

PBHS Parent Council Meeting Minutes 26th January 2016 start time: 6.03pm

Location: PBHS

Attendees: Nick Clarke, Mark Lowe, Natalie Townshend, Jody Bezooyen, Craig Whitehead, Aoife O Connor, Kathy Witdouck, Manna Middleton,

Last meeting minutes read and amended by Jody and seconded by Aoife.

Trustees report: The board have concerns over drive by's. Pretty soon there will be more cameras on board the buses. Noble Central renovation is not costing as much as expected and therefore freeing up funds to go elsewhere. The recent concerns and controversy regarding the board has been a prominent issue within the board. There will be an inquiry and the board is meeting the minister to determine who will conduct it. The board members are hoping for an independent panel. They want the truth as much as everyone else and intend to take the necessary steps with the results. Bill 10 has to be addressed by March 31st. Guidelines have been released and between now and Feb 8th policy and procedures have to be drawn up. No clear responses from government to concerns raised surrounding situations that may arise as a result of the Bill. Craig committed to voicing concerns to the board. Kathy: deems Bill 10 as an infringement on parents' universal rights. Parents will not have the right to be informed of their child's choice/decisions while in school. Many concerns were raised over different scenarios that could happen. Recommendations made included; sending letters to MLA's, the minister, the premier and Craig as a trustee. Manna and Kathy are to form a letter for universal use by parents. There are 2 directors now working out of Calgary, one works mainly with support staff and the other mainly with teachers. Craig is the alternate to setting up Trustee Employee Bargaining Association (TIBA), to negotiate with teachers and report back to boards.

Principal's report: One new councilor started, replacing the last school councilor. The school will have a new resource officer, RCMP officer Jason Smith. He is finding out about the possibility of using the police station as the safe area during lock downs. How long he can remain in this position is uncertain but it is a great asset to the school for now. OCA testing for grade 10's, it is another form of comprehension testing for the students. Mark Lowe is now teaching the seniors (grade 12) for biology. LLI and OCA testing to commence in term 2. It is an 18 week program and with the 6 students that are selected for the program there are relatively clear results expected. The feeling of the school is that the stability component of PBHS is lost. A plea to the division has been made in order to gain that stability back. Teachers have been lost to other positions. Flex is working well. Stats suggest 20% approximately are not engaging with the classes. Students that were not expected to utilize the flex class actually have, so it is at this point at least, doing no harm. There are no definitive statistics for the program just yet. As to whether the budget will come in over or under is unclear at the moment. Could be a number of reasons for this and staff members are careful at present. Subbing costs have gone down. \$3000 has been approved for sound equipment. The school is trying to spend responsibly at present while using some school cash too. The school is in the process of

finalizing the figure of what funds they have in undedicated cash. Using 1 to 1 in PBHS is being explored; the device requirements necessary, costs and costs to parents, accommodations for those with financial restraints and the benefits to the students. There is an issue with the 2A girls at the moment and more sponsorship is required. The funds made previous are super-exceeding the levels at the moment. Volunteer sign up forms have been sent out and there will be the opportunity to sign up at the parent/teacher conferences on February 4th. The 2016/2017 timetable is underway. There is the possibility that schoology may have to be swapped over to powerschool. Not certain now but aware that it could happen.

Chairman's report: Picture Butte Fireman's dance will take place February 13th and the tickets are \$20. There is a dance and midnight lunch/supper. It is a good opportunity to support the service. School dance plans have not gone too much further. Dates and times were suggested but not agreed upon. Betterment Blue Nose made \$590; proceeds go to the boys' athletics. The golf tournament is set for June 3rd 2016. Spreading the word is appreciated and welcomed. St Catherine's dinner and auction is on April 16th, a nice opportunity for those that want to support the school.

A motion brought forward tonight:

: "PBHS school council opposes the Gender Identities and Expressions Guidelines as currently written. It is our request that the Government of Alberta document titled "Guidelines for Best Practices: Creating Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Gender Expressions" be further reviewed and brought to public debate prior to being put for as requirements for Alberta Schools. We request an emergency resolution for ASCA and Alberta School Board Association." This motion was passed unanimously. **Our chair will be taking this motion directly to ASCA and ASBA**

This motion is to be sent to the Premier, Minister, and Craig Whitehead.

Next meeting: March 22 2016 at 6.00pm

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.