

# Wheatland Elementary Parent Advisory Council Meeting

November 20th, 2019

## Attendance:

Amy Van Vliet  
Michelle Rushford  
Nicole Gordon  
Angie Boyd  
Melissa Piche

David Porter  
Sheri Porter  
Jenny Bakken  
Danna Hanni

Meeting called to order at 6:09 by Nicole Gordon

## **Approval of previous minutes**

Motion by Melissa

Second by Angie

All in favour. Motion passed

## **Principal's report**

### Amy Van Vliet

- they would normally be presenting the school's 3-year education plan at this time of year, but it's not ready. The government has just released what it would like to see in the plans on Friday, so Amy and Michelle have not had a chance since then to get it done. They will release it when it is ready (post on the website, etc)
- parent teacher interviews will be next week (Nov. 27 & 28). Information about those will be going home with the report cards that go home tomorrow (Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>)

### Michelle Rushford

- the We Scare Hunger campaign was very successful. The Food Bank informed the school that they broke a weight record for food items.
  - the campaign supports two organizations: The Wheatland County Food Bank and the Strathmore and District Christmas Hamper Society. All food items are donated to the Food Bank, and the hygiene and wish list items are donated to the Christmas Hamper Society. Both of the organizations were very appreciative.
  - Strathmore Ford partners with the school on the campaign. Strathmore Ford donated \$1000.00 to the school. The school put that money towards the School Fuel program and the Hot Lunch program (to provide hot lunch for students who may not be able to afford it otherwise)
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- Wheatland hosted a volleyball tournament on Monday (Nov. 18). It was very successful. There were 17 teams from 7 schools at the tournament. The 4 Wheatland teams finished in the top 5. The comraderie and sportsmanship between the students from all schools in their interactions with each other was very impressive. When Michelle and Amy were at their admin meeting yesterday, principals from other schools commended Wheatland on how well the tournament was run.

Angie asked about information on the Council of Councils that was recently held (Wheatland PAC was not in attendance). Nicole had requested info on the meeting to share with us, and she spoke about a "Choice in Education Survey" that the Board will be making available. The idea of the survey is to remind the government that small/rural schools need extra funding in order to provide more choices to students. The link to the survey will be posted on our PAC page, and the school will share it from there. Nicole also spoke about how all school PACs will have to register with the Alberta School Councils. This could prove to be an issue because PACs that are registered are not allowed to fundraise, so if our PAC registers we would have to form a 2<sup>nd</sup> group dedicated to fundraising ("Friends of Wheatland").

A question was asked regarding Golden Hills' reaction to the government's budget. Amy said that principals have received some info from the Board regarding this. Golden Hills is not in the same position as CBE, so there will be no staffing cuts made. All schools in our Division were proactive with their budgeting for this year, so Wheatland is in good shape for this year. Changes may need to be made next year. Amy told us that a big difference between our Division and other School Divisions is that Golden Hills has site-based funding. This means that the Board gives money to individual schools that the admin at each school is responsible for spending/budgeting. This means that principals have more leeway as to how their funds are spent.

## **Reports from committees**

Hot Lunch – Angie

- Sept/Oct profit was \$706.49
- November profit was \$896.09

Treasurer's report – Angie

- \$15 321.62 in the account as of October 31st
- Casino account is at \$46 081.94 as of today (Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>)

Fundraising report - Melissa Piche

- The percentages that we got back from the stores was down from last year, but it was still a very successful fundraiser.
- \$148 325.00 in cards were sold.
- We got back \$12 323.50 from those sales
- \$9242.63 will go to Wheatland, and \$3080.88 will stay with PAC
- The gift cards have all been ordered and are on their way. It is possible that they will not arrive in time to be passed out at parent-teacher interviews on Nov. 27, but Melissa is hopeful that they will be ready in time. If not, she and Stephanie will arrange another time to be at the school to pass out the cards.
- Names of students who participated in the fundraiser will be put into a draw for various prizes. Melissa got a few new prizes this year from the Town of Strathmore (free swim, free skate, etc). The draw for the prizes will take place at the assembly on November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be a pizza party awarded to the top selling home room in both Div I and Div II. The pizza parties need to take place before Christmas break
- The movie party will be taking place on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>. Melissa will come up with 3 possible movies and present the choices to the Student Leadership Council. The Student Council will vote on the movie that will be shown.

## **Old business**

We quickly discussed the feminine hygiene project brought forward by Angie and Stephanie at the September meeting. Angie indicated that they have decided to just go ahead and support Michelle financially in what she is already doing.

The idea of doing a live-feed broadcast of the PAC meetings was brought forward at the September meeting. We will not be going ahead with that idea.

Picture Day – it was suggested that in the future Picture Day be scheduled on a day when Mrs. Shearer is not working so that they don't need to worry about gym on

that day. Amy stated that they had no choice in the date for this year, but will definitely try to schedule it for a better day next year.

The PAC executive (all except Sheri, who was unable to be there) met with the Wheatland staff at their October staff meeting. The staff indicated that they appreciated being presented with the budget that was made up for the year.

### **New business**

Historically, PAC has provided supper for staff for the first night of parent-teacher interviews. This will be Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> this year. \$250 has been approved in our budget for this expense. The hope is to provide enough food for the first night and have leftovers for the next day. In the past PAC has provided wraps, or subs, or chili, etc. Melissa has volunteered to coordinate.

Christmas Raffle baskets at the concert

- We don't want to do another 50/50 at the concert for a variety of reasons (having to follow the AGLC rules and regulations was very stressful last time)
- Instead, Nicole and Angie have discussed raffling off Christmas baskets at the concert. Candy canes will be sold, and with each candy cane sale the buyer will receive a complimentary raffle ticket.
- The draws for the baskets will be made at the end of the evening concert, and the baskets will have to be picked up the next day
- Nicole plans to advertise on social media leading up to the concert

Winter Carnival – not happening this year, so PAC will not need to provide the hot chocolate like we normally do.

Susan Shearer would like PAC's help to resurrect the BOKS program. This program ran on Tuesday and Thursday mornings before school. It is a program that encourages active living in kids. If the program were to start up again, it would run from 7:45am-8:15am on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from January to May. At least 4 parent volunteers plus one staff member need to be available to help run the program each morning. Nicole plans to send out an email to gauge parent interest.

The Family Appreciation Dance is going to be scheduled tentatively for Feb. 7, with Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> being an alternate date. We need to confirm with Mike Smith that he is available to DJ on either of those dates before a final decision is made. The dance will be provided for families free of charge, including a free meal for each person (a hot dog, bag of chips, etc). All expenses for the dance will come out of PAC's budget. Melissa and Stephanie have agreed to coordinate the dance again this year.

Preventative Lice Check – Angie

- Scheduled for Jan. 15th
- Need volunteers for that morning

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 by Nicole Gordon

### **Casino meeting**

Meeting called to order at 7:09pm by Nicole Gordon

Nothing to report

Meeting adjourned at 7:09pm by Nicole

Next meeting: February 26th, 2020 at 6:00pm at Wheatland Elementary School

These minutes are considered to be a true and accurate account of the meeting discussions. Any errors or omissions must be reported to the Secretary before the next meeting.