

PNCS School Parent Council Meeting Minutes-February 3, 2020

1. Meeting called to order at 6:35pm.
2. Attendance: Lisa Lawrence, Jackie Comeau, Daryl Chattergoon, Karen Gabel, Kirstin Boelman, Jessica Seatter, Keeara King, Raime Drake, Andrea Gibson, Dana Callihoo. (10 people)
3. Review of the Agenda: No changes or additions
4. Approval of the Minutes from the Nov/19 meeting. Presented by Lisa Lawrence. Andrea made a motion to pass minutes as presented. Karen seconded. All in favor. Passed.
5. Trustee Report-Presented by Jackie Comeau

There is a 2.2 million dollar deficit in the division. Lots of the added expenses have to do with the big increase in insurance expenses. This is affecting schools province wide.

The school division has a graduation rate of about 75% compared to 68% graduation rate in the province.

- a) Jackie also did a Ward Review Presentation. All the information about this can be found on the Pembina Hills website along with the online survey asking for parents' opinions that must be completed by Feb 10th.

Currently there are several wards (areas of the division that the trustee covers). In Pembina Hills there are 3 wards –Barrhead, Swan Hills and Westlock and within that there are 7 electoral positions for trustees. Jackie reviewed the numbers of kids in each of these wards and then the numbers that attend the schools within the wards. (some kids attend schools that aren't their designated school). As well as the trend of less students over the past 25 years (1600 less than in 1995) and the prediction that this trend will continue in the school division. She also reviewed the trustee cost analysis (each trustee is paid approx. \$12,588/year plus benefit costs.) So if there was one less trustee in the division there would be a cost savings of about \$20,000/yr.

The Ward Review offers options for change.

Option 1-Same as the current one which has existed since 1995.

Option 2- 6 Trustees vs 7 and 4 areas (town and rural being separated) for Barrhead and Westlock.

Option 3- would offer 2 subdivisions and 6 trustees –split at the county line of Barrhead and Westlock. Eg Pembina Hills East and Pembina Hills West

6. Fundraising Report. No one here from the committee to do a report. However Vanessa Boulerville sent message that volunteers are still needed to work casino-Feb 16th&17th. Message her if you can help. Also the Skate-A-Thon raised a record amount of money-over \$6600! This is more than the Community Council needs to maintain the rink so the extra funds will go to purchasing 2 heavy duty nets and some skating supports for the beginners!
7. Wanda Bakker presented information about the letter writing campaign. She is the Rep from the Alberta Teachers Association. There has been some proposed cut backs from the province. Teachers have written letters to the MLAs about their concerns regarding these upcoming cut backs and now parents are encouraged to write letters. She provided a tip sheet on how to write a letter (factual and short, constructive, avoid criticisms) making concerns known. Attached to the meeting minutes is more information about writing letters to express your concerns about crowded and complex classrooms. All letters can be handed into the school secretary, who will forward them to the MLA.
8. Administrative Report-Raime and Daryl
 - a. Alternate Calendar-the draft calendar for the upcoming school year was reviewed and will become official mid Feb. It has to include at least three 5 day weeks. First day back is Sept 1/20 and last day of school is June 25/21.
 - b. The Upcoming Board Meeting is being hosted at the school Feb 26th in the library, starting at 9am and open to the public. Raime and Daryl will do a presentation about our school's celebrations and challenges. Andrea Gibson will do a small presentation about our parent council. And there will be visitations to a few classrooms to see the kids in action.
 - c. Budget Discussion for 2020-21 school year. Budget planning starts at the beginning of March and by beginning of April there should be some numbers for the budget to make the decisions. Unsure if this will involve staff cuts, classroom sizes, CTF cuts, etc.
9. Next Meeting- April 27th and 4:30pm
10. Meeting Adjourned at 8pm.