



School Council Meeting Agenda January 30, 2024

School Council Purpose “To Enhance Student Learning”

Item	Topic	Discussion	Time (min)	Person
1.0	Call to Order @ 1830 Meg, Marcy, Danielle, Karen, Anita, Hillary, Catherine, Regan, Tammy, Myrna, Joanne, Lois Bedwell, Stacey, Mrs. Gale, Mrs. Molin, Tara, Vicki, Boyd, Julie, Ashleigh		1	Danielle
2.0	Review and Approval of November Minutes • Approved by Tammy, Seconded by Anita		1	
3.0	Review of Agenda Karen approves, Meg Seconds		1	
4.0	Report Updates			
4.1	Chair/ Vice Chair	<p>Thank-you to Amy Deck for her 2 years as Chair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danielle is stepping in as Chair. • Amy kept meetings on track, had a passion for establishing good communication and relationships. • Over the last 8 years, many chairs have come and gone. How do we make this a non-stressful experience? • Danielle’s goal-to foster collaboration and relationships between council and staff. • Has been in multiple school districts as an OT, purposefully chose Seven Persons School to bring her kids. • School has a huge sense of community. • There has been a desire for more discussion at Parent Council. We will discuss academies. Sometimes the discussion didn’t have an objective. Sometimes the person who we had questions for wasn’t always aware ahead of time. Also, sometimes the discussion got heated and we lost members. Goal to find a middle ground with parameters-clear objectives, don’t want to put staff on the spot. If we can’t answer it, table it and have it brought back at a future meeting. Assume the best intentions, lead with open curiosity. We are all here for the same reasons-best intentions for the school and the kids. • Reagan will help give clarification on communications from a division level and address any questions 	2	Danielle
4.1	Teacher report	Brief update on what is happening in your class or academy	5-10	

		<p>School update from teachers</p> <p>How can PC support you in your classroom? Are there any other requests for support?</p> <p>Mrs. Molin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of music in the classrooms right now, Fine Arts Production is in the works. • Exhibition of learning-about famous space technologies, combining science and LA with "I wonder..." statements. • Stacey Jansen will connect with Mrs. Molin about their space exhibition of learning. <p>Xmas concert was spectacular! Kudos to Mrs. Molin.</p>		
4.2	Principal/Vice Principal	<p>Administration update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to Danielle for stepping in as chair. • Thank you to Julie for all the work on the yearbooks. Costs were \$25.60/book. Callie has been reimbursing everyone \$9.30/book. • March 15th SI day-SEAVC is running a vball camp at EBHS With Wes King Hunter and Tim Bloomfield. Gr 4-6 will be in the morning and focus on skills. \$25. Then Gr. 7-9 will be in the aft 3 hours, skills for first half and game play (\$30). • Amy accepted a position at Parkside, she is stepping down as community soccer coordinator, they are looking for a replacement. A school message will be pending looking for volunteers to step up as soccer coordinator. • Parent yoga will be coming back! 	5	Catherine
4.3	Superintendent	<p>Prairie Rose School Division Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the past few days, Reagan has watched 2 basketball games with parent coaches. Thank you! • Achievement test results for Seven Persons are unbelievable. They are surpassing anything in Southern Alberta and Webber Academy (private school). Best results the division has ever seen. The results were across subjects-humanities, and science. • Division strategy-omnichannel to meet student needs. Prairie Rose had 12 years of declining enrollment. This meant lower funding overall. For the duration of the time, there were no adjustments to staffing. Reducing staffing in Acadia Valley to redirect to Seven Persons is super challenging. When you take someone out of a country school it is very hard. The choice was made to not right size staff. We ran off reserves for a long time, but it is not sustainable. The choice is to close schools, or to figure out how to increase enrollment so you can maintain staffing. When you close a rural school, you destroy a community. We are proud to say that we have stopped the bleeding, and we have numbers go in the other direction and we are growing. There are adjustments and you must flex and serve needs with increased enrollments, sort out staffing but it means we can keep the doors open and keep people employed. It is harder to grow in places like Bow Island. There is a 10-17% 	15	Reagan

		<p>increase at Bow Island. They are creating an environment where they are excited to join a school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funding for schools works on overall numbers. You receive complex need funding based on enrollment. When your overall enrollment decreases your need stays but the funding decreases. There are 2 other factors—education of mothers in the school and the full census factors in. Funding is shared at a division level. ● The envelope funding for students with complex needs is topped up by Prairie Rose by over \$1M annually. There are extra challenges with access to resources i.e., OT/PT and travel. ● Trustees are a ward system. It is advantageous and challenging. It means you vote for someone within your area but as soon as they are elected, they do not represent your ward. No trustee represents Seven persons. They represent the division and participate on the board. They are a trustee of the whole division. Trustee’s role is governance solely. Many boards have trustees who act operationally. Most community boards are like that. If you sat on Minor Soccer Board, it is operational, you would do things like decide how many teams you have. Our trustees do not do that, they do governance only. There is only one employee Reagan. They can’t direct employees except Reagan. They negotiate Reagan’s contract and can hire/fire. The ethically required response from the trustees is to direct them back to the teacher, principle, and/or Super Intendent. If a child is expelled and the parent appeals the expulsion, this can go to a vote at the board level. This has never happened to the trustees at the board. Trustees cannot make decisions/recommendations without the entire board. If there is a request at parent council, the trustee would let the SI know and the SI would manage it. ● ASCA–Parent Association at the provincial level. Each role in Education has a similar association. They are a lobby group. They have no authority. i.e., they can’t call us and say we aren’t doing something correct as a parent council, nor can they call the SI. They lobby the gov on behalf of parent councils and students. This is also true of ASBA. There is another for teachers (ATA)–Also has powers to govern, and SIs have a professional association that regulates them and has power to govern. ● Reagan’s job as SI is to act as the CEO of the School Board. The rest of the employees, the structure works for the most part in the school settings. The principle oversees managing/leading the staffing group (custodian and all). When things can’t be rectified at the school level, it will go to SI. ● Trustees set policies i.e., do your best to stabilize staffing and enrollment in rural areas. How she chooses to do this, may be based on consultation with community, staff, etc. they reiterate until they have met the need. They would never say do a volleyball academy and not a baseball one. ● Lois notes that the Trustee is elected by the people in the ward. Lois represents Ward 1. They are the voice of the community. 		
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4.4	Trustee	Prairie Rose School Updates	10	Graeme
5.0	Old Business			
5.1	Council of Council Meeting Update	<p>Marci attended- will provide an update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on different things on each council of council meetings. They went through the chain of command. The spring one was cancelled. They did chair yoga They discussed what they should be doing at council meetings i.e., strong communication with the schools Do you have time limits on things on your agenda, do you even have an agenda? 	5	Marci
5				
6.0	New Business			
6.1	Academies	<p>General Discussion and questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the benefits for the kids in academy, not in academy, and for the school? Academy's are a buzz word with some negative connotations. When they started with the hockey academy, there is a level of connection, comradery between the students. There was a noticeable change in the kids, improved attendance, better academics, there was a shift in how they viewed school. They wanted to trial this with something that wasn't sports. They experimented with flight academy. Again, the kids were excited to earn badges, their confidence increased, their network and connection was excellent to see. Recognition that academy isn't the only location to get this kind of connection. i.e., it might be outside of school. Academy in school might not be a solution for all kids. Recognition that they must create a breadth of options for kids not involved in academy. If there are some kids who want to explore robotics (very expensive) and there are some kids who are at an academy, it frees up \$ for other activities for smaller groups of kids. There will always be a group of students who benefit from any decision and a group of students who don't. Reagan's role is one of discernment and to make sure that they are meeting the needs of the students. Options at the Junior High level-80 kids total, take out 20 kids for baseball, 20 for hockey, 20 for arts, you only have 20 kids for options, so will the kids lose options? There are strategies to mitigate this. In some schools there are 6 week option rotations. Maybe they have an intensive in sewing, and an intensive in carpentry. Irvine uses this approach. Hockey 		

		<p>academy will do hockey all year and then switch to golf for the last 6 weeks when ice is out. Some schools will do academy for one day and option for another day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Are Academy’s all sports driven? There is a fine art one, hockey, baseball, EBHS–flight academy, Trades (6 different ones), Aircraft Maintenance Engineer, firefighting. The only true baseball academy is in Oyen, SAHA U18 is another true academy, and flight is as well. There is a school of rodeo in Foremost. There is a full-blown ag program in Irvine. They are working toward an Ag innovation service. ● There is always a balance of bringing kids in and being able to provide for the students who are in the community. ● Are the kids in options still connected even with some of the students leaving? Yes, the kids are still connected through other classes and school experiences. ● How do you manage cliques and excluding kids when there are costs associated with academy’s? The FSLWs know who the lower income families are (their school fees are waived also), hence, the district can support the fees for the academy. There is always discussion to help families out who do not have the funds. Can’t waive SAHA U18 as it is too expensive, but they can still help waive some fees. In creating cliques–they are trying to imbed ways to mitigate cliques in the programs. i.e., if you play on the SAHA team, they must play on another sport team. School culture is the biggest component of all the work. There is trauma informed training and there are people in all the schools to pick up the kids who are feeling disconnected. The kids who are known to not have a place will have a draft and all the students will relate to one adult i.e., the bus driver, school office assistant. There is a lot of effort in trying to connect kids. ● With Academy’s starting younger and younger, what happens with the younger students and options? Music, art. Could some of the nutrition and dry training be embedded into all student’s experience? Music and art, etc, still occur. ● If we are going this route and there are 20 kids left doing options at the school, will we have a need to build a huge shop? Could the shop be used and be embedded in various core curriculum? There are possibilities to be explored. The shop are taking over the old firehall and it will be ready over this spring. ● 6 week internship with Western Tractor, one on crops, one on beef to burger, and another on aerospace. These are 6 week junior high type options that are available for all the students. There are no more academy’s being announced. ● Softball numbers for SPS are 9, there are 15 for baseball. ● For the kids in hockey, as soon as ice comes out their fees don’t change, they don’t pay the additional ball fees, so they can join 		
6.2	Community Plans	Movie Night or other ideas?		Danielle
6.3	Year Book	<p>Is there a link to drop pictures?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Catherine will send out a link for folks to drop photos. 		
6.4	Gr. 9 Grad	Anything needed from Parent Council?		Danielle

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discussions have occurred. Catherine will send out a meeting invite. Mrs. Starner will send out an interest survey for the kids. Gr. 8s will serve the Gr. 9 meal. There will be a meeting of the Gr 8 parents as well. 		
6.5	Elections	<p>May – currently need a Vice President.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will defer until next meeting, let Danielle know if you have an interest in taking on the VP role. 		Danielle
	HOW CAN WE HELP	How can the Parent Council support and enhance student learning		
7.0	Meeting Adjourned	<p>Next Meeting- Feb. 28th after family week break at 6:30pm</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 2004.</p>	1	Danielle