

# Big Rock Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Oct 18th, 2023

**In Attendance:** Charlotte Miller (Chair), Sarah Landmark (Vice Chair), Krysta Babcock (Treasurer), Roxanne Litwin (Secretary), Mr. Scott Carey (Principle), Tammi Andrew (Vice Principal), Sharon Nichols/Lisa Penzo (Trustee), Anna/Jessica (Teacher Rep)

**Parents in Attendance:** Lindsay, Ashley, Amy, Tammy, Sherri, Dusty, Jess

**Absent:** none

Call to order 1831 MST

1. Introductions for all in attendance
2. **Report from School Board Trustee:**
  - a. **Updates:** For up-to-date information visit [foothillsschooldivision.ca](http://foothillsschooldivision.ca). Review [Footnotes](#) document for Oct 2023 or contact at [communications@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:communications@fsd38.ab.ca) for questions.
  - b. **Full time Kindergarten Advocacy:** looking to have Alberta Education Funded full-time kindergarten across province, looking for parents to give feedback.
  - c. **Staff Advisory Day:** Review book "*Teacher, Take Care*". Speaker spoke about how children's mental health is getting better, but that this may be at the cost of teachers. Awareness is important.
  - d. **COS Meeting:** Oct 24<sup>th</sup> with MLA RJ Siguartson – Remote, Sarah and Tammy to attend
  - e. **New Curriculum:** Engagement process for upcoming Social Studies curriculum has completed. Looking for parent consultation in phase 1. Click [Here](#) to participate. Science is implemented.
  - f. **New Okotoks High School:** Planning stage has been approved and site has been approved. Final approval expected Feb 2024. Requested that interested parents send letters to MLA to ensure final project approval. Click [Here](#) for sample letter. It was noted that there has been a change to how school capacity is calculated to allow for more learning spaces that are multiuse.
  - g. **Transportation Funding:** 13-16 more buses are required to meet the updated busing distances. There is currently no additional money in the budget to cover this, but we are looking to borrow against future funding.
  - h. **Recent Motions Passed:** *School Reconfiguration Report* - to balance utilization of schools in our district. Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 is requested deadline for plans/ideas from divisions.
  - i. **Idea:** Print off forms for parents to sign in person at meetings for advocacy items

\*\*Please note that Sharon attends all meetings with us. If parents want to come and speak to her to have their say.

3. **Report From Big Rock School Staff:**
  - a. **Questions for school:**
    - i. Christmas Concert this year? Yes. Date is Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 2023. Carnival/Christmas theme to allow for flexibility in viewing, and extra activities. Students to facilitate carnival stations.
      1. Fundraising opportunities for council? VIP chairs/recliners, parking suggested.
    - ii. What happens with Recyclables? Logistical issues, paper and plastic currently being recycled. Can parent council help to collect so that funds can be kept.
    - iii. Extracurricular activities – availability? Sports (grade 6) cross country wrapping up and basketball starting soon, clubs (harry potter, ASL, they are communicated to students in class but not notified to parents). Teacher must be present so it can be hard for after school opportunities.

- iv. Supporting complex needs families? Learning coach (Gord) and Tammi assists to support teachers, do mini groups, testing, and individual student supports. Will be working with counselor this year to shore up learning and supports.
  - 1. Universal supports – used with all students.
  - 2. Targeted supports (class/school) – using small groups.
  - 3. Individual supports – specific for a student.
  - 4. Collaborative response meeting monthly, teachers can bring up struggles and work as a team to support students.
  - 5. Bi-weekly meetings for teachers to meet and discuss topics.
  - 6. EA support is more focused on 1:1 and has changed over the years. 5.5 for division. PUFF funding has changed. Puff funding is now strategically used based on the support needed for students.
- v. Corresponding home? Will discuss with teachers.
- b. **Updates:**
  - i. Wellness with teachers is being advocated, and there is a lot of excitement going into this year.
  - ii. Bussing – with new bussing radius, parking extra busses is creating space issues. Requesting parents to be mindful of parking in front of the school and in front of the cross walks.
  - iii. Funding for classrooms – superintendent involved, adopt a classroom (working title) idea to give the class a budget to allow flexibility for students to budget and purchase items that are the biggest priority for them. Foundation being created by school division to organize this.
- c. **Curriculum Updates:** n/a
- d. **New Processes:** n/a
- e. **Teacher Requests:** feeling very supported by parent council.
  - i. **Student matters:** hoping to get reps from grades 4-6 will rotate students sent.
  - ii. **Patrollers:** can we call bylaw to oversee our zone? Idea to open more points of entry to yard for drop off.
- 4. **Report From Parent Council:**
  - a. **Hot Lunch:** very successful this year so far and going smoothly. Hot dog lunch was a success. No issues with vendors. Room for student volunteers. Fridays for kindergarten x 1 day for December.
  - b. **Merch Sales:** lots of orders coming in, vendors easy to work with, (more variety and time to buy requested).
  - c. **Class rep's:** lots of parents at meeting today, council to get list of representatives for each grade.
  - d. **Christmas fundraisers:** fudge, poinsettias, Revel Bean. Idea: advertise that all funds are for the classrooms and kids.
  - e. **Christmas Treat:** provide hot choc for caroling? Silent auction? Family dance? Big Rock's birthday? Popcorn? Door contest? Gingerbread (box) house for show at Xmas carnival? Bulletin board Xmas contest?
  - f. **Budget Updates:** we do not yet have access to account to review. Issue with ATB is in the works. Most bills come at the end of the school year so this may be reason for discrepancies. We have ability to pay bills, just not review specific items.
  - g. **Budget Review for this year:** Teacher allocations will be reassessed to put funds in other areas. We are still over our budget; fundraising will again need to be priority. If we cut funding for field trips, how would parents feel about a slight increase to fees? Babysitting removed, will attempt to get volunteers. Volunteer tea – will now be potluck style to save \$. Looking for donations for hot chocolate. We need approx. 2,000 in revenue for the year. However, this means issues for next year. Raz kids Plus subsidy \$500-600 USD will stay. Casino – Tammy still hoping to have, next date is 2025.
- 5. **Questions:**
  - a. **Little pantry updates?** going to start with grade 4s – in the works.

Next meeting Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023. Meeting ended 2053 MST

