

Minutes of the Joint General PTA Meeting

Poplar Ridge School Council and Poplar Ridge PTA

Monday January 18, 2021 **via zoom**

*Indicates written report - attachments provided

Joint General Meeting attendees: Claire Funk, Colet Grimbeek, Megan Andruik, Kelly Fairall, Megan Vallet Fredine, Adina Armstrong, Sherry Cooper, Eloise Silvernagle, Stephanie Sommerfeldt, Jen Creasey, and Kayla White

1. Call to Order at 6:47 PM.
2. Approval of the agenda 1st motion was Megan A and the 2nd motion was Adina A.
3. Approval of November 23, 2020 minutes 1st motion was Colet G and the 2nd was Eloise S.
4. Principal's Report – Claire Funk: Claire gave us a quick overview of some of the most important parts of 2020 - 2021 Strategic Education Plan. It can be found on Poplar Ridge School website and if you wish to dig deeper into all areas of the plan you will be able to. If you have any questions or concerns about the plan please contact Carolynne Muncer or Claire Funk. On Page 6 of the Poplar Ridge Strategic Education Plan is the Accountability Pillar results from May 2020. On this page the focus was on Safe and Caring Schools. Results are down in this area, but as a staff we believe it was due to bus incidents and bus driver turnover. Until last year Poplar Ridge had the same drivers for a long period of time, who knew the students and had built good relationships with staff, students and parents. On the Quality of Education indicator – there was one red area – Parents felt the Quality of Education was Down - concluding more questions need to be asked to provide more data and information. Only grade 4 parents are surveyed by AB Ed and as we only have one grade 4 class, the data represents a small percentage of our overall parent population. There will be a question about this on our Chinook's Edge Survey coming up in February that speaks to this data to provide us with a better understanding. This survey will go out to all parents and grades in Chinook's Edge. We continue to perform above the provincial average in all measure categories of the Alberta Education Results report (AERR).

Literacy data indicates 95% of students are reading at grade level – which is great! Due to Covid CESD and AB Ed have chosen not to administer PATs last school year or this year., Therefore there are no results to share. Our School Goal for this year is: ***Which structures and strategies best support students' ability to self-regulate social and emotional needs so that they are available and able to learn at high levels?*** This has been a complex year due to Covid-19 and we feel it is of great importance to focus on the mental, physical, and emotional health of our students. Students cannot learn if they are not regulated. At Poplar Ridge we do Mindful Thursdays to support our School Goal. Every Thursday morning, Mrs. Chu has all the classes join her on a google meet for 10-15 min. During this time staff and students are directed by Mrs. Chu who is a trained Mindful Schools facilitator – she teaches us breathing techniques, self regulation and growth mindset strategies to help relieve stress, anxiety, and worry and thereby regulate ourselves. This has been a wonderful addition to our weekly routines. Our students and staff look forward to this learning opportunity. We have welcomed Family School Wellness worker Melissa Frank Douglas to our school team as Shelbe Shand is on an approved leave of absence.

With Covid-19 challenges overall, we feel our students are doing great at knowing what the expectations are when at school and following the rules set. We are proud of their efforts and fortitude. One silverlining is that students are much more independent, and settled, as they have built confidence in their ability to prepare for the day. Kudo's to the parents when picking up and dropping off their children.- this is running very smoothly.

5. Financial Report * Kelly Fairall: Since our last meeting there have been deposits from the Poinsettia and Whoville Tree Fundraisers and Healthy Hunger. The books are balanced at \$54, 007.85.

6. Trustee Report – Sherry Cooper: Sherry Copper attended a Rural School Board meeting with the Minister of Education. They discussed the Transportation Report and are hoping that it will be released during the next parliament session. As it stands, the funding formula for students riding on the bus remains the same. Sherry is hoping to meet with the Minister of Education again near the end of March or April.

In regards to the PUF (Program Unit Funding) Program – there have been successes and challenges. The amount of funding from the government has been reduced and the amount of testing has also been reduced. Therefore more is being done by school staff, who know the needs of the individual students. Initial assessments are being done in-person by speech and OT therapists, however due to Covid-19 restrictions, virtual appointments are being used. Virtual appointments allow for more time with students since there is less travel time required for the therapists. Students in kindergarten to grade 2 have more in-person appointments scheduled. PUF Funding Challenges: changes have been made with the best intentions, but are these changes working in the division? We need to ask, what works and what does not? Are there areas that need more attention than others? These challenges need to be addressed. Adina Armstrong asked if a survey could be sent out to parents about the PUF Program and also suggested a survey to the Trustees.

Regarding mental health, CESD is looking into practices that work best with students and staff. Has there been fallout from the parents? For the students, is there security in their little world? How has Covid affected people's social and emotional wellness with job loss, marriage breakdowns?

The Academic Board Report shows that MIPI (a math assessment tool) is working through the division. Attendance is good with 10,500 students for 2020/2021 compared to 11,500 for 2019/2020. There will be school visits coming up in Cremona, Sundre and River Valley. Budget numbers will be coming up probably in March 2021 for the upcoming school year.

7. PTA Committee Reports

- a) Fundraising Updates: Kayla White - The Whoville tree fundraiser made profit of \$315.00 and the Poinsettia Fundraiser made a profit of \$353.35. It has been decided not to arrange a family ski night for now – with Covid restrictions and unpredictability it is not the best time to do it.
- b) January Bottle Drive Drop Off will be Jan 20-22 from 8 am to 4 pm in the school parking lot. There are a few families who have asked for their bottles to be picked up from their home – these will be taken care of. Classes have been writing reminders to families in agendas, and in classroom newsletters.
- c) Healthy Hunger: Jen Creasey - We have added two new vendors to order meals from – Mc Donald's and Quizznos - and have had to eliminate other vendors. Parents can continue to order 2 times per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Thank you to Jen Creasey for continuing this awesome hot lunch program. It is such a treat to be able to order something else 2 times a week.

8. New Business

- a) Staff Appreciation Lunch Update – Since the introduction of new Covid restrictions, it is impossible for the staff to eat together. The PTA would still like to provide them with an appreciation lunch, and will do so once restrictions will allow it to happen safely.
- b) Next Meeting – Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 6:45. Our March meeting, originally scheduled for March 29, will need to be moved due to Carolynne's college teaching schedule. A new date will be announced at the next meeting. and then looking at March 29, 30 or 31.
- c) We would like to speak with Colet Grimbeek. She is the parent liaison for our area on the Parents Matter Committee. With internet issues we were unable to hear from her during this meeting.
- d) Food Bank Drive hosted by the grade 3 class and Mrs. Klumpenhower. There was great support shown, and as a school we did a phenomenal job providing a large amount of food to the Food Bank.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.