

****MINUTES** PCSS Parent Council Meeting - October 24, 2024**

1. Call to order at 6:31pm.
2. Welcome and Introductions
In Attendance: In Attendance: Jessica Bueckert, Julie Windebank, Clark Peters, Shaun Kranenborg, Lori Wolfe, Nora Holben, Angela Van der Loop, Cheyenne Gouda
3. Review of the Agenda
Approval of the Minutes of previous meeting as presented: Motioned by: Lori, All in favour
4. School Report
Remembrance day - Nov 7 at 10am, 3 Schools and town ceremony
Volleyball is in full swing. XC running just finished
We are looking for Basketball coaches. We are running 26 teams and clubs and with 22 teachers we are thin, we will need community coaches to help offer these programs/ clubs/ teams...
SAIT - Post secondary trip, PowWow trip, and Students Matter and Indigenous Student Rep
Parent teacher Interviews Nov 5&6
Cosmetology, Business reached out about students and we think we have connected a couple. If you know of any businesses interested in taking on students, send them to the school. It is great for students to get a taste for careers.
5. Trustee Report, Sherry Cooper not available
6. Town Report
Shaun Kranenborg - Town Councillor
 - Council has bids for firehall for operations. Winning bid came in at 10% under. Scott Builders
 - Roundabout is completed, sign is moving
 - CPO agreement with Innisfail and Penhold Peace Officers can help each other out
 - Updating old bylaws
 - Dog Park committee, really want to have dog owners run with it. 7 at the meeting was great
 - Municipal Planning Commission looking for people, talk to Shaun. Meet a couple times quick, then meet as needed.
 - What to do with the Penhold Elementary land. Road to goal posts is town, goal posts back is CESD.

Jamie Seiyema, FCSS's report:

- Community Christmas will be Friday Nov. 22 at the Multiplex
 - Little Shoppers area 6:00-8:00
 - Christmas Market ran by the Museum 6:00-8:30 p.m.
 - Tree Lighting 6:30 p.m.
 - Cookie Walk (Penhold Museum)
 - Penhold Drop-In Centre Silent Auction
 - Cookie Decorating, Crafts, Photo, Wagon Rides
 - Stage 6:30-7:30
 - Penhold Crossing band x 2 – confirmed
 - Penhold Elementary Christmas choir – invited, not confirmed
 - Penhold School of Dance – invited, not confirmed
 - MacLeod of Lewis Highland Dancers – tentative
- Reminder there is option for Reporter no charge ¼ page ad (1 per group per month deadline is 15, must be sized properly and a jpg file) and the electronic highway sign plus reader boards on north and south ends of

hwy 2A. Also, if you send posters to fcss@townofpenhold.ca, Jen or I will put it on the Town of Penhold Community Support Services Facebook page. You can also submit your events for the community calendar through the website.

- Craft & Connect Night. October 29, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Register with fcss@townofpenhold.ca
- November's Adulthood Unlocked is still in the works. Details to be out soon.
- PYC Bowling Fundraiser Oct. 30. Tickets will be sold at Town Office, Eventbrite and at the market in Penhold on November 2nd and 17th.
- PYC Grades 7-8 and teen night calendars for November are now available.
- Family Skating on November 24th (All PYC Families are welcome).

1. Old Business 5 min
 - ASCE Grant (\$500) ideas, can we use ASCE for monthly parent engagement initiative

2. New Business 5 min
 - Parents Matter update, shared by Angela Van der Loop

Parents Matter Notes from Head Office, shared on October 9, 2024

Introductions

Superintendent Kurt Sacher welcomed everyone and asked each representative to introduce themselves. He also referenced the meeting norms which were attached to the package. The purpose of Parents Matter is to provide a voice for parents and a sounding board for Chinook's Edge School Division. Also, we hope the committee connects school councils with each other, and connects the division with our school councils.

Resolving conflict

A document outlining a positive approach to resolving conflict was included in the agenda, and will be attached to these notes. In summary, if there is a concern, parents are encouraged to use an in person or phone conversation rather than email. Please talk first with the teacher, and be as positive as possible. If the situation isn't resolved with the teacher, the next step is the administrator. If there are remaining concerns, then please call the division office at 403.227.7070.

We try to get back to people in 48 hours.

Question Box

1. Can schools be used for rental space?

Yes. We already do that. The funds that come from rentals, that remain after costs to care for the facilities, generally go to the school budgets.

2. Since students use Chromebooks in Chinook's Edge, how prepared are they, when they graduate, to use other operating systems? Learning Services is actively considering some options to address this legitimate concern.

3. With the provincial policy of not allowing smart devices in classrooms, why wouldn't Chinook's Edge take it further and not allow devices on school buses? We are currently consulting with multiple stakeholder groups to develop a policy by January 2025 in compliance with provincial expectations regarding cell phones and smart devices (watches, etc.).

Also, we shared that we are reluctant to consider extending cellphone and smart device restrictions into our transportation system. Please keep in mind that we want bus drivers to be focused on safety and fully attentive to their responsibilities. In the short term, if there is an instance where your young child is sitting by an older student on their cell phone and you are concerned about that, please ask the bus driver for a new seating arrangement.

4. What supports are available for classes with children who have complex needs?

We allocate according to clear and consistent class size guidelines. In the case of medically fragile students, the funding follows the student. We move the overwhelming majority of resources into schools at the start of the year so staffing and supports can be fully in place. Our approach is not a perfect science, as some students arrive later in the school year. Our approach does provide principals with some flexibility at the school level to respond as they see fit depending on a wide variety of circumstances.

5. What are the parameters to engage parents to volunteer?

We leave that to our schools. Parents who wish to volunteer are encouraged to contact their school office and ask for more information. School councils also can have many opportunities for volunteering.

6. How will the provincial cell phone initiative be implemented in Chinook's Edge?

It has already been implemented. It may not have seemed like a change because a number of our schools were already working to limit distractions from the use of personal devices in school.

7. What is the supervision underway in schools at lunch?

Heavier supervision occurs in kindergarten where children are still learning routines. Once students have routines established, typically one adult supervises two classes or more as students progress from grade 1 on up. An estimated ratio of adults to students at recess is approximately one adult for every three classes of elementary students.

Input on CESD Admin procedures (turn and talk)

Superintendent Kurt Sacher explained that the division always prioritizes student safety. He asked for feedback about student safety in schools, using AP 3-26 (Welcoming, Safe and Inclusive Schools) as a reference.

A second area of feedback was about student cell phone use in schools. The division has implemented the provincial government's decision on that, and specifically Superintendent Sacher asked the group for feedback about what the division should include in its policy that is being developed.

Meeting participants were assigned breakout rooms for discussion, and then invited to share overall insights with the large group.

Some overall insights about AP 3-26:

- The AP makes sense (all groups said this)
- Two groups commented that they appreciate the mention of general conflict, and the clarification about what is bullying - that in many cases peer-to-peer conflict is mislabelled as bullying (which is more targeted and repetitive).
- Question about mention of restorative justice and what it is. Superintendent Sacher said historically justice tends to be punitive, whereas restorative justice is more about learning and restoring a positive environment.
- Parent comment that safety can become an issue when students outnumber the adults. For instance, at recess. Could parents help by volunteering? Superintendent Sacher encouraged parents to discuss this with school administrators, and also to bring up situations they are observing so administrators can help to find solutions.
- One group observed that are situations where students are having their cell phones at lunch and at breaks, when they aren't supposed to (in Kindergarten through Grade 8)
- Like that school doors are locked and there is a sign-in and sign-out
- A parent reported an instance where a door to the student parking lot is not locked.

Superintendent Sacher encouraged the parent to speak to the school principal about it.

- A question about when lock-downs should be used in the case of complex needs students. Superintendent Sacher said the division has been working on supporting students with complex needs, and that there would be more communication about this later in the year.
- Question about internet access for staff. Staff have access to the internet through Chinook's Edge staff Chromebooks or desktop / laptop computers.
- Belief that our schools are safe and caring. Sometimes in the higher grades, some peer-to-peer conflict is normal and it develops resilience.

Some overall insights about cell-phone use in schools for developing policy:

- Seems to be working very well (every group said this)
- Already seeing better focus and grades from students
- Intramural sports is happening - and kids are playing together
- Nice to see more engagement and playing at recess
- Parents of younger children are pleased that this is happening, and that it will be a norm when their children get into higher grades.
- Question about students who might need the device for school work. Superintendent Sacher talked about the Board's approval of \$350,000 in funding to purchase Chromebooks to support students.
- Question about smart watches. Are they allowed? If not, could there be a unified front about these, so that there is not undue pressure on individual staff or a school. For the record, unless there are special considerations they are not allowed similar to cell phones.
- Parents like that social media is blocked. One question regarding cell phones was school specific. If there is a consequence given to students for using their cell phone, and the device is taken away, that could impact them during Chinook's Edge School Division lunch time when they might need it. Superintendent Sacher encouraged the individual parent to speak with the school principal about this concern.

Sharing and stealing ideas (turn and talk)

Participants were divided into different groups to discuss what they are excited or proud of in their school council work, so that councils can share / steal ideas from each other.

Some of the ideas that were shared:

- Fundraising for a new playground. Hoping for a grant.
- Outdoor classroom was built recently and now school council is working to build a structure over it so it can be used in a variety of weather conditions
- Halloween dance, and a family movie night in December. Trying to get families into the school and involved together.
- One school noted that their most successful fundraiser is movie night, and families are admitted by a donation (not a specified amount). A lot of the fundraising comes from the snacks that are sold.
- School council encouraging participation of new parents with a \$50 credit towards school fees or hot lunches
- Council meeting is in the morning so it works better for that group of parents
- \$500 annual grant used for speaker Paul Davis - regarding internet safety

- \$50 School Credit Draw for those in attendance. Julie Windebank selected

- Elections

- a. Dissolution of the current Executive (motion to dissolve the current executive) Motioned by:Julie W .
Seconded by Cheyenne. All in favour
- b. Discussion surrounding the roles of each position
- c. Election of New Executive Members:

Chair: Jess Bueckert

Vice Chair: Cheyenne Gouda

Secretary: Choose a Recording Person for Each meeting

Motion to approve the new executive: Julie W. All in favour

3. Next Meeting Date: November 28, 2024 at 6:30pm
4. Adjourned at: 7:19pm
5. Action Items

Motion to approve by: Nora H.All in favour

6. Old Business

- a. Casino Financial Report, Julie sent it in. AGLC has acknowledged receipt of the report.

7. New Business

- a. CESD reporting, Admin Proc. 1-09, Financial Statement and Summary of Society activities.
- b. Financial Auditors, Motion by Julie W. to approve two new financial auditors to audit the 2022-2023 school year, Nora H and Lori W.
- c. Plan to spend Casino Funds, \$9000 this year. Admin to re-engage with the school's Casino committee and bring Ideas moving forward.
- d. Elections
Dissolution of the current Executive (motion to dissolve the current executive) Motioned by: Nora .
Seconded by Cheyenne. All in favour

Discussion surrounding the roles of each position

Election of New Executive Members: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Members at Large (elect or acclaim)

President: Angela van der Loop

Vice President: Jessica Bueckert

Treasurer: Lori Wolfe

Secretary: Choose a Recording Person for Each meeting

Financial Auditors: Julie Windebank and Nora Holben

Motion to approve the new executive: Julie Windebank, All in favour

-Signing Authority Change: (motion to remove and replace)

- e. Motion to remove Cheyenne Gouda and Julie Windebank from the signing authority and add Lori Wolfe and Angela van der Loop to have signing authority. Motioned by Nora Holben.All in favour

9. Next meeting date: November 28, 2024

10. Meeting adjourned at: 8:10pm

Action items:

- Casino Spending plan for the 24-25 school year.