

Draft minutes of the Joint General PTA Meeting

Poplar ridge School council and Poplar Ridge PTA

Tuesday March 8, 2022 at 7:00 pm via Google Meet

*Indicates written report/ attachments provided

Google Meet attendees: Adina Armstrong, Carolynne Muncer, Darren Pickering, Megan Vallet Fredine, Sherry Cooper, Colleen Robertson, Natasha Dudman, Stephanie Sommerfeldt, Eloise Silvernagle, Kelly Fairall and Jen Hein (7:17)

1. Call to order and 7:02pm and no introductions needed – all attendees are comfortable
2. Approval of the Agenda – agenda was amended and added 5 a) A field trip funding request from Alissa Lidgren. Amended agenda was approved 1st was Colleen Robertson and 2nd was Adina Armstrong
3. Approval of draft minutes from January 18,2022 1st motion was Adina Armstrong and 2nd was Kelly Fairall

Jumping right to agenda 6 as Sherry Cooper will need to leave the meeting early.

6. Trustee Report: Sherry Cooper

Sherry attended the Alberta Rural Education Symposium in Edmonton – rural communities and schools are flourishing. There are great things coming up for children. The minister of Education spoke and over the next three years, there will be an increase of \$700,000,000 in education funding, as well as an increase in transportation funding. If oil costs goes over \$100/ barrel, there is a proposed reduction on the tax on fuel. \$79,000,000 is going into student learning loss and student wellbeing. Over a 10 year plan, post secondary bursaries have been proposed for teachers planning to work in a rural setting post graduation. It is important to keep both students and teachers in our rural community schools. Capital design plans for Penhold Elementary school are moving forward, which means that HJ Cody High School will be moving up higher on the list for new school funding. Sherry was asked a question regarding the new curriculum. She responded that the Minister of Education will provide more information by the end of March, but at this time only Math and Language Arts changes will be introduced for the Fall of 2022 with Social Studies being introduced at a later date.

4. Principal's Report – as written by Carolynne Muncer

1. **COVID Restriction Update**

We sent an update to parents last week outlining the shifts we are making at this time. We are looking forward to planning some school-wide events in the spring that parents will be invited to. Stay tuned.

2. **Virtual Scholastic Book Fair**

Our Virtual Fair opened on March 7 and runs until March 21. Please share this with family and friends as it supports the purchase of books for classrooms and our library.

3. **Report Card Home on March 22**

Please take the time to celebrate your child's successes and talk about ways they can meet their areas of need and goals. Kindergarten to grade 4 will bring report cards home. Grades 5 and 6 reports are available to view online through PowerSchool.

4. **Virtual Parent Teacher Interviews**

These are virtual across our division. Teachers have planned their schedule in a week window this time. You will receive an email from Michelle tomorrow with info and links to sign up. Note that not all teachers are on the same day, although some may be.

5. **Mr. Pickering's Evaluation**

As this is Mr. Pickering's first year as a Vice Principal in a while, he is being evaluated. This process will be complete by the end of April. We are positive this will be a very successful process for him and us!

6. **Curricular Field Trip Planning and Support**

As restrictions are lifted, our teachers can now plan curricular field trips. Teachers are now able to apply to the PTA for field trip funding by filling out the PTA Funding Request Form. The PTA budgeted \$30 / student for field trips at the beginning of the school year. It was suggested that to stretch funds, especially considering the potential for increased bussing costs, that classes try to combine field trips.

7. **Planning for the 2022 -2023 School Year**

We are in the process of beginning planning for the coming year. If you know of any new kinders or families who will be coming to our school, remind them to register or if you are moving out of our school, please let us know. This helps in our planning. Our projected enrollment is down as we are losing more grade 6s than we are gaining in kindergarten.

8. **Alberta Education Assurance Survey**

Just a reminder to grade 4 parents to complete this. CESD has now created a survey for all parents seeking feedback on many things. We will share this link with families next week. Students in grade 4-12 will also be completing the surveys at school.

5. **Financial Report * - Kelly Fairall**

- a) **Field Trip Funding Request from Alissa Lidgren** - A request was received for the Kindergarten class of 16 students to attend a field trip to Safety City in Red Deer. Bussing and admission costs fall within the allotted \$30/student. The 2021/2022 budget was approved at the September 2021 meeting and included funding for \$30/student for field trips. (copy of request*)

Deposits were made for the January bottle drive for \$1119 and Healthy Hunger for \$1800. Payments were made for busing for grades 4-6 skiing \$1260 and for grades 1-3 swimming \$630.

Everything is balanced. The Report for the Casino Account has been completed for the AGLC. Kelly will stay on the executive as Treasurer for one more year. Over the upcoming year, if someone is interested in taking on the Treasurer role, it would be highly recommended that they do the fall audit to help familiarize themselves with the books and the process.

6. PTA Fundraising updates - Colleen Robertson

- a) Emergency Prep week coming up in schools at the end of May - may be a great time to look at selling the Emergency kits and First Aid kits. Also still looking at the True Local Meat – this could go over well before Father's Day. It would be nice to do one more fundraiser this spring which again includes a number of fundraising options for families to choose from.
- b) Bottle drive drop was Jan 17-21 and will do one more this year after the May long weekend. Dates will be posted once the trailer has been booked.

7. New Business

- a) Alberta School Council Engagement Grant - Melissa Prins from To the Stars Wellness Facility in Lacombe has been booked to do a presentation for parents on Tuesday, May 10 at 7:00 pm. Carolynne confirmed that the presentation can be done in-person in the school gym. The speaking fee is \$550 – the grant will cover \$500 and PTA will be responsible for the additional \$50.
- b) New Chairperson is needed for the upcoming 2022/2023 school year. Megan Vallet Fredine is stepping down from the Chair position at the end of the current school year. Anyone interested in the position, or who would like more information can contact any of the executive committee members.
- c) Upcoming Meetings - April 26 and May 31, 2022. The next meeting will be held in-person at the school on Tuesday, April 26 at 7:00 pm.

8. Meeting Adjourned 7:56 pm