

Parent Council Minutes

February 27, 2023 3:50 pm

Entwistle School/Google Meet

In Attendance: Willow Lazette, Christine Bileau, Eric Cameron, Candace Craddock, Janelle Adamson, Amy Urie, Sadye McCracken, Kyla Tuttle, Stacy Nash, Kaili Ditner.

1. Call to Order and Introductions - Willow Time: 3:53pm
2. Additions to the Agenda – N/A
3. Approval of the Agenda – Candace, Amy 2nd
4. Review of Previous Minutes – Candace, Amy 2nd
5. Trustee Report –

School Council Trustee Report

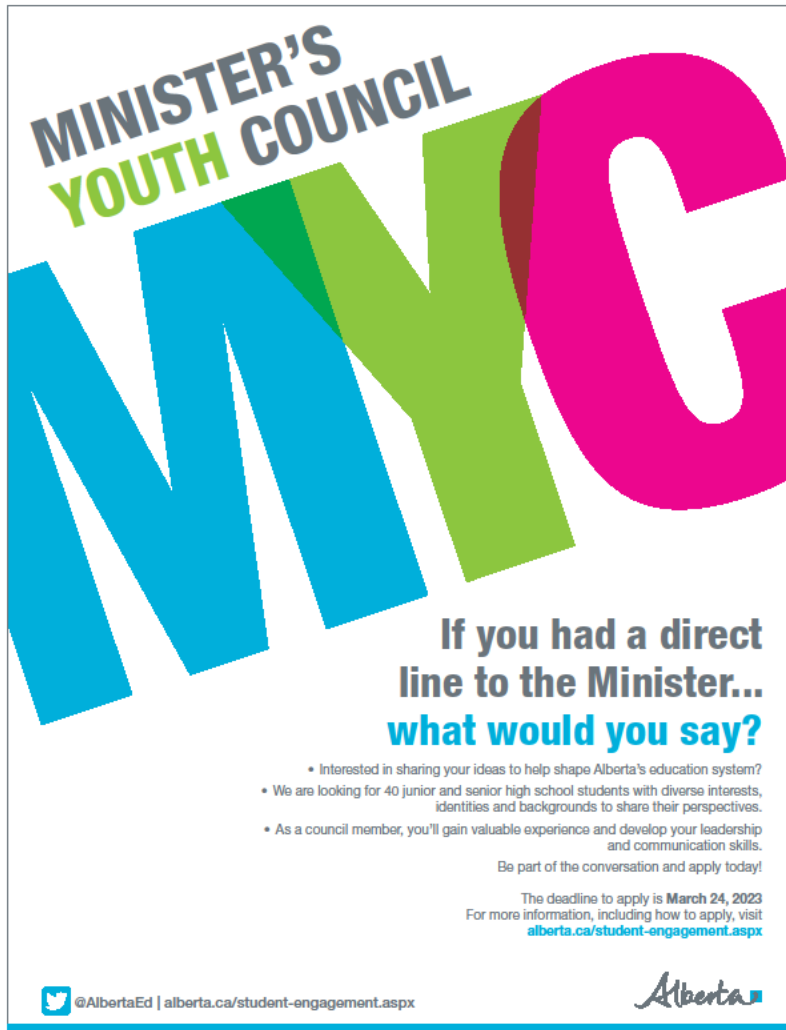
February, 2023

Submitted by E. Cameron

- Trustees were given a presentation from students and staff from Forest Green School and Connections for Learning “School-wide Snack Program: Forest Green and the Learning Hub” at the Feb. 2023 Board Meeting. This collaboration created a weekly school-wide snack program for students at Forest Green School. The program aims to provide healthy snacks for all students, while also helping the high school students learn how to plan, prepare and deliver snacks.
- Superintendent Report: Registration for the next school year opened Feb. 13 with some of the previously announce attendance boundaries enacted. The Edwin Parr Award for outstanding first year teacher (from Alberta School Board’s Association) had 21 possible first year teachers eligible from which 5 have been selected to be considered by the Trustee Committee assigned to choosing one. February 24 is the date for a major fundraiser to support the Ukraine; some schools have activities planned. Senior Administration visited our newest school, Athabasca Delta Community School, to meet community members and school staff; fabulous feedback was received from this positive meeting on how we may adjust things. PSD has submitted 3 Indigenous students’ names for the Alberta School Board’s annual Honoring Spirit Award. Trustees and Senior Administration spent 2 days touring our west end schools to see the wonderful and creative programming each school has embraced to serve their local community.

- Board approved a recommendation that beginning the 2024-2025 school year, students in grades 7-9 who reside in the Parkland Village School attendance area are redirected to attend Woodhaven Middle School rather than Prescott Learning Centre. Further any of these students who at Prescott School be permitted to remain at Prescott Learning Centre until they complete grade 9 without having to pay for school of choice fees.
- Trustees approved the revised Board Policy 13: Appeals to the Board Regarding Student Matters. Key changes include: updates to language that reflects Alberta Legislation; updates to format and language to add clarity; and, addition of a schedule that highlights the appeal process.
- The 2023-2024 School Year Calendar draft was presented for discussion. Proposed amendments to the Calendar accommodate the strong interests represented through stakeholder feedback. The School Year Calendar is generally approved by the Superintendent no later than March 1.
- The Board received the Workplace Safety Report as information. PSD is guided by Occupational Health and Safety Act in its efforts to protect employees, students and visitors from workplace incidents. The Division, under this Act, has formed a Divisional Joint Health and Safety Committee with members representing various employee groups within the Division.
- The Board received, as information, the Early Learning Report, which focuses on the Early Childhood Services (ECS) in the Division. ECS refers to the broad, coordinated system of local and provincial programs that meet the developmental and special education needs of young children and their families. Our number of children with severe codes has increased by 13.9% this school year. For the 2022-2023 school year, students who are eligible under Alberta Education's Special Education Criteria are funded: Early Education (preschool)-PUF grants; Kindergarten- Student Learner Support grant (SLS). We are noticing a delay in student's physical development, specifically in the area of gross motor skills, in kindergarten age students (most likely by many restricted opportunities due to COVID).
- The Board received the Student Services Report as information at its Feb. 2023 meeting. The Student Services Report highlighted the various ways in which the Student Services Team supports schools to provide an inclusive, safe, supportive, academic learning environment that serves the needs of a diverse population of students from K-12. The Student Services Department coordinates resources and agencies with schools and PSD families to facilitate a variety of programming and support services.

- The Minister of Education is now recruiting for the 2023/24 Youth Council; looking for 32 new members; March 24, 2023 is the deadline. See poster below for details.



6. Principal Report –

School Council: Principal's Report

Supports

Thank you to our School Council as well as our volunteers for your ongoing support of our school. From community breakfasts to supporting the work in and out of the classrooms and even keeping an eye on goings on in the community to and from school—all of your input and support are greatly appreciated!

Surveys

To this end - Alberta Education Assurance Surveys should have been sent out to parents of students in grades 4, 7 and 10. Please keep an eye on the mail and email and take the time to complete the survey. If we have too few parents respond, then we don't see the results in the same way, and it is important that we have as much information as possible to help us when planning.

New Staff Member

Liticia Webster is our Numeracy Lead, and I am stepping into the role of Literacy Lead. Our Division received funding from the province to help bridge the learning gaps that we are seeing in our students in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy. This is intended as "push-in" support rather than pull-out for the most part, but there is time for some one on one as well. We are fortunate to welcome Nicole Gascon, who is teaching Jr High Humanities as well as some Humanities for grade 6. She will be with us ½ time (am) until the end of June

PD

Our teachers continue to take part in Division-led PD for literacy and numeracy, and we partnered with our colleagues at High Park School on the 17th to look at HLAT marking. The HLATs have been used in EPSB for some time and are being utilized in PSD to provide a baseline for where our students are at in their writing and provides teachers with data that shows what areas their students understand well and what areas need improvement. It was great to be able to connect with a larger cohort and we will continue this work on the March 24th PD.

Field Trips

The Zoo was great—thank you for your support! We started the first of three skating days and appreciate the help from our parents. Tomorrow is Hockey Hookey for the 4-9s and we will have fun games in the afternoon as well as a movie with popcorn in the gym for K-3 and those not attending.

WISEST Virtual Presentation was a hit! Our grade 6/7 girls attended a morning-long session where they learned about coding and attempted some scientific experiments - Mrs. Webster can speak more to this.

Looking forward to Hockey Hookey and again are grateful to FOELS for helping to make this happen.

Ski Trip - planned for Rabbit Hill, as the other hill was unable to accommodate our dates/times.

In School Field Trips today for grades 1-3 - Teacher's Pet presentations on Inuit Culture

Volunteers

Sandwiches/Muffins

We are saving hundreds of dollars per month by making muffins and sandwiches in house for our Nutrition Nook. It would be great to have parent volunteers to come in once a week to make and freeze a week's worth of food - please let me know if you are interested and I can set up a schedule.

Lockdown Drill

We have to complete three lockdown drills in a school year, and will do our first one this week. It is a static lockdown, which means that it will be held when students are in class. I will come on the PA, identify myself and say lockdown three times, then students will leave their desks and sit quietly on the floor away from doors and windows. Teachers have been talking to their students and practicing with the younger grades, as we want our students to feel well prepared.

Budget

We just completed our Q2 forecast and are still balanced. Traditionally the second half of the year is where some larger expenses come out, and we have the funds in place to cover these costs.

Reorganization for Next Year

Copy of Letter Going out to Parents

February 22, 2023 - Parkland School Division is announcing changes to their outreach and virtual learning programming, to take effect at the start of the 2023-2024 school year. Part of these changes will affect Entwistle School with two modular classrooms on the move to Spruce Grove to accommodate the changes.

We wanted to assure our school community that these are part of PSD's larger plan for Entwistle School. The school is working with PSD's Facilities Services on developing plans for an outdoor classroom to minimize the impact that moving two modular classrooms will have. We will update families once those plans are finalized.

The move will place PSD in a better position to request new funding and projects as PSD's overall utilization will increase. Entwistle School for example, is currently operating with approximately a 58% utilization rate and that will increase to roughly ___ after the move. Full funding can be achieved only once a school reaches an 85% utilization rate.

The changes referenced above refer to an effort to centralize resources and support, and to bring programming offered by the Division's Connections for Learning (CFL) under one roof, PSD is relocating all outreach and virtual learning programming to the École Broxton Park School (EBPS) site, beginning in the fall of 2023 and they need a total of 5 modular classrooms to accommodate the incoming students.

Currently, CFL operates junior and senior high outreach programming on two campuses, one in Stony Plain (located on Boulder Boulevard) and the other in Spruce Grove (located on St Matthews Avenue, near Wendy's). The move will eliminate the need to lease two separate buildings and allow staff to better support students in their specialized learning programs.

We have a few different plans and are looking at some opportunities for utilizing our space more efficiently, partnering with the library to use their space on a more regular basis, and working on ways that we can use our outdoor spaces to our advantage, such as outdoor classroom configuration (with shade!). We are in the process of determining what is possible and I would appreciate any input you may have.

Our strength is in our size and the support that we have from our families and greater community. PSD recognizes this and is encouraging me (and staff) to think outside the box and think big—because we have the flexibility of being a smaller school and we have great amenities all around us, what can we do that makes us a more unique site? At our next School Council meeting I will have some more information and would like talk about your vision for our school and gather feedback about what opportunities you would like to see for your children.

7. Old Business: N/A

8. New Business: N/A

9. Other:

10. Adjournment – Amy, Candace 2nd

Time: 4:27pm