

Minutes of the Joint General PTA Meeting
Poplar Ridge School Council and Poplar Ridge PTA

Thursday February 25, 2021 via zoom

*indicates written report – attachments provided

Joint General Meeting attendees: Claire Funk, Carolynne Muncer, Megan Andruik, Megan Vallet Fredine, Eloise Silvernagle, Kayla White, Sherry Cooper, Kelly Fairall, Adina Armstrong, Jen Creasey and Samantha Rodwell

1. Call to order at 6:55 pm
2. Approval of the Agenda 1st motion was Megan Andruik and 2nd was Jen Creasey
3. Approval of the January 18, 2021 minutes 1st motion was Adina Armstrong and 2nd was Kayla White

Sherry Cooper needs to excuse herself early for another meeting. The Trustee Report will be covered earlier than originally scheduled.

7. Trustee Report - Sherry Cooper

The Education Committee Meeting was held at the end of January and school visits were held virtually this year.

Chinook's Edge School Board Strategic Planning is underway. Key points will include:

- Planning for academic excellence
- Transitioning out of the pandemic
- Managing academic feedback (without having PAT or Diploma exams as a benchmark) to ensure learning is being delivered with excellence throughout the division and in schools
- How to ensure the quality of learning is being delivered both virtually and in class
- Restraints of online learning

During the inclement weather it was a struggle for families, especially if there was no place for children to go. It is about the safety of the children, and with temperatures between -40 and -50 including windshield – this is definitely a concern. There was very short notice of the consecutive Red days. The division followed the criteria they had on hand. In the future, they may need to have one person at the school in case there was a situation where someone did not receive the notice of the school closure. If there is feedback about the inclement weather protocols, please forward to Sherry or to Carolynne. Feedback has already been heard about sending the message of a school closure the night before (by 9pm for example) rather than at 6 am the morning of, to allow families time to plan. Wolf Creek school division gave out notice the night before when they could see the forecast of cold weather. There was also a mention that

texts, calls, and emails were sent for Red Days consecutively, but less notice was given when the change was made back to a green day.

Sherry spoke to the Minister of Education, Adrianna LaGrange, about the budget and they hope to keep the budget formula the same for the upcoming school year.

Adina asked about the possibility of Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) coming back into schools, as they were cancelled due to Covid for 2020. Currently, PAT ensures that all schools, teachers and classrooms are all measured on the same standards, and currently learning conditions across the province are not equal so it is not a reliable measure. There is constant testing done by teachers in assessing students' grade levels. Teachers are keeping to the curriculum and are ensuring that kids have support in the classroom and their access to learning. Currently the Provincial measures are postponed as these may be unreliable due to the different forms of learning right now (classroom/ remote) – but consistent testing is always being done by the teachers. Minister of Education is hopeful the regular classroom learning will resume and subsequently, standardized testing.

4. Principal's Report – Carolynne Muncer and Claire Funk

Parent Teacher Interviews- March 17 from 3:15- 8pm

In lieu of Student Led Conferences, all schools in CESD will be scheduling online PTIs, as were done last term. Parents will be receiving an information email with the link to their child's interview tomorrow (February 26, 2021). The question was asked why report cards go home after the conference? This is so parents and teachers have a chance to talk about things other than what is just on the report card. If a teacher had any concerns, a phone call home would have already been made.

Reports Cards go home March 24th. A reminder that grade 5 and 6 report cards will be electronic. The gradebook will not be shut down in preparation for report cards this time

Poplar Ridge School Satisfaction Survey

The school's survey has been open for the month of February. There were a total of 11 questions on the survey – not 6. Three reminders have been sent out over the month asking families to take a few minutes to provide feedback. There have been 57 responses as of 3:30pm today. The survey closes tomorrow, February 26. Overwhelmingly, the feedback has been very positive. The school will continue to disaggregate this feedback and respond when necessary. Two concerns that some parents have raised were about the changes due to COVID and the Healthy Hunger Program.

Covid Concerns: Understandably, parents do not like not being able to come into school or to volunteer. Unfortunately, this is out of the school's control as guidelines must be followed. As soon as there are changes in this regard, parents will absolutely be welcomed back into the school.

Healthy Hunger Concerns: Responses focused on the “unhealthy” part of the “Healthy Hunger” program. Parents responding feel it is not healthy. It was noted that “Healthy Hunger” is the name of a program that the Council has been using for the last few years. This is a third party program which connects schools with participating restaurants. The other concern from the survey is that it is costly for what children get. Jen Creasey, the program coordinator, has worked

very hard with participating restaurants to provide a variety of meal choices and price ranges. There is a misconception that this is a CESD program, but Carolynne is planning to clarify this is not the case in their March school newsletter. The Parent Council will also clarify that this program is a PTA fundraiser for field trips, bussing and educational enhancements. The Healthy Hunger program was increased to 2 days per week because the other hot lunch program previously provided was not allowed due to AHS guidelines. Someday will we be back to the previous parent volunteer hot lunch program? Possibly, but it may look different with new guidelines (commercial kitchen prep, food safe course, etc.)

Snacks for Classrooms

The granola bars are hit with hungry kiddos. Packages of Goldfish crackers or packaged crackers and cheese would also be good as some kids don't like the sweetness of the bars. The school has requested another supply for each classroom and is thankful for the Council's support. Kelly will pick-up new supplies at the Wholesale Club.

Planning Season

Carolynne and Claire are heading into the planning season for the 2021/2022 school year. This includes setting school goals, budgets, and staffing. Staffing is based on enrolment which, at this time, is down about 40 students. The 2020/2021 school year saw a drop from 189 to 153 students. Enrolment for the 2021/2022 school year will be better understood closer to June. Distance learning will not be an option next year, as it is felt that in-school learning serves students better.

The school is understanding of the Council's constraints on fundraising throughout the past year. However, as Carolynne and Claire begin to plan their budget for the upcoming school year, they would like to get an idea of what the PTA funding support will look like regarding field trips and classroom enhancements. Megan VF, Megan A, and Kelly will plan to discuss potential budget options for 2021/2022 and follow-up with Carolynne and Claire. Feedback on the funding application model introduced by the PTA this school year is well received.

Head of maintenance Darryl has been looking at the parking lot and options of a new larger lot or paving the current lot.

5. Funding proposal* – Carolynne Muncer.

Three sets of Rocks and Rings were purchased last year with the EQUUS grant. Recently, the school purchased 2 additional sets of rocks and Carolynne is proposing that the PTA fund \$579.35, which will cover the cost for 1 of these 2 new sets. Since students really enjoyed learning about curling, having a total of 5 sets of rocks will allow for more students to participate and the possibility of bonspiels. 1st motion was made by Kelly Fairall and the 2nd was Megan Andruik. All in favor and motion is carried.

There are cross country skis in the back school shed - let's take a look at these and see if any equipment can be sold.

6. Financial Report* – Kelly Fairall.

\$1401.60 was deposited from Cosmos bottle depot from the January bottle drop-off. The Casino account is currently at \$5076.86. We must reserve \$2500.00 from the casino account to pay the casino manager at our next casino date. It is likely that our Casino Fundraiser will be pushed back from the 3rd quarter of 2021 to the 1st quarter of 2022 due to Covid-19 closures and restrictions. All has balanced.

7. Trustees' Report- discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

8. PTA Committee Reports

Fundraising updates – Kayla White. Looking at doing another bottle drive after May long weekend (May 26, 27, 28, and the 29th from 10-2) as these are great fundraisers with \$1401.60 earned from the last one. Also, looking at selling the AdMazing coupon books in September – we only pay for the books we sell – but must decide sooner than later as the cut off is May 31. Other possible fundraisers for the fall of 2021 could be selling Davison Orchard Apples or the Little Caesar fundraiser. These ideas can be discussed further at future meetings.

9. New Business

- a) Lost and found. Teachers will help students to go look at items in the lost and found and see if anything belongs to them. If parents are missing anything, please write in your child's agenda. Pictures or videos will also be taken and sent home for parents to look at. All items will be kept until the end of the school year before donating.
- b) Next Meeting – Tuesday March 30, 2021 at 6:45 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm