

Balmoral Elementary School  
Parent Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
May 10, 2023

In attendance- Bekki Stemp, Tiffany Perreault, Mark Lawson, Laura Kirby, Cindy Schaeffer, Daria Rody, Joanne Reimer

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm

1. Secretary's Report:
  - a. Last meeting minutes- reviewed by Tiffany and she motioned for them to be approved. Seconded by Cindy. Motion carried.
2. Treasurer's Report:
  - a. Kelly was absent, however she sent a report. \$5880.82 is our current balance. Hot lunch, and babysitters course were most of the entries. Kernels popcorn profit was \$1206.
  - b. Do we want a separate account for long term saving? Not at this time.
  - c. Motion made by Tiffany to remove Kelly Farmer from signing authority of the PAC accounts, and to have Laura Kirby take over signing authority as of June 29, 2023. Rebekka Stemp is to stay on with signing authority. Seconded by Cindy. Motion carried.
3. Committee Reports
  - a. Hot lunch- Cindy-Taco in a bag is next week. June 9 will be last one- cinnamon bun from Beyond Bread
  - b. Fundraising-Bekki- popcorn fundraiser raised \$1200! We were very happy with how it turned out.
4. Principal's Report: Mark Lawson

1. Staffing updates

- a. Mrs. Buchan has returned to Balmoral school at 50%
- b. Laura Jane Bonville is finishing off the school year at Balmoral School at 20%.
- c. Mrs. Loehmer is working with the K/1's in the mornings and doing French and 5/6 in the afternoons
- d. ISD has many teacher postings out for the 2023-2024 school year.
- e. ISD is currently recruiting substitute teachers and substitute support staff

2. Class Configurations for 2023-2024

- a. Class decisions are made based on numbers, social dynamics, siblings, learning styles, emotional needs, behavioral needs. Decisions are not based on strong students going with higher grades and lower students going with lower grades.
- b. What is the best way to share the multi-age information and information about class configurations with families?
- c. 2023-2024:
  - i. K/1

- ii. 2/3
- iii. 4/5
- iv. 6/7
- v. 7/8

### 3. Recent School events

- a. May 10 – CSC Band/Choir Tour (promotion of the band program)

### 4. Upcoming Events

- a. May 17 – Hot Lunch
- b. May 29 – Grade 8 Balmoral and Argyle Transition Day to CSC
- c. June 6 – MY Track & Field
- d. June 8 – Rain Date MY Track & Field
- e. June 27 – School Wide Field Trip
- f. Indigenous Drum making this spring

### 5. PAC Events

- a. Babysitting Course – Thanks for PAC's work on this. It seemed to be well received by the school community!

### 6. School wide field trip

- a. Lower Fort Gary
  - i. Cost: \$2417.45
  - ii. Programming:

Lower Fort Garry on Tuesday, June 27th , 2023 – Scheduled Activities:

K/1 The Big Stone Art, Bake a Bannock, and Stories and Legends

2/3 Beaver on the Coin, Bake a Bannock, and Stories and Legends

4/6 Each Played a Part, Treaty Negotiation, and Blacksmithing

7/8 Stony Fort Treaty, Blacksmithing, and Candle Making

### 7. Volunteers in Schools

- a. Child Abuse Registry Check, Criminal Records Check, and Confidentiality Agreement
- b. Including: Coaches, Parent drivers, Field Trips etc.

### 8. Tree Plan

### 9. Wishlist Updates:

- a. Gym Wall Padding (Quotes: \$5185.06, \$9592.24)
- b. Garage (In the maintenance budget for the summer/fall)
  - 10. Wishlist (shared google doc)

-Mark asked for feedback on how to inform the community of class configurations. Often parents feel that the division is based on academics, and that plays only a small role. A lot of time, thought, and conversation goes into creating class lists. Bekki suggested that teachers have a conversation with students to inform them of how classes are divided. Explain multi age learning initiatives as opposed to lower/higher level classes.

Trees- Mark created a diagram of the school yard with existing trees and where trees could be planted. We discussed possible ways to get trees donated, or fundraise for. This could be part of next year's fundraising efforts. Maybe Jaspersons would be willing to donate tree moving services? Maybe community members might have trees they would be willing to donate to the school.

-Laura made a motion for the PAC to contribute \$1210 to go towards the whole school field trip to Lower Fort Garry on June 27. Seconded by Joanne. Motion carried.

-Gym Wall Padding- Tiffany made a motion to contribute \$2500 towards the purchase of new wall padding. Laura seconded. Carried motion.

5. Teacher/Faculty Report: Daria Rody spoke about a survey that grade 6 students completed in the fall. The results of this survey impacted lessons taught in their class. Kids Help Phone presented. May 24 there will be a sleep presentation. Students are not getting enough sleep and a mental health professional will be coming to teach strategies around getting enough sleep and strategies to help with getting more quality sleep. Sources of Strength is another program that she will be working on with students. Daria also spoke about the upcoming grade 8 field trip to the high school for a tour, as well as bowling and lunch at the Kiln.
6. Old Business: Babysitter course update- Course was held last weekend, and parents have given really good feedback. Students enjoyed the course and seemed to learn a lot. The Red Cross instructor said they also offer a Home Alone course. This might be an option for next year.
7. New Business: Teacher Appreciation was last week. Bekki took the initiative to write a thank you email to each teacher on behalf of the PAC in the school expressing appreciation for all that they do. We discussed that as a PAC we would like to provide lunch or treats for the staff. Bekki will talk to some parents and arrange something.
8. Meetings for next year- third Wednesday every second month, starting in September. 6:30 start time. How do we recruit more parents to join??? Bekki will set up a table at the open house before school starts in the fall to try and recruit more if anyone can volunteer for a shift that would great.

Adjourned: 8:00 pm