

Minutes of the Joint General PTA Meeting

Poplar Ridge School Council and Poplar Ridge PTA

Tuesday March 30, 2021 via zoom

*indicates written report attached

Joint General Meeting attendees: Megan Vallet Fredine, Megan Andruik, Eloise Silvernagle, Kelly Fairall, Carolynne Muncer, Sherry Cooper, Colet Grimbeek, Samantha Rodwell and Jen Creasey

1. Call to order at 6:50
2. Approval of the Agenda 1st motion is Eloise Silvernagle and 2nd is Kelly Fairall. All in favor
3. Approval of the February 25, 2021 Minutes 1st motion is Kelly Fairall and 2nd to motion is Megan Andruik. All in Favour
4. Principal's report – Carolynne Muncer:

Thank you again to the PTA for their support in the purchase of a new Rocks and Rings set for the PE program at the school. Maybe there can be a Spring Bonspiel – the kids will love it.

March and April is when Carolynne and Claire will start focusing on the budget and staffing for the next school year based on what we know now. Enrolment for 2021/2022 is down, currently at 143, which is the estimate for the next year. Once the division receives the final budget from the Alberta government, the school will be given their budget and work as a school team to configure the school to best meet the needs of our students.

Alberta Education is conducting the annual Assurance Survey – this survey helps provide important information on the quality of education children are receiving and to ensure that school authorities are setting students up for success. This survey is for families with students in grade 4, 7 and 10. The children in grade 4 have been surveyed as well as some grade 5 and 6's from our school. Letters will be mailed to parents with the survey and a random access code to complete it online. If parents would prefer a paper survey, they can let Carolynne know or contact Alberta Ed directly.

New Draft Curriculum K-6 was released yesterday and it is strongly advised that all parents take a good look at it and provide feedback to Alberta Education via the links on their site. By googling "Alberta New Draft Curriculum" it will take you right to their site.

Because guidelines have not changed, we are still unable to have all the staff get together for an appreciation luncheon, but are hopeful that this may change by the end of April.

With some executive changes coming up in the PTA for next year, Carolynne and Claire will be talking to parents about how they can be involved. A message will be included in the next school newsletter coming out.

The school is working with Maintenance and Transportation at this time to see what kind of improvements may be possible in our parking lot. Stay tuned for more info at the next meeting in May.

5. Financial Report* Kelly Fairall:

Another Healthy Hunger cheque has been deposited for \$301.20 with another still to come in. This fundraiser is doing well. A cheque will be given to the school for the Rocks and Rings tomorrow for the amount of \$579.35. The Casino account currently sits at \$5076.85, we need to keep \$2500 in here to pay for the "Casino Manager" when we do get to have our time at the casino. Accounts are all balanced.

6. Trustee Report – Sherry Cooper:

The capital plan was approved in March. In this, two replacement schools have been proposed. One in sector 2 and HJ Cody – (the intention is to use the current HJ as a middle school and build a new High School). The Government of Alberta decides where the money is spent; based on the age of buildings, growth of enrolments and students, etc. The Budget from the Government for the next school year currently looks the same – not losing, but not gaining either. As costs of materials grow, money is spread thinner. Between custodial and cleaning needs and supplies and other additional costs, mental health concerns and costs involved – the board will be talking to the Government for help.

From the board perspective, they will be working on some strategic planning. There is an election in the fall and some retiring trustees, which means new trustees coming into office. So there needs to be a process in place to make sure everyone works well in the committee together.

Transportation fees: there may be some refunds coming to some parents due to the Covid related school closures (primarily in the middle and high schools) where schools were closed and busses were not running (not weather related closures). Sean Russel is in charge of this. Families may get a refund or credit to carry towards next years' fees, which are projected to be the same going into next year. This was presented at the March meeting and will be approved in the April meeting. Depending on enrolment, the combined bus routes at Poplar Ridge School may also stay the same as this year – this will all be looked at more closely into the summer months.

Right now the school protocols will not be relaxing due to the new Covid variant that is out – possibly after April and the spring breaks – will have to see if numbers change with the number of positive cases.

There is a new draft curriculum being introduced and may be run as a pilot project with voluntary teachers in some schools from K-6. This can be checked out on line at the AB Education Website.

7. PTA Committee Reports

a. Fundraising updates – Kayla White

Kayla was unable to attend so Megan Vallet Fredine will deliver the information on her behalf.

The AD-Mazing coupon books have been ordered: 100 Booklets for Red Deer, 10 for Edmonton and Calgary and 5 for Southern AB. We will only pay for the booklets we sell and can request more as needed.

b. Next Bottle Drive

Thursday, May 27 and Friday, May 28 from 8-4 and Saturday, May 29 from 10-1 in the school parking lot for drop off. Cosmos will have their trailer there and we will have a volunteer available on Saturday to help man the trailer. If anyone would like to have bottles picked up at their residence – we can arrange that as well.

8. New Business

a. Parent's Matter Committee Parent Liaison Colet Grimbeek

This committee serves as an advisory group directly to the Trustees regarding division-wide issues. It is all about input from parents: sharing feelings, frustrations, input on everyday matters. There have been 2 meetings so far and the committee is trying to meet every term. The next meeting should be just before the school years end. Discussions so far have been about Covid and the frustrations and obstacles that have come along with it. Not being able to volunteer in schools or meet in parking lots or at play dates has made it difficult for parents to be communicating with each other – which is what this group is all about. There is very limited parental interaction currently, so it is difficult to have those everyday discussions on how things are going. There were discussions on how Red Days could be handled in the future – trying to give more notice if you can see the cold weather coming – possibly 12-24 hrs notice – giving parents more time to line up childcare as needed. The whole reason to have the Parents Matter Committee is to talk about parents feelings and get their feedback and input. Talk about some high school issues or difficult subjects, help in future planning and learn within the division as we go.

b. Vice Chair and Fundraising Coordinator required for 2021/2022

Megan Andruik is stepping down from her Vice Chair position in the PTA and as well, Kayla White is stepping down from the Fundraising Coordinator position. Anyone who is interested in either of these roles are encouraged to contact any of the executive committee members, or Carolynne or Claire. Being a member of the PTA is such a great way to be involved with your child's school and be part of important decision making. Megan Vallet Fredine is willing to stay on as a member of the executive committee for one more year, and is flexible with which role she will play. It would be optimal to mentor someone this upcoming year who has the intention of taking on the Chair position when Megan steps down. More opportunities will arise next year! Thank you to everyone on the board who is currently and will continue to volunteer in these important roles within the PTA.

- c. Next meeting will be Monday, May 17, 2021 at 6:45 via zoom. There are possible discussions of a morning meeting at 9:00am if there is more interest – or more parents can attend – maybe send out a quick “interest survey” in a newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm