

Parkland PAC Monthly Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 10, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

In Attendance: Leah Austin, Jill Burres, Kristy Rose, Natasha Whitten, Madison Jenneson, Lanessa Giesbrecht, Matt Burres, Robbie Austin, Chad Anderson, Jeff Lekstrom, Steve Biegel, Amanda Coutts, Veronika Bullock, Katelyn Dessfosses, Kaylea Mikkelson, Serena Brent, Tanille Jessen, Laura Joyce, Matt Austin, Adina Clemmer, Shelby Clemmer, Wade Similik, Matt Austin.

Acceptance of May Agenda: Jill approves

Acceptance of April Minutes: Natasha Whitten approves.

We would like to thank and acknowledge that we share this territory with the people of Treaty 8. The traditional meeting grounds, gathering place and traveling route of the Cree, Dene, Beaver, Dane-Zea and Metis people.

Principal's report (Kristy Rose):

- Primaries booked for Gymnastics June 6 and 8. Cost is \$525 for both days and both classes.
 - Natasha and Madison vote for PAC to pay for gymnastics.
- We've been doing fundraisers at the school for Gwillim. Bake sale and lemonade stand so far and Friday having a can drive.
- June 9 – We're having an Agriculture Safety day. Working with Don Manson. Mcleod and Devereaux also coming that day. There will be different different stations, lawn mower safety, animal safety, tractor, PTO, gun safety, chemical or ATV. Hoping PAC is going to help with lunch. 260 people. Need to make a plan for prepping food.
- June 23 year end assembly and BBQ hosted by PAC.
- We have two hot lunch and grade 7 hoody invoices.
- Art Gallery Youth Art Exhibit this Friday at 730pm.

Chad Anderson

- Travis Jones is the other Trustee.
- Will skip giving the monthly update. Our district has just completed a peer review to enhance student learning. To set strategic plans for students' success. Completion rates have dropped slightly. Working on closing the gap between Indigenous Education graduation rates.
- Ministry is impressed with our Districts data management for reading, writing, math.
- Board sets the policy – provincial statute and regulations.
 - Madison – How often are you updating them?
 - Chad – went through a lot of them in 2018. Pandemic has slowed it down a bit. Try to get through the policy book every 4 years. District Policies are generally readable. On the district website under Board Policies.
 - Natasha – If we change our PAC policy do we need to get approved?

- Chad – No. You do have a fair amount of leeway. When new policies come out your Board of Trustee will bring them out.
- One big battle we're fighting – Not enough people to fill spaces. Great programs available.
- Indigenous Education department underspends each year.

Leah

- Going to review PAC bylaws. Haven't been done since 2003.
- Blueberry fundraiser – raised \$1370. Sold 241 plants.
- Gravel fundraiser – 2 loads of gravel that will be delivered in Farmington. \$10 a ticket. June 7th draw date. Will do a big thank you to Peace View Colony. Approx \$900 value.

Madison

- Please don't talk about specifics. Respect the confidentiality of the people involved. What the school is doing?
- Jeff
 - Discussion on plan for May & June for school bus operations. Schedule below for dates when operating.
 - Discuss process for dealing with Bullying or Harassment on school buses. ZERO Tolerance - contact the Bus Garage manager as these are taken very seriously.
 - Discussion of cameras on the buses – Safety and Security 5 or 6 cameras depending on the bus. What we use the cameras for and confidentiality of the footage, Cameras are for the Safety of the students and the drivers, we have GPS on our buses as well for safety.
 - Discussion on driver shortage, how many days this school year we have had routes cancelled due to no spare drivers.
 - Process for concerns with School bus drivers. Contact the School Bus Garage 250-782-2106. Ask for the manager, explain the concern and we address.
 - Handed out school bus schedule for May & June
 - Kaylea – Sometimes our kids tell us what they saw on the bus. What are you wanting to hear.
 - Jeff – If you're concerned, I want to hear about it. We want it safe. Same with Vaping, drinking, drugs. Once I get a concern, I talk with the driver, ask if they're aware.
 - Madison – I wasn't aware I could just call with my concerns. Maybe you should send out a reminder 2 times a year?
 - Jeff – We have a whole pamphlet that we send out each year.
 - Kristy – Usually put it welcome to kindergarten as well.
- We're looking to address the communication. Heard a lot from our kids or neighbours. Didn't hear anything from the school.
 - Shelby – I reported a bit of it. I was concerned. I was caught in the middle with confidentiality. We're all a close-knit community. But people have a right to know. It concerned me enough to let people know. Need more communication for the smaller things. Minor incidents.
 - Robbie – I agree. I think what bothers people, 40 of the students are aware of the situation and go and tell their parents. You can't just ignore the concerned

parents. We get nothing from the school, school board, we want to know that there is a concern. I remember getting in trouble, with parents in the principal's office. Anything to do with a threat we take quite seriously. We're getting all our info from grade 5s.

- Laura – Kids talk. Every kid is different. It's a game of telephone. I didn't find out for a week and a half.
- Natasha – Never got an email. At least let us know you're aware of the incident.
- Madison – Misinformation starts spreading when you're asking your kids about it. Not helpful for the situation to build that trust within the school community. The communication can be very broad.
- Katelyn – With effective communication turns a scary situation into a teachable situation. You need to be able to talk to your kids about these situations. I think there was a missed opportunity. But without communication it's impossible.
- Serena – Some kids that don't go to the school don't want to ride the bus. I had no idea this incident occurred.
- Steve – I felt more comfortable when I know the RCMP was involved. If my kids aren't behaving on the bus, I want to hear about it. It's frustrating when you hear from 10 different angles.
- Kristy – When we get reports like this, it triggers the VTRA (Violence Threat Risk Assessment). First is identify the threat, it's not just me deciding what happens next. We get all the facts and info together. Make sure school and bus are safe. Myself, District, bus, RCMP all decide we are safe. Can't go into detail about any of the details.
- Natasha – It would be nice to have a broad email. Just to let us know there was an incident.
- Matt – we're not wanting details; we want you to acknowledge that it happened. Seemed very brushed aside. This is alarming info, and we want to know it's being dealt with.
- Madison – The PAC looked through districts policies.
- Chad – Stories might have accelerated faster. The VRTA is more a provincial guideline. I can bring this back to the board. We do deal with the parents involved.
- Robbie – We didn't contact the school till the end of the week. Didn't hear anything so we contacted the school ourselves.
- Madison – Kids talk. Might be wise as a District to get in front of the issue. Get to the parents before the rumours spread.
- Chad – Was the letter sufficient?
- Madison – The PAC wrote a letter looking for more generalized info. VRTA is a tool. You'd have a policy for when that's implemented. It's a guideline. If this tool doesn't work, then what is your next step? We also asked the superintendent to attend the meeting. Would like a communication plan to be developed, so this doesn't happen again. Would be nice for the district to create a policy for this not to reoccur.
- Kristy – This is a student discipline policy. Generally, we don't report on student discipline.

- Shelby – Your parents were brought in when you got in trouble back in the day. We want to know that it's been dealt with. As long as the child has been taught that it was a wrong decision. We just want to know our kids are safe.
- Kristy – Absolutely. It has been dealt with.
- Jeff – when the driver contacts me, I will contact the principal and Wade. I will not be the person to communicate with you. The principal would be.
- Madison – Did everyone feel the letter suited their needs?
- Serena – I didn't receive anything because my kids don't go to this school. But they ride the bus.
- Madison – Should the community get the letter too?
- Chad – I will ask about this. Safer Schools can do a presentation for this group if you'd like.
- Natasha – I think if the RCMP are involved we should hear something within 3-4 days.
- Matt – We had to decide to keep our kids home from school. Need to know faster.
- Katelyn – There is a Critical Incident procedure but there's a big grey area when there's a semi critical incident. We need a new policy for that.
- Madison - Critical event description – An event that has a negative impact on the students and staff and interrupts the normal flow of daily events may be considered a critical event. It is usually associated with a traumatic loss or injury to someone close to the students.
- Laura – Has to have a serious event to activate the VRTA. If it goes that far, then that would trigger the parents needing to know. Especially if the RCMP are involved.
- Matt – We all knew there was some crazy event, not comforting at all when you hear nothing.
- Tanille – Turn it into an educational thing. Talk about bullying with your children.
- Robbie – Hopefully this is a learning tool for parents and the District. I still haven't heard anything. The student will be alienated when they come back to school.
- Madison – What are we supposed to tell our kids?
- Chad – What would you need?
- Madison – the school to initiate a meeting, to be proactive, info about bullying, messages to what to talk to your kids about. Materials before it gets to this point. Our community is trying to find a positive solution.
- Chad – I will take those points back and get better resolutions, timelines for communication. I'm glad a letter didn't go home every time my kids brought a pocket knife to school by accident. Once it starts to get enflamed you need to get parents informed.
- Madison – The VRTA is missing info for the broader community. Is this implemented often?
- Chad – I think it includes a wide range of incidents.
- Wade – Every VRTA goes through the system. Very individualized for each event. Happy to get better informed. Will bring back some info.

- Leah – I don't know that my child is safe. My daughter hasn't gone to school since.
- Robbie – If there is an unsafe situation at work, I need to remove my employees from the site and go step by step through the safety steps. I can't take someone's word for it. We need to hear specifics on how the situation has been handled.
- Madison – We need to be handed some tools to deal with threats.
- Matt – I would like to know if it was a toy gun or a real gun? That would be one deciding factor to feel it's safe to send my kids back to school.
- Laura – The letter the school sent didn't tell me anything.
- Robbie – It needs to be proven to me that it is safe.
- Katelyn – If this happened when we were kids it would be expulsion. Our for the rest of the year. Then the kid wouldn't be ridiculed either when they came back.
- Madison – Could have been prevented with earlier communication. As a parent how would you feel? I think the District needs to step up the support to the school. There are two main issues – communication piece and supporting document.
- Chad – I'll be happy to come back next PAC meeting or later in the week. I don't know what the rumors are.
- Leah – "Trust us, your child is safe." That isn't enough.
- Kaylea – Was helpful that the RCMP were involved. I was happy with that. Maybe even if cameras were added would help.
- Natasha – Would be nice to have something sent home about bullying.
- Jeff – It's not unusual for students to bring ammunition or knives to school.
- Natasha – We're all aware that could happen, so you can imagine how serious this event was.
- Jeff - May 16th bus schedule will come out.
- Madison – Is there an after-school program that could be implemented? I have to leave work at 1pm. For situations when the buses are not running.
- Chad – Ministry is looking at that. Before and after school care is arriving in a few places. It's a good question. We're contracting the YMCA.
- Madison – Does everyone feel heard?
- Leah – Heard is correct. Happy, no.
- Chad – Will come back to you at the end of the week, or early next week. I have never lost confidence in our staff.
- Katelyn – What's the distinction between personal confidentially or incident confidentiality?
- Chad – I don't have a good answer for that.
- Madison – It's liability. The school district covering themselves.

Serena

- May 1st was first SD59 Indigenous based studies NID – 470 people attended.
- June 21 – Indigenous Day – Kristy can submit activities into the council. Our award day is coming up too. Will come help hand out rewards.
- Any parent can come to District PAC. 6 meetings a year. If you want to become a voting member for the school. DPAC would love to have a Parkland member.

Next PAC Meeting will be June 7th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01pm