

Minutes of the Joint General PTA Meeting

Poplar Ridge School Council and Poplar Ridge PTA

Monday, May 17, 2021 @ 6:45 via Zoom

*Indicates written report / attachments provided

Joint General Meeting attendees: Megan Vallet Fredine, Megan Andruik, Mr. Darren Pickering, Carolynne Muncer, Jana Krutzfeldt, Adina Armstrong, Bridey Edgar, Jen Creasy, Kayla White, Kelly Fairall, Natasha Dudman, Samantha Rodwell, Eloise Silvernagle and Sherry Cooper

1. Call to Order at 6:52 and introductions were held
2. Approval of Agenda – Claire Funk will be taken off of the Principal's Report on item No. 4. 1st motion to approve the amended agenda is Megan Andruik and 2nd is Bridey Edgar. All in favour.
3. Approval of the March 30, 2021 minutes. 1st is Jen Creasy and 2nd is Kelly Fairall
4. Principal's Report – Carolynne Muncer

New Vice Principal Appointed!

Congratulations to Darren Pickering on his appointment as Vice Principal at Poplar Ridge School. We feel so blessed to have Darren join our PRS family. He comes with previous VP experience from Fox Run School, is a master teacher, and brings a passion for social emotional learning, relationships and positive school and community contributions. This includes more than 25 years of experience. We are incredibly excited and honored to work alongside Darren as we lead learning and teaching in our building with our talented and committed staff. We know that we will make a great team!

Parking Lot & Handicap Access Upgrades

As per The Principal's message to all PRS families on Monday, May 10, the division maintenance and transportation departments have worked with Red Deer County and the school to find a resolution to the congestion and safety issues in the parking lot (for over 2 decades), as well as improving access to our school for students and parents who require it.

Staffing and Configuration of Class for 2021- 2022 School Year

Now that a new Vice Principal has been hired, planning for next year can move forward. The school's enrollment is down significantly, so this has impacted the budget. All staff will work together to find the best scenario for students and to ensure we continue to offer excellence in programming, instruction and support. Parents will be updated in the mid- June newsletter.

Online Learning

Teachers and EAs have been very impressed with students' attendance and commitment to their learning while online. We are so proud of the students and grateful to the amazing teaching and support staff for ensuring that online learning is meaningful, engaging and manageable for students and parents. Once again, thank you, parents/families, so much for your time, flexibility and support with your children's education and our efforts. It is greatly appreciated! Team work makes the dream work!

Gaga Ball Pit Mats

Overwhelmingly, students do not want mats in the other pit. They say it is slippery when covered in dust, dirt, and water puddles, instead of draining. It was suggested that the money be used instead to purchase disc golf nets. Kelly noted that since this money was provided by Red Deer County, anything purchased with that money needs to be accessible to community members outside of school hours. Carolynne will look into metal disc golf nets and see how many could be purchased with the remaining money.

5. Financial report * - Kelly Fairall All is balanced

6. Trustee Report – Sherry Cooper:

Chinook's Edge School Division has decided not to pilot the new curriculum introduced by the Alberta government. It will need some "tweaking" before going into the classroom as some sections are good, but not great, and others are a flat "no". More information may be available in June. There will be a budget meeting at the end of May for all schools which will include discussions about bussing, custodial needs, grant money coming in from the federal government and more. Sherry attended a virtual conference in April with the message of how to instill hope in children and adults. A book entitled "The Happiness Advantage" by Shawn Achor was highlighted. It speaks of the seven principles of positive psychology that fuel success and performance at work. Sherry also attended a Rural Caucus of School Boards meeting which focused on mental health for children and their families with discussions regarding best practices, what support is needed, and how best to access resources. Dr. Marci Perdue, Associate Superintendent of Inclusive Education for Students, took a central role in these discussions.

7. PTA Committee Reports

a. Fundraising Updates – Kayla White

AD Mazing coupon books have been ordered and will be delivered before the start of the 2021/22 year.

b. Upcoming Bottle drive

On Thursday May 27 and Friday May 28 from 8-4 and Saturday May 29 from 10-1, the bottle trailer will be in the school parking lot and locked each night with a code.

8. New Business

a. A Vice Chair and Fundraising Coordinator are required for the 2021/2022 school year. Without a Vice Chair – we cannot operate the PTA! Advertising for the position will be put on the school sign out front, on Facebook, on the Poplar Ridge webpage, and in the newsletters. It is such a great way to be involved in your child's school and show devotion to the school, staff and the kids! Thank you so much to Kayla White, Megan Andruik and Tracey Tirpak, from the bottom of all our hearts, for your involvement in the Poplar Ridge school Council and PTA Executive Committee. The school would like to give you each a hanging basket of flowers!

b. School Lunch

The PTA would like to provide popsicles for the whole school as a fun way to celebrate the completion of the school year. Kelly will purchase and deliver the popsicles for the school to have on hand and ready. The school can then decide the appropriate way to celebrate once more is known about restrictions.

c. Grade 6 appreciation gift

Since the Grade 6'ers were unable to participate in skiing and Camp Evergreen this year due to Covid restrictions, (both of which the PTA helps to fund), we would like to do something special for them. Motion is made by Megan Andruik to donate \$25/grade 6 student (28 students including remote learners) for a total of \$600, to purchase a City of Red Deer gift card for each child. This will be a surprise parting gift to the students from the Poplar Ridge PTA. This card will help promote physical activity and involvement. The motion was 2nd by Adina Armstong. All in Favour

d. Thank you gift for Mrs. Funk

Mrs. Funk has been the Vice Principal and on faculty at Poplar Ridge School for 9 years and was active in the PTA as both a parent and staff member. She is not retiring, but moving on to a new position as Student Services Coordinator, and the PTA would like to get her a parting gift of appreciation. A motion has been made by Megan Andruik to purchase a \$100 gift card to Parkland Nursery. Motion is 2nd by Jen Creasy. All in favour. Kelly Fairall will pick this up.

e. Next meeting - June 7, 2021 at 9:00 am via zoom

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm