. Two Social Workers have been hired in the division for family’s that may need them. They will travel to the schools.
    3. **Emergency Drills** There are 6 fire drills per year and 1 lockdown procedure. We have already had one so far this year.
    4. **School Fees** There are no longer school fees to be paid.
    5. **Parent Concern: Water bottle fill station: still filtering water?** Yes, it is still filtering.
    6. **Parent Concern: Grade 3 & 5 shared art class: why?** Art class is joint for the Grades 3, 4, and 5 classes. This is to allow time for all teachers and support staff to have their mandated teaching time, break time, preparation time, etc.… Cross grade teaching has also been done frequently in our school to promote self esteem and help foster and grow students into caring, helpful individuals.
    7. **Parent Concern: Junior high teachers taking locks if they were not locked, and moving things/turning shoes around in lockers** Many Junior High students were not locking their lockers up during class time. This will be an important skill when they are attending Barrhead High School with so many more students. They need to learn to keep their belongings safe. The only thing that is done is that if a locker is left open during class time, a teacher or student may turn the locker backwards and lock it up. This makes it more difficult to open and reminds the student to lock it in the future. If anyone has concerns with this practice, please discuss with the Junior High teachers.
    8. **Transferring students: Recurring conflicts with students.** This will be added to the next agenda in order to look at guidelines.

Parents have heard some students have transferred schools due to conflicts between children which have gone unresolved. Questions brought forward were, “How do we stop losing kids?”, and “Why are students not being disciplined?”. The principal stated that there are policies for disciplining children. She stated that she can not discuss any specific cases due to privacy reasons, but all children in conflicts are dealt with in an appropriate manner. The Principal went on to say that while you do not get to know what discipline the other student receives (due to privacy), she assured us that they are all being dealt with appropriately. She is happy to discuss any concerns parents have in regards to their own children. It was mentioned in the meeting by a parent that sometimes it would be easier to contact the other parent to discuss, but that is made difficult due to cell phones and numbers not being listed. Of note, students do have developmental, behavioral, physical and mental health concerns that come into play as well and we should remember that in some of these situations. The focus of staff is always the safety of the children.

1. **New Business**
   1. **Appointment: Virtual Visit 6:30pm from ATA local president Michelle Savoie**: Michelle advertised the upcoming rally on Oct. 22nd @ 1pm at the Alberta Legislature. For more information please go to the website: standforeducation.ca

She encouraged parents to contact their local MLA to discuss issues such as the slashing of Alberta Schools Council funding, Education funding for support staff such as Occupational Therapists, Counsellors, Speech Therapists and PUFF funding.

* 1. **Elections of School Council Board Members: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary**: No new volunteers came forward to hold positions on the school council. Danielle Calahasen is willing to continue as chair, Roxanne Cross seconded. The Vice-chair position remains vacant. The Secretary position remains vacant. If anyone would like to come forward to fill the positions, they can be elected in at our next meeting.
  2. **School Council Operating Procedures Review-changes needed?** No changes were brought forward. They will remain unchanged from the previous year.
  3. **Alberta School Council Association Workshops**: Our parent council receives a $500 grant to use towards increasing parent participation in the parent council. A handout was circulated with some possible presentations we could get through the Alberta Schools Council Association, or we could bring in others to do presentations on online safety, etc.…The complication is that our parent council no longer holds a bank account, so we would have to pay first and be reimbursed.
  4. **Volunteers**: The school could use more volunteers for special events, breakfast club, baking etc. Rita moved, and she was a long-time volunteer for baking for our breakfast club. Last year we did manage to get parent and grandparent volunteers in to instruct/assist with CTF courses (cooking, sewing/crocheting). Questions were brought up as to why it is not advertised that volunteers are needed. Parent Council Chair has posted on the facebook page, as well as advertised with a sign-up sheet at the open house. In addition, it has been in the newsletter and on the school website. It was suggested to use the email app and also put letters into student backpacks to increase volunteering. If anyone would like to volunteer they can go to the office to discuss, also if there are any skills to share, for CTF classes, etc.…please let Mrs. Hiemstra know.
  5. **Extra Curricular Activities/Make-up Class Time**: Generally classes go on as usual and children participating in extra-curricular sports need to make up for lost class time. However, generally the majority are in sports, so new topics are usually delayed until the following day. Usually the sports take place of the gym time.

1. **Next Meeting:** Mon. November 28, 2022 @ 6:00 pm
2. **Adjournment** @ 8:06pm

Notes: Roxanne Cross, Typed: Danielle Calahasen