

## School Council Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by Scott Sherman

In attendance: Scott, Faye Holt, John Evans, Amy, Natalie, Lana, Chris Fuzessy, Yvonne (by phone), Marika (from Friends of Foothills, part of meeting)

### Friends of Foothills School Foundation Presentation

- New CRA registered foundation and Alberta society
- Arms length/independent from FSD
- Can be a resource for use, help apply for grants, provide additional funding for projects, etc
- Full powerpoint slides from presentation are attached
- 'Bang the Table' survey for school councils
  - o They would like us to go online and complete this (one survey per school council)
  - o Will wait until after Funding association meeting to complete in order to get their input as well
  - o Website is [foothillsfriends.ca](http://foothillsfriends.ca)

### Trustee Report – John Evans

- Previous question from us regarding any existing restrictions that can be relaxed for kids outside our boundaries (Vulcan county) coming to FSD?
  - o Answer from board: FSD can pick up additional kids, but they don't have a reciprocal transportation agreement with Palliser
  - o Chris input: they have had conversations about, for example, a "grey zone" of 2 km at the boundaries, but FSD may not break even if they have a deal like this, once they purchase additional bus and pay to staff the bus, might not be worth it for the number of additional kids it would bring to the school
- Additional funding from provincial government of 4.4% doesn't meet the needs due to inflation
- ASCA award for meeting with RJ Sigurdson as discussed last meeting
- [Agricultureforlife.ca/programs](http://Agricultureforlife.ca/programs) has resources on website
- Trauma-informed culture PD day sessions occurred in April
- Presentation from Dave Barton at board meeting
- Astrodome at Blackie School was great – John attended
- Alberta skills competition in Edmonton
  - o Make sure to get our kids involved once they get to high school
  - o Great opportunity
- Young Authors Conference
  - o Blackie School kids attended
- FSD is not piloting new social studies curriculum next year
  - o This is much appreciated by teachers

## Admin Report – Faye

- Trauma-informed learning sessions during PD days
  - o Many sessions led by FSD employees
  - o Will start shifting language at the school
    - Example: “recess” to “connection time”
- Literacy interventions/practices have been a main focus this year
  - o How to help kids next year
  - o Next year’s teachers are doing assessments with kids the previous year (now) so they can hit the ground running in September and not spend September doing these assessments
- Numeracy interventions/practices will be more of a focus next year
  - o Next year developing a plan for interventions
- Astrodome
  - o Appreciate that his programs are aligned to match curriculum objectives for the respective grades
- Assembly in was in May with a schoolyard garbage pick-up afterwards
  - o Creating cross-school connections
- Kindergarten open house the next two days
  - o 12 kinders registered for next year already
- Regional band next week
- Pioneer Ranch Camp
- Talent Show June 7
- Regional Band concert
  - o This year at Blackie, next year at Cayley (to alternate)
- Upcoming field trips (see emails from school for all dates)
- Lacrosse in PE June 20
- Last week of school is full of activities (see emails)

## Annual Education Results Report (AERR)

### Questions posed to Faye and Chris:

- How are we doing compared to other Schools within Alberta?
  - o Where are the Gaps in Learning?
  - o What specifically are teachers doing to correct these?
  - o What should parents be doing to fill in these gaps?
  - o How is this being communicated?
- How can teachers and parents improve the measured performance of Blackie School?
- How can we get access to timely information? The AERR on the school website was posted in November 2023.
- Parent Feedback / Gaps / Issues – Parents
- How can we be sure parent input is implemented in accordance with the Assurance Framework?
- Background from Chris
  - o AERR is a document that schools are asked to prepare

- Compilation of results from surveys (Provincial surveys, FSD surveys, some schools have their own independent surveys)
  - FSD has a 25-30% return rate from parents
  - FSD mostly asks the same questions as the government asks
    - Sends them to all parents (not just grades 4 and 7)
    - Also may add in region-specific questions, such as about grade configurations or boundary reviews to a certain area
  - FSD received results of last-years government survey today, it will be reviewed and sent to the schools for review
  - Government of Alberta moved from “accountability” framework to “assurance” framework
  - Studies student needs, teacher needs, and parent needs with strategies to improve
- John added
  - Province will give no answers or data back to FSD/schools if not enough participants from that school respond
  - This is one reason FSD also does their own assurance survey
- Scott added
  - The timing of the results is not ideal, data is already a year old by the time the results come back
- Faye went through the Blackie School Education Plan in more detail (can be found on website)
  - Starting 5 year rolling ed plan instead of 3 year
  - Goals will stay the same, the strategies to meet them will get tweaked/modified as needed
  - AERR reporting in November
    - Will use this to pull key insights, areas of strength, areas for growth, next steps
- Parent feedback
  - More counselling and mental health supports are needed at Blackie school
  - Some kids who need to speak with April are told they cannot because her workload is too heavy
  - Other kids who do get to speak with April do not have enough time
  - Faye answer:
    - We are getting slightly more time with April than we were last year (one extra day per month)
  - Chris added:
    - Increasing hours is not in the budget for next year
  - How do we get more funding for this? - focus on looking into other funding options
- Parent question on update on plan for CTF trailers
  - Answer: conversations are happening, not confident that there will be any provincial funding for it

- Scott suggestion for doing shop/industrial ed classes at Highwood on regional band days
  - o This will give kids more of an incentive to attend school on regional band days, in cases where that is an issue
  - o Already paying for transportation to the high school
- Faye answer: will look into this, may be issues with scheduling at the High School
- Chris added: Conversations are happening at divisional level of community/volunteer expertise to show kids CTF/Shop

Class sizes/configurations for next year

- K, 1, 2, 3/4, 5/6, 7/8
- Teachers will be figured out shortly

Grade 8 Grad Plans

- Gong well

STEM wraps up at UofC this weekend.

Scott asked for a monthly update from the funding association at the school council meetings for next year.

- Natalie agreed to do this

No June meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.

# School Council Presentation



1

## Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation



- What are we?
  - CRA-registered Foundation & Alberta Society
- Who are we?
  - Foothills community members
    - Voting members - Retired teachers, business owner, community members, FSD staff
    - Non-voting members – FSD trustee, FSD administration
- Relationship with FSD
  - Independent | Arms length – provided seed money toward operational costs

2

## Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation



- Vision
  - To remove financial barriers that impede academic success
- Mission
  - To build a community that empowers the students of Foothills School Division

3

## Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation



- What is the need?
  - Public funding from Alberta Education addresses basic education opportunities
  - Students will benefit from enhancements in their education
- We need to get your input
  - Personal presentation
  - Questions sent through 'Bang the Table'

4

## Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation



- What does our Foundation see as it's mandate?
  - Enhanced Learning Support
    - Every child can succeed when equipped with the right resources
    - Support for mental health, technology, psycho-education assessments
  - Emergency Relief for Families
    - Provide opportunities to level the playing field by offering equal opportunity & access
    - Assist students with emergent needs that prohibit them from participating fully in their education
  - Empower Flourishing Communities
    - Encourage & support students to engage in innovative projects that are self-sustaining, encourage community engagement, & environmental sustainability

5

## Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation



- Fund Development vs Fund Raising
  - Long term sustainability for the Foundation
  - Grants, endowments, donations, lottery funds
- Long term goal
  - To be fully sustainable within 5 years
  - To work collaboratively with Parent Councils to enhance educational success for our students

6

## Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation



- Projects
  - Picnic with a Purpose – George Lane Park, Sunday, June 9, 11:00am – 3:00pm
  - Children's Festival (Okotoks) – Saturday, June 15, 11:30am – 3pm
  - Golf Tournament – Tuesday, August 20, 2024, Highwood Golf, Shotgun at 1:00pm

7

## Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation



- Bang the Table Survey (List of Questions for Your Input)
  - This survey response is for the following School Council
  - How do you determine your funding priorities?
  - What are the three greatest needs within your school, besides human resources, that you could address if you had the funds?
  - For what needs is your School Council currently raising funds? How are you fundraising in the year?
  - What are the biggest obstacles you encounter when trying to raise funds?
  - How do you see FFSF supporting your School Council?

8

## Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation

- The Process
- Go to website: <https://www.foothillsschooldivision.ca/foothillsfriends>
- Click on – FSD Public & Community Engagements, View open engagements

**FSD Public & Community Engagements**

Community engagement support our pursuit of responsive education that's inclusive of the needs and expectations of our community.

[View open engagements](#)

9

## Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation

- On the Community Engagement Page – Click 'View Project'



April 12, 2024

**Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation**

We are a CRA-registered foundation and a society in Alberta. Our membership consists of community...

[View Project](#)

10

## Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation

- On the Community Engagement Page for the Friends of Foothills Foundation – Click 'Take the Survey'

**FFSF 2024 Priorities**

[TAKE SURVEY](#)

- Sign in or create an account for your school council
- Complete the survey
- You can also put: <https://fsdconnect.com/ffsf> into a browser which takes you directly to the survey page

11

## Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation

- Web Site
  - [foothillsfriends.ca](https://foothillsfriends.ca)
- Contact the Foundation
  - [hello@foothillsfriends.ca](mailto:hello@foothillsfriends.ca)
  - 403.422.0274



[fsdconnect.com/FFSF](https://fsdconnect.com/FFSF)

12