

# Fort Assiniboine School Council

## Minutes

**Meeting Date: Thursday March 13th, 2025 @ 4:00 pm** In the School (Mr. Hobson's room)

1. **Call to Order:** 4:08 pm
2. **Attendees:** Danielle Calahasen (Chair), Kelly Ferguson (Early Learning Principal), Brett Cooper (Superintendent), David Truckey (Trustee), Greg Ferguson (Principal), Jenni Williams, Cory Kitchen, Serena Warkentine, Amber Levy, Ashley Marcellus, Kelsey Thompson, Meghan Koster, Nicola Kostelyk-attending virtually
3. **Approval of Minutes (Nov & Jan):** Both November 2024 Minutes and January 2025 Minutes were approved by Amber Levy and seconded by Danielle
4. **New Business**
  - a. **Elections of School Council Board Members: Vice Chair and Secretary:** Amber Levy volunteered to become the Vice Chair, there were no objections in the room and Danielle seconded. The Secretary position remains vacant.
  - b. **ASCA Conference and Annual General Meeting coming up usually in April** This year the conference will only be held virtually. The chair is considering attending, however will attend the Annual General Meeting.
  - c. **School Trustee elections this fall-call for candidates** A handout was available at the meeting and interested parties are able to view more information on the website.
  - d. **Pembina Hills facilitated Preschool Program:** Danielle presented this topic. The main reason behind opening a school division run early learning program was that our school was the only one in the Division that did not have one in operation. Brett Cooper opened up this discussion with a brief history and overview. Kelly Ferguson responded to questions. Jenny Williams the community preschool program director and teacher brought a list of questions and proceeded to question the Superintendent, the Early Learning Principal, the Trustee and the Principal. Trustee Truckey spoke to how the School Board came to approve the Early Learning Program at Fort Assiniboine School. Funding was discussed at length by Kelly Ferguson and Brett Cooper. Greg Ferguson mentioned that there was a parent that approached him as they were not able to attend the Fort Assiniboine Moms and Tots Preschool. The school division wants to have all students to have the same opportunities throughout all our communities. Superintendent Cooper mentioned as was brought up last year, it is abundantly clear that parents want choice for Education, which is why the bussing for school of choice was approved last year and therefore parents should have this choice for Early Learning Education as well. Jenny was upset how this came about and mentioned she felt attacked and blindsided. It was mentioned that Kelly Ferguson had reached out to Jenny on multiple occasions and she did not like the suggestions/ideas presented, Jenny declined a meeting with Kelly and did not follow up on a subsequent email. Mr. Truckey questioned why she did not reach out to the school board either before or after attending the Board Meeting. Mr. Truckey invited Jenny to meet with him and the

board to discuss, however Jenny declined as she stated she was too busy of a person with all of her volunteering commitments. This discussion concluded after about an hour and Danielle invited any further questions/concerns to be directed to Early Learning Principal; Kelly Ferguson, Superintendent; Brett Cooper, Principal; Greg Ferguson, or Trustee; David Truckey.

**5. Parent Questions/Ideas**

- a. **Enabling online attendance to meetings:** This meeting did have one parent attend virtually, we have some kinks to work out, however worked fairly well.

**6. Reports**

**a. Breakfast Snack Program**

**i. Parent Society received gift cards for Toonies for Tum mies from Freson Bros.:**

Meghan Koster informed us they are in discussions with Freson Bros. to see whether they can just use a charge account and then use the gift cards to pay off, or just have a single card to use. Preference was given to the charge account.

- b. **Parent Society:** Meghan Koster (Chair) informed us of their latest project underway which is a double zip-line for the school. Highway cleanup will be in May.

- c. **Preschool:** As Jenny Williams was in attendance, she was asked if there was anything going on at the preschool that she wished to inform us of. She declined to speak.

At this point in the meeting, several parents/community members left the meeting (Jenny Williams, Serena Warkentine, Ashley Marcellus)

**d. Principal**

See the Principal Report (attached). Mr. Ferguson highlighted recent events of Trickster Theatre and Basketball. He outlined upcoming events. Badminton has started, Metis Nation presenters are coming on March 20<sup>th</sup>, Spring Break is March 21-30, the Junior High Ski trip to Jasper is on April 10<sup>th</sup> and about half the students are attending. Swimming Lessons will be the end of April, logistics are still being worked out with the pool and bussing. There will be a student teacher starting on March 18<sup>th</sup> (Joseph Vanden Hoven) He will not be unsupervised while teaching students. In addition, Mrs. Emery will be going on her maternity leave at the end of April and an ad for her job will go out on Monday. There have already been applicants enquiring.

Report cards come out soon. Mr. Ferguson questioned the parents in attendance if they wanted paper or digital report cards. The parents in attendance unanimously agreed they prefer paper copies.

**Grade 10 Orientation to Barrhead Composite High School:** Mr. Sekulich (Principal) and Mrs. Bondarchuk will visit our school on Monday March 17<sup>th</sup> to meet with current Grade 9 students. On Tuesday April 1<sup>st</sup> our current grade 9 students will visit Barrhead Composite Highschool for a tour. Later that evening there will be a parent orientation held in the drama theater. Parents are encouraged to attend. On Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> course selection will open up for Fort Assiniboine students.

- e. **Trustee:** Trustee Truckey was in attendance for Trustee Allen. Trustee Allen had sent a report (see attached). Trustee Truckey added details and mentioned the upcoming ASCA meetings. Mr. Cory Kitchen questioned the Trustee on school bus fly-bys as his child's bus stop has had frequent concerns with this. Mr. Brett Cooper (Superintendent) urged Mr. Kitchen to please capture a photo of the license plate so the police can follow up. They can persecute, especially if collaborated with a bus camera. It was mentioned that that bus does not have a camera. Cory questioned whether we as parents could donate to that cause of having cameras on all of our busses. He mentioned he works for a company that helps with this sort of thing. Mr. Truckey mentioned that this is also something a school fundraising body can fundraise for. Meghan Koster (chair) was in attendance and said she would bring up to the next meeting of the fundraising society. It was unanimously agreed that we would like to see this on all busses in our division to protect our students. Mr. Cooper will look into how many of our busses have cameras and we will put this on to our next council meeting.

- f. **Woodlands County:** Not in attendance.

**7. Old Business**

- a. **ASCE Grant Funds: Soul Sisters Memorial Foundation presentation will be in our school gym on Wed. April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 @7:00 pm:** All parents/teens/community members are welcome and encouraged to attend this free event geared towards adults and teens.

8. **Next Meeting:** Wed. May 21st, 2025 @ 4:00 pm-Discussions to change. (due to technical issues, it was discovered after the meeting that this date does not work out for Nicola so we will see if we can adjust this date)

9. **Adjournment:** 5:50