

Blackie School Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday May 24, 2023

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

In Attendance:

John Evans, Chase Ellis, Faye Holt, Scott Sherman, Yvonne, Rachel, Natalie, Eran, Carmen, Amy, Lana

Introductions and Introduction to Faye Holt (new principal)

Trustee Report – John Evans

- Board meeting next week
- Going to propose that once per year the trustee from High River will come to one of the meetings to visit the feeder schools and he will visit them once per year
  - o May start next year
- Ideas That Make Cents still up on website for parents to give feedback
- Advocacy letter up that we can download and fill in for our MLAs, etc
  - o Focus on equal opportunities for rural schools
- MELT training for bus drivers gone
  - o FSD training goes above and beyond this training anyways
    - But less time consuming because it is not 1:1 training, can train multiple drivers at once
- Heritage Heights hosting an event on June 7 @ 6:30pm that anyone can sign up for
  - o Using their \$500 parent council engagement money
- Skills Alberta happened in Edmonton
  - o Carpentry, foods, computers, welding
  - o FSD representation did well

Administration Report – Chase Ellis

- Mustangs Expo Day for grade 7/8 at Highwood High happened
- Today started with transition meeting for grade 8s, comprehensive transition plan
- Thank you to everyone who supported bottle drive to help pay for camp
- Camp for 7/8s last week Tuesday-Thursday
  - o Amazing experience for kids
  - o Feedback: could have been 1 day longer for kids
- June 2: grade 1 and 2-3 zoo trip
- June 7: year end 6-8 band tour
  - o Perform at Blackie then at Cayley
  - o Pool in afternoon
- June 9: grade 3-4 Heritage Park
- Grade 1 and 2-3 Bar U trip
- June 15 Grade 8 Farewell
- Sports Day June 28
- Vulcan Pool June 29

- In link skating in June at rink
- Grade Configurations for Next Year
  - o Enrollment growing
  - o For now in JK – 10 registered, 3 maybes
  - o Kindergarten – 8 registered, 2 maybes
  - o Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3-4, Grade 5-6, Grade 7-8
- Issues with Palliser kids in Vulcan County not qualifying for busing to come to Blackie
  - o Been getting more difficult over the years
  - o Getting stricter on school boundaries
  - o Parent Comments
    - Parents want to come to Blackie because it is much closer for them but don't qualify for busing
    - Realtors are selling properties just over the boundary using newly upgraded school in Blackie as selling feature and then parents find out after purchasing that they can't get busing
- No other school needs or school council projects requiring funding at the moment

#### Pioneer Ranch Camp Recap

- Next year we would need to do more fundraising than this year in order to make it work

#### Blackie School Facebook Group Followup

- Lana made admin

#### Band Next Year Followup – Scott

- Some grade 7/8s not loving band
- Parents feel the school needs to be more flexible on approach to teaching music
  - o Both in terms of the type of music being played and the type of instruments
  - o Needs to be a shift in priorities for band program – less about setting kids up to do well as future musicians and more about improving participation among kids now
- Chase says no grade 5 band anymore, 4 years of band is too much for some kids
- Parent Feedback: low priority of music in lower grades might be contributing as well
  - o Chase says may have Freya Longland working on music for grades 1-5 next year

#### ASCA Conference Follow-up from April 21-23 (Natalie went to conference)

- Brought back and discussed information about parent engagement in schools
  - o More information from Keynote Speaker at conference
    - [www.debbiepushor.ca](http://www.debbiepushor.ca)
    - Podcast: School Interrupted
    - <https://parent-engagement.ca/resources/>
  - o information shared about Ever Active Schools and Alberta Medical Association sponsored Youth Run Club
    - free program
    - if school is interested in holding fun runs, etc

- <https://everactive.org/projects/ama-yrca/>
- handout from Stand For Education with public education questions to ask election candidates

#### Hockey Program Follow-up – Carmen

- No budget for program according to FSD
- They may look into it for High River (for combined schools using High River arena)

#### Renting Community Areas of the School During the Summer

- Currently calling and booking through facility services for the summer
- They are looking at getting an online booking system set up in the future

Next meeting Wednesday September 20, 2023 at 6:30pm - AGM to be held in October.

Meeting Adjourned