

Fort Assiniboine School Council

Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday May 21st, 2025 @ 4:00 pm In the School (Mr. Hobson's room)

1. Call to Order: 4:06 pm
2. Attendees: Danielle Calahasen (Chair), Amber Levy (Vice-Chair), Nicola Kostelyk, Michyla Kerr, Ashley Marcellus, Alicia Nelson, Greg Ferguson (Principal), David Truckey (Trustee), Sherry Allen (Trustee), Brett Cooper (Superintendent), Cory Kitchen
3. Approval of Minutes (March)-tabled
4. New Business
 - a. Elections of School Council Board Members: Secretary: **No volunteers for position.**
 - b. School Trustee elections this fall-call for candidates: **There may be a couple of candidates from Swan Hills.**
 - c. Council of School Council Meeting: **Danielle attended and chaired the meeting on May 13th. Divisional Annual Satisfaction Survey results were presented. In addition an overview of the upcoming Budget cuts were presented. New curriculum updates were presented as well.**
 - d. Childcare ideas for Council Meetings/Barriers for attendance: **Fundraising Committees usually cover the cost. We spoke with the Parent Society and they will be happy to cover the cost of a sitter going forward.**
 - e. School Bus Cameras-discussion from last meeting: **Trustees suggested we get in touch with Heather Nanninga for a "donation in kind". Danielle will email her and cc Mr. Cory Kitchen so he can look into his company donating video cameras for our local busses for safety of our children.**
 - f. School Supplies K-6: **Parents unanimously supported the school supply materials for students and paying a fee to cover the costs.**
5. Parent Questions/Ideas
 - a. Benches and stairs near backfield for baseball diamonds. **Mr. Ferguson has discussed the benches for the baseball diamonds with Tracy Tireman. He said this will be an easy fix. He will ask him about the stairs when he returns from his holidays.**
 - b. Education Quality/Access to schools outside designated area: **Mr. Cooper outlined Budget cuts to Barrhead Composite High School and also the school right-sizing and modernization construction. The principal of Barrhead Composite High School does not feel he has the capacity to take on new students from other schools outside their designated areas. Classes are expected to be much larger due to the budget cuts and the school will be quite chaotic over the next few years with the construction.**
6. Reports
 - a. Breakfast Snack Program: **A parent (Ashley) mentioned the Breakfast Program had received a donation from the United Church in the amount of \$5000. We will have to ask about this as we have no knowledge of this donation.**

- b. Parent Society: **No member in attendance. No report provided. Danielle and Mr. Ferguson outlined their plans for a zip-line from information presented at the last Parent Society Meeting. Should be installed in August. They are hoping for a grant.**
 - c. **Principal**
 - i. School Budgets for next year: **Mr. Ferguson informed us that with the Division cuts across the board for staffing our school will be losing a 0.75FTE for Teacher position and a 44% reduction in EA support staff.**
 - 1. Impacts to school: **Grade configurations should remain similar although he will be juggling staff around and does not quite know what that will look like.**
 - ii. School Schedules for next year
 - 1. status quo with small changes: **There will be issues and challenges with extra programs, supervision, etc... that still needs to be worked out.**
 - iii. Staffing for next year: **There are rumors that teachers have been fired. This is not the case. Mr. Cooper and Trustee Truckey and Trustee Allen outlined the fact that division wide Staffing has been reduced due to a reduction in funding.**
 - 1. Budget implications
 - iv. Parent society/School Council alignment: **Mr. Ferguson met with the Chairs of both the Parent Society and the School Council back in December and it is his hope to have back-to-back meetings starting next year to create more cohesiveness between the school council and fundraising committee. School Council dates are set at the Annual General meeting in September and it is the hope and expectation that these meetings can be aligned. He requested the Parent Society does not hold meetings during the day as he cannot attend.**
 - v. Citizenship Award Nominees: **None this year.**
 - d. Trustee: **Transportation fees will be increasing for in-town bussing. There will be fees next year for technology division wide \$20 for grades 1-6 and \$35 for grades 7-12. Trustee Allan encouraged parents to speak with their local MLA to try and have the Alberta Government increase Base-Funding per student as this severely impacts smaller school divisions such as ours. Please see her attached report.**
 - e. Woodlands County: **Not in attendance. No report sent.**
7. **Old Business**
 - a. ASCE Grant Funds: Soul Sisters Memorial Foundation presentation: **Our School had Soul Sisters come and present to us in April. There were only about 8 attendees, but those that attended found the information useful. Of note: They can provide free grief counselling if anyone is in need.**
 - b. ASCA Conference and Annual General Meeting: **Unfortunately; Danielle was not able to log in to their online platform this year, however attendees to the conference mentioned new ASCA courses that we can access a module every month.**
8. **Next Meeting:** Annual General Meeting near end of September 2025: **School Council will try to coordinate a date with the Parent Society.**
9. **Adjournment: 5:17 pm**