

# Big Rock Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 (Trustee), Leah Powell (Teacher Rep)

**Parents in Attendance:** Dusty, Tammy, Ashley, Joseph

**Absent:** none

Call to order 1832 MST

1. Introductions for all new members
2. **Report from School Board Trustee:**
  - a. **Updates:** For up-to-date information visit [foothillsschooldivision.ca](http://foothillsschooldivision.ca). Review [Footnotes](#) document for sept 2023 or contact at [communications@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:communications@fsd38.ab.ca) for questions.
  - b. **New Curriculum:** Engagement process for upcoming Social Studies curriculum has started. Looking for parent consultation in phase 1. Click [Here](#) to participate.
  - c. **New Administrative procedure:** Community stakeholders are asked to be mindful of contacting school. Expected available hours are 0630-1830 to allow for personal time.
  - d. **New Okotoks High School:** Planning stage has been approved and land is being surveyed for possible use. Decision expected Feb 2024. Requested that interested parents send letters to MLA to ensure final project approval. Click [Here](#) for sample letter.
  - e. **Transportation Funding:** 10 more buses are required to meet the updated busing distances. There is currently no additional money in the budget to cover this.
  - f. **Recent Motions Passed:** *School Reconfiguration Report* - to balance utilization of schools in our district. Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 is requested deadline.

\*\*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. **Community Engagement:** this year going well, new teachers acclimating well.
  - b. **Updates:**
    - i. 2 learner report periods this year. A narrative style will be used to communicate the child's learning, documented monthly. Teachers are having education Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> for this. They are also using Dojo and other methods for increased communication with families.
  - c. **Curriculum Updates:**
    - i. The new Science Curriculum is being implemented now.
    - ii. The new Social Studies Curriculum is pending teacher and parent engagement.
  - d. **New Processes:** Teachers will now meet as a group to collaborate on new ideas and improvements. This time is set aside during their working hours. This includes a new collaborative response meeting to go over resources for students who require additional support.
  - e. **Teacher Requests:**
    - i. Teacher at Westmount school has reached out to us to see if we are interested in being involved in "Little Free Pantry" project. **Idea:** get a class/students involved by being "in charge" of the pantry for a specific month.

- ii. Requesting funding from council for 5 licenses for Rax+, a reading resource. Pending quote. The estimate is \$175/class.
- iii. Requesting funding for NEW bulletin board paper. Special paper required because the school has updated Fire Code items. This helps keep insurance costs lower. The expectation is \$500-1000/teacher/year on average.

4. **Report From Parent Council:**

**Budget:** Going into this year, the balance was thought to be \$17,391.20. However, Current balance in bank is \$5,603.77. **Krysta** is getting the books on Monday for review and will investigate discrepancy. May be billing delays from vendors.

**Priorities This Term:**

Fundraising: We will do a mid-year budget view to reassess allocations.

-Going ahead: Teacher allocations, Turkey Trot (RFG donation), Christmas Door Party, Parent/Teacher Event Popcorn/Supply drive.

-Paused: Field trip donations (for bussing). All events planned for New Year.

-Fundraising Points: Want to ensure - no contracts, no minimum order required, small local businesses are used to increase community connections, variety of costs for all financial levels.

-Vendors/Ideas: Kernels - popcorn, Hello Amino – baking, Revel Bean – coffee, Growing Smiles – poinsettias (maybe), Hot lunch – ordering starts Sep 21st, “In-House Hot Dog Day” monthly (top dogs) – request to do on kindergarten days, Cookie Dough (vendor name pending) Event, Bingo/Raffles/50-50, Hutterite chickens, Supply Drive – for teachers, **Sarah** has more ideas.

-ASCE grant – allocated for parent engagement. \$500

Parent Participation:

Teachers to support by requesting a class parent representative.

Parent council to give more direct communication of needs so parents know exactly what they are getting into.

Education that council meetings are not mandatory, are a good way to know what is going on, speak with school and trustee, no commitment to participate in events.

Virtual/Hybrid model requested – Council will investigate implementing.

Babysitting – looking to have available so more parents can join and bring their children.

5. **Questions:**

- a. Insurance Costs: Can we do our own insurance for the school? Answer: No. Additional info: While insurance costs have risen approximately 400% due to multiple disaster claims in our district, Trustees and school are working to reduce costs. They have advocated to the province for additional funding. Requesting parents attend MLA meeting with **RJ Sigurdson** on Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 1900-2000 MST at Westmount School.
- b. Why not charge more school fees? Advised this is not allowed due to government regulations.
- c. Will new extra communication requirements of staff take time away from teachers? It will not be done in class time, and is being built into regular time for teachers.