

MEETING MINUTES

Brookwood School Council

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

In Attendance: Eric Cameron, Rosanne McIntyre, Nicole Patras, Karen Stride-Goudie, Lisa Huffman, Melody Bertrand, Brad McPherson and Megan Sider

Meeting called to order at 6:34pm

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. Approved By: Lisa motions to approve agenda as presented
- b. Second By: Melody seconds the motion to approve

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- a. Approved By: Melody motions to approve agenda as presented
- b. Second By: Lisa seconds the motion to approve

4. Trustee Report (PSD Trustee):

Was so nice to be able to attend a number of Xmas concerts and drama performances this past December (I attended 11 events and was thrilled by each and every one); I was very proud to see such great efforts by our students and school staff.

December Board meeting: Board Chair report: Christmas cards from PSD were sent out to schools and other School Boards in the province; held a remote Shikaoi meeting to discuss possible longer term student exchange opportunities in PSD (possible April-June) to provide a more enhanced ongoing program; Board has approved our Superintendent's contract until May 1, 2029; tentative meeting dates have been set up to meet with Paul First Nation as well as the new Francophone Board in Stony Plain.

Superintendent Report: The Compass Companion Newsletter has been updated; Indigenous Veterans' Day will be a focus at our next Remembrance Day events; Center for Learning will be moving to the Broxton property in January (Outreach and Virtual programs); some of our Athabasca Delta Community School students attended the Dene Games held in Slave Lake; November/December had a focus on Wellness and local charity, including community lunches and cards to seniors; Athabasca Delta Community School is looking into setting up a similar program to our My Path program with an indigenous focus.

Student Delegation: students from the 6-9 and 10-12 Parkland Student Athlete Academy made a presentation explaining their experience with the program. The Parkland Student Athlete Academy is a program of choice that fosters opportunities for student athletes to pursue excellence in academics and athletics in a variety of sports.

Transportation Services Department Report 2023-2024: The report outlined changes to ridership as a result of the new government eligibility distance for transportation (PSD increased 178 riders and overall ridership by 295) which has caused substantial disruption (especially with our specialized transportation with more students with

complex needs requiring specialized busses). PSD increased routes for 2023-2024 year to meet the new eligibility distances which resulted in increased ridership requests. The Transportation Services Department also outlined the many steps they have made to help address the school bus driver shortage. Other topics outlined in the Transportation report included: School Bus Safety initiatives, GPS Live Tracking App; route monitoring, ridership tracking, communication with our public, Safe Stop Assessments, bus driver professional development, specialized bussing, "S" Endorsement Training and the major challenges we are now encountering.

Student and Workplace Wellness Report: PSD continues to promote student and workplace wellness which aligns to our overarching objective of ensuring student success and well-being. The Division has made a deliberate commitment to prioritize wellness, forging collaborative partnerships with staff, caregivers, and the community to deliver comprehensive programming, support, and services aimed at nurturing health and wellness in children, youth and families. The report included: School Health Leads, Comprehensive School Health Action Plans, initiatives aimed at Active Living and Healthy Eating, and initiatives to address Mental-Well-Being. PSD also focuses on initiatives to address Workplace Wellness.

Alternative Programs Report: This report provided an overview of the strong variety of program options that students may access within PSD. Some of the program options include: My Path, Parkland Student Athlete Academy, Parent Partnership and Core, Nature-based Kindergarten, Visual Learning, Home Education, Building Futures, French Immersion, Outreach, Adult Education, PSD Christian Program and The Learning Hub.

Off-Campus Education Report: Some of the initiatives discussed included: Work Experience, Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP), Green Certificate, and the Dual Credit programs.

5. Admin Report (Rosanne & Stephanie):

Many wonderful Grade level Christmas Concerts this year! We have received a lot of positive feedback from our community! Each concert was absolutely beautiful and very well attended!!

Kindergarten & Grade 1 concerts

Grade 3 & 4 - Christmas on Candy Cane Lane

Grade Level Christmas Trees Displayed in the hallway near the front entrance, each student made one Christmas ornament. Beautiful welcome for our Christmas concerts.

Christmas Carols Morning Morning of Wednesday, December 20 School Wide in the gym singing a collection of Christmas carols and songs.

Christmas Theme Days Organized by our Grade four students to provide leadership opportunities:

Dec. 15 - Christmas Cheer Day (Wear anything Christmas themed)

Dec. 20 - Christmas Pajama Day

Candy Cane Sales - December 8, 15, and 21

Grade 4 Leadership students raised \$\$\$ for their Grade 4 Year End Celebration

THANK YOU to our students and families for bringing in coins for "Coins for Christmas" drive in support of the Kinette Christmas Hampers. We raised \$890.95. Thank you to our staff for collecting toys for the Kinette Christmas Hamper and Toy Drive!

Indoor Games try-outs took place December 12 & 14. Practices will begin in January.

Brookwood & Woodhaven met together for our Christmas Joint Chapel on Thursday, December 22. It was a privilege to host at Brookwood! Lots of positive feedback from students, staff and families! Parents from the Christian Program at both Brookwood and Woodhaven Schools gathered together following Joint Chapel to pray for the students, staff and families.

THANK YOU to Board Chair - Trustee Eric Cameron and Superintendent Shauna Boyce, for attending our Christmas Concerts. THANK YOU to Associate Superintendent Meg Miskolzie for attending the Christmas Joint Chapel for our Christian Program.

THANK YOU to the Brookwood School Council and Association for funding school resources and cultural events:

December, 2023 - Woodhaven Drama - "The Little Mermaid"

Purchase of 30 new Chromebooks to support increasing enrollment and replacement of old devices

Online platforms

Supplementing the cost of Grade 4 skiing field trips

6. Council Chair/President Report

COSC Meeting - Dec 5/23 - Discussion session regarding Social Media safety and security for our PSD students.

- encouraged to watch "Kids and Social Media" from The Atlantic on Social Media

- PSD has 20 current and active cases regarding incidents of predatory actions through social media

- discussed parents making a point of learning the app names and even taking courses through local libraries and FCSS that teach parents about social media.

- "...it's easier to take the time now to learn and educate ourselves now, rather than have to learn about something awful happening with our children through social media later on. Being "oblivious" does not work here..."

2024-2025 School Calendar - discussions regarding days off and why and when they will be for next year. Comments on eliminating Fall Break to then have more movement of start & end dates. Fall break is deemed too important for both students and staff and has helped to reduce the amount of stress on both. Fall break will continue.

Power School - if you didn't know is now "Real Time Reporting". All schools in the division are moving to this process. Marks are up-to-date as the weeks roll by, so parents have a better understanding of where their children are at with schooling regularly. Teachers have been working diligently to accommodate this new process and it seems to be working well for report card time as there is not as much pressure on Teachers to get it all entered and submitted on time. More time is left for personalized comments which is appreciated on all levels.

ASCA (Alberta School Councils' Association) - Encouraged to use the \$500 school grant issued to each council every year. If not used, it will eventually be taken away as they will find it is not needed. It was suggested that our council look into the AGM in April 2024 and enroll someone to attend & vote. \$499/person for entry. We will discuss voting and the options at the March 2024 COSC meeting, so we go into it as a division with a united front. Your vote is still your vote, so you can choose whichever ballot choices you would like and feel are best for your school.

PRESENTATION: Graminia School Council on encouraging parental involvement "One Small Thing" was a project created by Graminia School Council:

a QR code created as a "from a parent side" of the process, rather than from a teacher/school side.

It is a QR code that when scanned takes you to a form to fill out. It allows you to choose any staff member in the school (teachers, admin, janitorial, etc) and it allows you to anonymously (or you can provide your name) to say "Thank you" for something/anything that made you feel great!

ie. Dear Miss Smith, We wanted to share with you "One Small Thing"

Today you made Mary feel super great when you asked your class to stand up and shake their Mondays out! It made them all laugh and that is Mary's favorite part of being with her friends at school.

Thank you, Miss Smith!

From your appreciative School Council 😊

The form is managed by an outside Gmail email address that the school council has access to. The QR code was also sent home in a school newsletter, as many of their students do not have phones to scan codes with. Graminia council is willing to send out information and google forms doc if you feel you want to create this for your school.

Other ways they encouraged parents to be involved:

Bingo cards at Meet the Teacher nights....must have a full card to submit for fun prizes

Brag Box : a locked box in front of the office that has cards on it that have the thought already started. Any kid can fill it out quickly and put it in the box. The school council checks the box weekly and scans the notes and sends them to the teacher that the note is about.

ie. Notes cards that say:

Teacher's name: _____

Best memory of you is: _____

What I learned today is: _____

What I want to tell you is: _____

**The box is not monitored and the entries are not encouraged by the teachers. It is just there if a kid feels the need/want to express themselves.

**Another note is to have a different teacher enter a classroom while the regular teacher is "in the bathroom" or "called down to the principal's office" with the note cards and encourage the kids to write something quick about their teacher. Only a 10-min task. Then they get an opportunity to do this "without" the teachers "knowing" about it.

Discussions to reward parents for volunteering

ie. Volunteer teas, giving reserved or VIP seating at concerts, Acknowledge the parents in public settings – have them stand at these events.

We as Parent/School Council members must remind all our parents that they are "on council" even if they don't attend meetings. Allow them the opportunity to attend virtually or through submitting emails with questions or requests. We are the voice of parents at the school. Let's drive performance to be better throughout the year!

7. New Meeting Topic to Discuss

Playground - Another quote needs to be received for the swings before we can move forward with anything.

8. New Meeting Topic to Discuss

Change Meeting Day - Move meetings to the third Thursday of the month.

9. Confirmation of Meeting Dates/Times & Next Meeting Date

a. Next Meeting Date: February 20, 2024 @ 6:30pm, via google meet

10. Meeting Adjourn at 7:25pm