



Swan Hills School

Home of the Grizzlies

**School
Council
Minutes**

January 20, 2021

SHS Flex Room 7PM

Call to Order 7:02pm

Parents: Jaymie Raymond(Chair)

Staff: Sheila Gardiner, Slade Sekulich

Other: Kerry McElroy(PHPS Trustee), Terry Kuyek, Dean LaBerge (Google Meet)

**Review of
Current
Agenda:** Accepted By Slade Sekulich

**Approval of
Minutes**

**Approval of
Current
Agenda** Accepted by Sheila Gardiner

**Committee
Reports**

**Students'
Union
Student
Delegation**

- Valentine's Day raffle
- Grizzly Gazette news article on Students' Union
- Small lockers for gymnasium change rooms

**PHPS Board
Trustee
Kerry
McElroy**

- Reported, attached

**School
Reports** Division 1

- We were not able to participate in sledding for our December monthly celebration due to cold weather. Students were able to decorate a individually packaged cookie sponsored by the Home Hardware, and watch the School Christmas Concert virtually.
- Students will be participating in a virtual presentation offered through the Earth Ranger's Program. This was donated to our students by Crescent Point. This presentation is on Friday, January 22nd.
- Many students were showing their school spirit on January 14th by wearing stripes for Stripes Day. Our next dress up day will be on January 22nd- Wild West Day.
- For our January monthly celebration, we will be extending our last recess time on January 28th.
- We have started our bi-annual reading testing (Fountas & Pinnell) which is a requirement of all schools in Pembina Hills School Division. This test focuses on assessing the student's word accuracy, fluency and comprehension.
- We are in the process of discussing Valentine's Day activities. We will **not** be participating in a Valentine's Day card exchange due to Covid 19 restrictions that have been in place from Alberta Health Services.

Division 2

- Swan Hills School Handbell Group will be hosting a curbside bottle drive. The proceeds raised from the bottle drive will go towards purchasing some additional materials and equipment for the Handbell group such as handchimes, mallets, gloves and possibly adding another octave of bells for the group.
- Students have been requesting a virtual spring concert again, so the plans are in the works.
- Safety Patrol has been up and running since the end of October. Just a reminder that the patrols are out from 8:15 to 8:30 and from 3:25 to 3:40. Parents and public are asked to please use the drop off zone when dropping off students and drivers are not allowed to enter or exit the staff parking lot if the patrollers have their signs out.

Division 3 & 4

- Quarter 3 options and semester 2 CTS suggestions?

Grizzly Cubs

- NA

PAWS

- NA

Principal's Report and Advising Opportunities

- Draft alternate calendar. Suggested moving Oct. 29 Alt Day to Nov. 1 (day after Halloween); Oct. 29 is day 1 of the annual Howler tournament. Suggested making a 4-day weekend; possible, but board direction is to make 4-day weeks and try to avoid longer weekends (4+ days) and adding alternate days to existing breaks where possible.
- Satisfaction surveys. Parent surveys were emailed in December. Divisions 3 & 4 are completed. Division 2 is completing theirs this week. Staff surveys are current.
- Lost & Found – how to get back to students/parents? Suggested: photos of items online for parents to review.

Old Business

- Move to bi-monthly meetings. Kerry McElroy shared that Swan Hills and Neerlandia are the only schools running monthly school council meetings. Moved, seconded, and passed, to go to bi-monthly meetings.

New Business

None brought forward.

Next Meeting March 17, 2021

Adjourn Moved to adjourn at 7:48 pm

Swan Hills Parent Advisory Meeting Trustee Report

January 20, 2021.... 7:00pm

Assurance Reporting - Each school division in Alberta is required to post various assurance reports. Links to all reports are listed under the headings of Education Planning and Reporting, Financials, School Plans and Reporting and Infrastructure and Maintenance. This past month we had Student Services report on their department. The areas highlighted were that the Provincial Budget for this department's services has been reduced, there was an end to Regional Collaborative Service Delivery which impacts the number of specialists working with our students, AHS policy change now prohibits in-school related services, the impact of COVID on service delivery and the closure of ADLC.

Of interest in this report was that there was a very small increase in the number of students that need a lot of support. The belief was that the parents of these students might have decided to keep their children home because of COVID; many of these students have health issues.

Another interesting segment in this report is that the number of Psychologists, Behaviour Specialists, Speech and Language Specialists, Occupational Therapists have been cut in half in Pembina Hills since the new funding framework was created this past year. Many of these positions were funded through Regional Collaboration which has been discontinued.

Because of COVID, one adaptation that has improved services has been the virtual meetings with students and their parents that need services. SLPs and OTs have reported that parents who have had to help their child with things like enunciation now understand the process/goal and are better able to help their child at home.

Four concerns were brought up during the report. One was that there is a need for a re-entry resource before students return in August. The second concern was that there has been limited gain with inclusive practices and mental health literacy since students left schools because of COVID. The third concern was that because of limited budgets, small schools are challenged to offer Mild/Moderate and PUF supports. And finally, Alberta Health Services mandate not to serve schools has increased the time required for students in need to receive specific resources.

Enrolment Projections – This past year the government created a financial plan where the school divisions' finances are based upon a three year average. The intent of this plan is to enable school divisions that are experiencing large increases or decreases to plan because the monies allocated would be based upon what it was, what it is and what it might be. Based upon information collected from schools Pembina Hills might have about a 50 student increase in ECS, a 60 student reduction in grades 1-9 and a 90 student increase in grades 10-12. The high school increase in numbers is attributed to the probable increase in online high school students with Vista Virtual (our online school). Overall, a good forecast!!!!!!

Election Time – In the fall of this year, Municipal and School Divisions will be holding elections for trustees. If you recall, this past year Pembina Hills decided to reduce the number of trustees from seven to six. This means Swan Hills electoral area and Fort Assiniboine will be combined to make one Ward while the Neerlandia area will be combined with Dunstable area to make a second West Ward. At the last Board meeting Notice was passed to have Nomination Day as September 20th, 2021. Nomination Packages are available to pick up at Pembina Hills School Division Office, 5310-49st, Barrhead or online at www.pembinahills.ca.

So what does it take to be a trustee? I would say time, about two days a week and an interest in the wellbeing of our children. You will need to have the ability to look at issues on both sides of the coin, ask questions to gain clarity and make a decision you feel is in the best interest of all students. I would also advise you to look at the Work Plan that is posted on Pembina Hills website, it outlines month to month what activities are scheduled. Please get involved !!

- **Don't forget next year's school calendar is due February 14
give your suggestions to your principal!**