

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual General PTA Meeting

Poplar Ridge School Council and Poplar Ridge PTA

Monday, September 27, 2021 @9:00 am via Google Meet

*Indicates written report / attachments provided

Joint General meeting virtual attendees: Megan Vallet Fredine, Kelly Fairall, Colleen Robertson, Colet Grimbeek, Adina Armstrong, Giselle Smith, Krystal Schellenberg, Jen Creasey, Carolynne Muncer, Sherry Cooper, Stephanie Sommerfeldt, Darren Pickering, Eloise Silvernagle and Christine Moore joined

1. Call to order at 9:00 am and introductions were held.
2. Approval of Agenda 1st was Jen Creasey and 2nd was Kelly Fairall
3. Approval of June 7, 2021 Minutes 1st was Colet Grimbeek and 2nd was Jen Creasey
4. Principal's Report – Carolynne Muncer and Darren Pickering

Darren Pickering, our vice Principal, spoke about the trip to Camp Evergreen that the Grade 5 and 6's went on. Due to Covid, a second bus was needed for transportation and parent volunteers were asked to drive their own vehicles. A huge thank you to the PTA for providing the funds needed to make this happen. It was an amazing day filled with fun, laughter and perseverance shown from the kids!

Carolynne spoke about the dress code in school for grades K-6. It is now consistent across the school division and has been written differently with less restrictive language – "With the clothing that is available to wear, students are expected to wear clothing appropriate for learning".

With the Parent Council having some funding available in their budget – the school is looking at purchasing playground equipment to add on to the current playground. The choices we are looking at will be forwarded to Rod McLean first through the division – he knows which products are good, how to install, best warranty etc. He suggested looking at the suppliers Blue Imp and Play Quest for options.

September 30th is a day to recognize as a Day of Truth and Reconciliation. The days leading up to this day off, will be spent learning about the lives lost in residential schools in the past and speaking of social justice and fairness.

A new Covid 19 Checklist has come out from AHS. Before sending children to school, please review these guidelines. If your child will be gone for any sickness or extended amount of time, please notify the school and speak to their teacher. As long as children are well enough to do so, check their online learning classroom to continue with education. AHS has been overwhelmed with contact tracing, so this is no longer happening.

There is a white shed on the north side of the tennis courts on the school property. A family within the community has asked about removing the shed to use at their home. Carolynne will connect with Division 6, Red Deer County and other local community members before allowing the shed to be taken. If there are any concerns with removing the shed, please contact Carolynne Muncer.

5. Financial Report * Kelly Fairall

Camp Evergreen costs had increased significantly for this year. There was an emergency meeting between PTA executive members and school administration in which the decision was made to fully fund Camp Evergreen student fees and bussing for this year. Parent volunteers were responsible for paying their own fees, and were required to drive themselves to the camp. Due to these cost increases, it may be of benefit to explore other camp options closer to the school for future years.

- a) 2020/2021 PTA Budget : the budget for the upcoming school year was presented for approval. Due to continued revenue through bottle drives, the Healthy Hunger hot lunch program, and other fundraisers and very few expenses over the last 18 months, there has been a surplus accumulating in the PTA account. After discussions with Carolynne and Darren regarding needs for the school, it was decided that a new piece of playground equipment would be a great addition. The PTA is in the process of speaking to playground equipment companies and getting quotes in order to plan the project.

It was also noted that the original budget for field trip expenses was based on 195 students, however, there are currently 165 students registered in the school.

A motion was put forth to approve the amended budget with the correct student numbers 1st by Adina Armstrong and 2nd by Colet Grimbeek. All were in favour and the budget was passed unanimously.

- b) Two financial audit volunteers are required to review the PTA finances. Brenda Blagborne and Giselle Smith both volunteered. Kelly will coordinate the review process with both of them.

6. Trustee Report – Sherry Cooper

Sherry Cooper has been acclaimed to her school board trustee position for the upcoming term. The remaining school board trustees will be elected on October 18, 2021 and committees will be assigned by October 20, 2021.

The school board has decided to base their decisions for the upcoming school year on the advice from Alberta Health Services and provincial guidelines. If anyone has questions, they are welcome to email Sherry.

In July 2021, the federal government of Canada declared September 30 to be the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The Board of Trustees met on September 8 to discuss how best to honour this newly added day. It was felt that out of recognition and respect for this National Day, that schools would be

closed on September 30, 2021. Since school calendars are approved 3 years in advance, it was difficult to find a way to readjust the current school calendar to make up for the missed in-class time. For future school years, calendars will be amended in order to meet provincial classroom time requirements.

7. PTA Committee Reports

- a) Fundraising Coordinator Required : Colleen Robertson volunteered to be the fundraising liaison to the PTA moving forward.

- b) Fundraising Updates

The deadline to order Admazing Savings coupon books will be October 6. Healthy Hunger hot lunch will start on October 12 and will run two days a week - Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are 12 restaurants this year to order from. Costs have gone up from some of the participating restaurants, and so selling prices have been adjusted accordingly.

- c) Upcoming Bottle drive will be October 12-16. Bottles can be dropped off between 8am-4pm Tuesday – Friday, and on Saturday 10am-2pm. If anyone requires bottles to be picked up from their home they can contact the Poplar Ridge PTA. This info will be posted on the school sign as well as in the newsletter and a memo sent home in agendas.
- d) School Clothing: Adina Armstrong is coordinating an order through Country Stitch and Design (Kim and Steve in Elnora), from October 18-29 (2 weeks). Clothing options and ordering information will be sent home in the coming weeks. These are great for participating in Friday school spirit days! Adina has asked for a helper in running this fundraiser, so that someone can learn the process and take over coordinating the fundraiser for next year. Eloise Silvernagle has volunteered to help.

8. New Business

- a) School Dress Code – already addressed in the Principal's report.
- b) Upcoming Casino dates on September 30 and October 1, 2021. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to work one of the casino shifts, as this is one of the biggest fundraisers for the school.
- c) Parent email contact list - The PTA would like to start an email contact list of parents who would like to help out or receive more information, but are unsure of how to lend support. Anyone interested in joining the list are asked to email the PTA at poplarridgepta@gmail.com.
- d) Next meeting: Tuesday, October 26 at 7:00pm via Google Meet.

9. Meeting adjourned at 10:38 am