

Draft Minutes of the Joint General PTA Meeting

Poplar Ridge School Council and Poplar Ridge PTA

November 30, 2021 @ 7:00 pm via Google Meet

*Indicates written report/ attachments provided

Joint General Meeting Google meet attendees: Kelly Fairall, Carolynne Muncer, Adina Armstrong, Colleen Robertson, Eloise Silvernagle, Tara Archuk, Megan Vallet Fredine, Colet Grimbeek and Sherry Cooper (8:11 pm) and Jen Creasy (7:53) joined late into meeting

1. Call to order at 7:05 pm and introductions were held
2. Approval of the agenda 1st by Adina A. and 2nd by Kelly F.
3. Approval of the October 26, 2021 Minutes 1st by Colet G. and 2nd by Colleen R.
4. Principal's Report – as written by Carolynne Muncer and Darren Pickering

Skiing and Swimming a Go!

We have been given permission to move forward with these two important learning opportunities for our students.

Skiing - Darren:

- Grade 4, 5, 6 will ski 4 times.
- Cost depends on what the child needs for equipment. The most is \$220/student for all 4 ski dates inclusive
- We must cohort kids on the buses and all must wear masks. Thanks to the PTA for providing funding for bussing to offset cost to parents.
- Will follow Canyon's Covid Guidelines
- Parent Volunteers needed: Parents must have all paperwork at the school to Michelle prior to ski dates. Teachers will contact parents if they still need volunteers
- You can only transport your own child to and from the ski hill.

Swimming- Carolynne

- Begins second week in January and runs for 6 weeks. Friday is our swim day at the Dawe pool.
- All students must wear masks on the bus and in the Dawe when not swimming
- Thanks to the PTA for providing bussing
- Teachers will be sending home forms this week
- Cost is \$35/student
- Any parent can watch at the Dawe, but must provide proof of vaccination and wear a mask. This is a City of Red Deer guideline.

New Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) Assistant

Connie Kentz is on a leave of absence for the remainder of the year. Deb Czanski is the successful candidate and has taken over her role in our school. Alison Rainey has been hired to take on Deb's EA role on Thursdays when she provides SLP service.

Alberta School Council Engagement Grant

Every School Council in Alberta has received a \$500 grant, to be used before August 2022. This funding is to be used toward parent involvement and engagement activities. More information will be provided to the PTA soon.

Music Room Furnace:

Maintenance has replaced the furnace in the music portable. All is running well now.

Virtual Christmas Concert:

We will, once again, be recording a Virtual Christmas Concert that will be shared with parents via a link on our school website. We plan to have this up in the last few days of school.

Classroom Snacks for Hungry Kiddos

Poplar Ridge School has received a nutrition grant for \$2300.00 to provide children snacks in the morning, starting in the New Year. Ideas suggested were toast or fruit. Last year, the PTA provided granola bars and crackers for teachers to keep in the classroom for students who hadn't brought a snack or were still hungry. The school will make decisions regarding the nutrition grant and let the PTA know if more is needed.

Report Cards go home December 1: Celebrate successes and set learning goals with them for the next term. K-4 will have printed report cards and 5/6 will have reports on PowerSchool. It is important for parents to remember that this is just a snapshot in time and that grade books are always being updated.

Flu Season: Just a reminder that flu and cold season is upon us. We have had many sick kids go home over the last few weeks. Please remember to keep your kids home if sick for at least 24 hours so they can recoup.

Kindness Club: Previously known as the Me to We club, has organized a food drive through the grade 2/3. There is also a virtual link to provide gifts for kids in need through the Christmas Bureau.

5. Financial Report* - Kelly Fairall

The Treasurer's Report was provided. The AGLC sent a notice of the distribution of pooled funds from the casino the PTA worked on Sept 30 & Oct 1. The amount of \$23,482.37 has been deposited. It was also noted that the total cost of bussing to Camp Evergreen in September was paid through the casino account in the amount of \$1218.00.

Kelly reported that the yearly liability insurance was recently paid in the amount of \$363.69. However, the division is almost a year behind in their billing, so an additional liability payment may be required in this fiscal year in order to catch up.

6. Trustee Report - Sherry Cooper has not joined the meeting at this time (see below).

7. PTA Committee Reports

a. Fundraising updates:

School Clothing – Adina Armstrong

Orders will be picked up, and families contacted for delivery.

Christmas Fundraisers - Colleen Robertson

Purdy's Chocolates - There were approximately \$1200.00 in sales. This puts us in the 25% profit bracket giving the school about \$320.00. Orders are being filled from the Red Deer store and will be available for distribution between December 9-11. A cheque should be received 2 weeks after.

Parkland Nurseries - Due to the flooding in BC, the availability of fresh trees and wreaths were affected. Even still, an approximate profit of \$340.00 was made from this fundraiser. Hopefully, this fundraiser can be done again in future years with better access to supply.

Calyx – Colleen will be in touch with Calyx to determine how many Grinch Tree orders were placed and how much profit was made.

First Aid Fundraiser – will be discussed and possibly offered in the spring.

8. New Business

a. Playground quotes

To date, a number of quotes have been received for various playground structures. These were narrowed down to 4 structures, and a detailed all-inclusive quote to include ground prep, materials, installation, finishing, ground cover etc were requested. From there, it was further narrowed down to 2 choices. These two choices will be presented to the Poplar Ridge students to see which they would prefer. The PTA has budgeted \$25,000 towards the project, and are exploring possible additional funding through Red Deer County, other community grants, and additional fundraising possibilities. Questions were asked regarding equipment safety, and both Carolynne and Darren agreed that staff focus on teaching safe practices as opposed to taking away or eliminating unsafe things. There is always a chance of injury on any piece of equipment, but learning safe practices is key.

b. Next meeting – Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 7 pm via Google Meet

6. Trustee report - Sherry Cooper joined meeting at 8:11 pm

Effective Jan 10, 2022 all CESD employees or volunteers working in schools must be vaccinated or have a negative Covid 19 rapid test, which is supplied and available at the

school. Tests will be available to those requiring them for entry until the end of the school year.

Sherry reported about a recent Board presentation about goals in education: having children find connections to careers in middle school and high school. What are kids interested in, passionate about, what they like or don't like?

Information that Alberta Education receives from parents regarding programing and support in classrooms, is gathered from only one survey. The Board would like to find a better way to gather this information. For now, it is important that more parents do the surveys so that more information is available to Alberta Education.

****Prior to Adjournment –** Jen Creasy passed along information from a recent HJ Cody meeting regarding the formation of a parent subcommittee to discuss the new high school coming to Sylvan Lake. If anyone is interested in joining, or has any questions or comments, they can contact HJ Cody School.

9. Meeting Adjourned 8:39 pm