

# JEES PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2016

**1. Meeting Called to Order: Natasha Richards, 7:05PM**

PRESENT: Natasha Richards (**Chairperson**), Kristina Tanaka (**Vice-Chairperson**), Shauna Pauls (**Co-Treasurer**), Chelsie Pitcher (**Co-Treasurer, ELP Rep**), Shannon Little (**Secretary**), Sherrie Nickel (**Principal**), Debbie Laturus (**Trustee**), Cathy Martens, Paige Rauda, Jodi Jaspersen-Bratz, Denise Wickson, Jeremy Wickson, Tanya Johnson, Shay Isleifson, Kourtney Skipworth, Dena Michaelis, Amanda Allen.

Regrets: Esther Willms (**Trustee**), Kristi VanDoesburg (**Vice-Principal**), Carley Campbell (**Kindergarten Rep**), Sandra Smith

Absent: Naomi Lanz (**Parent Rep**)

**2. Welcome and Introductions**

**3. Approval of Agenda:** No additions. Chelsie 1st, Shauna 2nd. None Opposed. Carried.

**4. Approval of November 17, 2015 Minutes:** Approved. Shauna 1st, Cathy 2nd. None Opposed. Carried.

**5. Reports:**

**i. Trustee - Debbie** reported that a Gathering of School Councils was held in November 2015 at 3 locations: Lethbridge, Vulcan, and Calgary. A survey was sent out following the gathering with very positive results. The survey respondents would like to meet 2 times per year, meeting in their region groups before joining all 3 sites through video-conference.

- Class sizes in Palliser are still small overall. Palliser's average class size is below provincial guidelines in grades 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12 where Alberta Education suggests 23, 25, and 27 respectively. In K-3, the province suggests 17 and Palliser averages at 18.2. One area of concern is Jennie Emery Elementary School where the school is full and out of space despite the addition of 2 modular classrooms last fall. Administration will be looking at Palliser schools in Coaldale to see how the space can be better used.
- Grade 1 students in Palliser are showing strong early reading skills. About 62% of Grade 1 students are reading at or above expectations this fall (2015) compared to the previous year.
- In December 2015 a Palliser family was involved in a fatal car accident where the father and one of the children were killed. A Trust Fund at ATB Financial has been set up to help the family. Donations can be made at any ATB Financial branch.
- Dave Shaw presented a Transportation Accountability Report to the Board at their last board meeting. The "Think of Us On The Bus" campaign is in its 4th year, with con-

tinued support from law enforcement partners. Palliser purchased 8 additional camera systems bringing the total to 20 camera systems. Each of the 8 new units has 2 internal and 2 external cameras, complete with microphones. The cameras can be moved if needed. The plan is to outfit 7-10 busses per year.

- The Alberta Government has released guidelines for LGBTQ and is asking all Boards to adopt a code of conduct for student behaviour, to establish related policies to address LGBTQ, and to support students wishing to create a Gay-Straight Alliance or similar student club. The Board will be meeting on January 26, 2016, and will be developing its policy and procedures to comply with Alberta Ed's Guidelines For Best Practices. Drafts will be shared with stakeholders.
- Jeremy asked Debbie what the process is for the investigation into the allegations against the Superintendent. In response, Debbie indicated that the Board has put the Minister of Education in charge of the impartial review. The Board will be meeting with the Minister of Education on Thursday, January 28, 2016, to discuss the direction to take and then will proceed from there. There is a process that must be followed. Debbie will report to the JEES Parent Council as she is able.
- Jeremy also asked Debbie what the hiring process for teachers is. Debbie indicated that Ken Garinger is the person in HR responsible for hiring teachers and he can explain the process. She will also look into the hiring process and report back to Parent Council.

**ii. Principal - please see Sherrie's attached report.**

Update item:

1. Sherrie is looking to see if there is any money in the school budget to put towards a new stage and risers.

New Information:

6. After some discussion it was suggested that any monies donated towards updating the fish tank be handled by FJES and then parceled out accordingly. Sherrie will discuss some "donation" activity ideas with the school's Action Team.
8. There was general consensus among the Parent Council for the proposed January 31, 2017, PD Day.

**iii. Treasurer:** Shauna reported that the outstanding cheque for \$36.89 has cleared. The remaining \$30, 886.14 in the Parent Council account has been transferred to the FJES account leaving a \$0 balance in the Parent Council account.

**MOTION:** Shauna moved that the Parent Council bank account be closed. Chelsie seconded the motion. None opposed. Carried.

**6. New Business:** None to report at this time.

**7. Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 7:00PM. in the JEES Staff Room.

**8. Adjournment:** 7:53PM

# **Principal's Report**

## **January 19, 2015**

### **Update on agenda items from last meeting:**

1. Despite the lack of a stage and risers, the Christmas concerts were successful. Thank you to everyone that supported this.

### **New Information:**

1. With Nicole's departure from this group, we will now have a schedule for teachers to attend this meeting. Thank you to Cathy Martens for being here tonight.
2. We are excited to be hosting an FNMI Cultural Competency event on Thursday, January 21. Faye Heavy Shields and a group of dancers from the Blood reserve will be sharing their talent with all of our students. Grade level groups have all been scheduled for a 45-minute presentation. We are so honored to have this opportunity – and all at no cost to us.
3. Expect a mid-term progress report to come home on February 4. We felt like the time between report cards was too long without some "formal" communication, so a one-page synopsis of your child's progress in reading, writing and math will be forthcoming.
4. Elisabeth Keatings and I are happy to be presenting at the *Leader in Me Symposium* to be held in Calgary on February 2 & 3.
5. Please be mindful of the fact that we have had two children bring knives to school. No threats were ever made and on both occasions we have confiscated them. The policy is that the parents must come and get them.
6. We received a letter from parent Paul Jarvis that has been maintaining the fish tank. He wondered about asking every student in the school to bring a loonie in order to get a new fish tank or at least some updated supplies. My response to him was that I wanted to check with school council first before asking families for money. What are your thoughts?
7. Another alternative for fundraising in general might be a presentation from HOJA. The following is information shared with me by Debbie Young, on

behalf of Canadian School Presenters. A quick fact sheet about HOJA is attached.

HOJA offers fundraising presentations where we donate a percentage of the ticket sales to you (so there's no performance fee, it's just a revenue-split). As discussed, the school would realize 20% of the ticket sales. In order to make this viable, it would be necessary to have approximately 300 people in attendance. Suggested prices for these events are \$6 for students/children, \$10 for adults, or \$30 for a family.

Some schools have also found it beneficial to have a concession during the intermission or after the concert, with all proceeds from the concession going to the school.

8. A copy of the 2016-2017 calendar is available. The kindergarten teachers and central office staff have previewed it. One date to note: A site-based PD day is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31. I left it on the Tuesday as opposed to the Monday to support our Monday/Wednesday kindergarten programs, which are always short days. This could change. Any further feedback? The intent is for the board to approve all calendars at their March meeting.

## **FRIENDS OF JENNIE EMERY SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES**

**January 19, 2016**

**1. Meeting called to order:** Natasha Richards, 7:54PM

**PRESENT:** Natasha Richards (**Chairperson**), Kristina Tanaka (**Vice-Chairperson**), Shauna Pauls (**Treasurer**), Chelsie Pitcher (**Director**), Shannon Little (**Secretary**), Sherrie Nickel (**Principal**), Cathy Martens, Paige Rauda, Jodi Jasperson-Bratz, Denise Wickson, Jeremy Wickson, Tanya Johnson, Kourtney Skipworth, Amanda Allen.

**Regrets:** Kristi VanDoesburg (**Vice-Principal**), Carley Campbell, Sandra Smith

**2. Approval of Agenda:** No Additions. Paige 1st, Kristina 2nd. None Opposed. Carried.

**3. Approval of November 17, 2015 Minutes:** Jodi 1st, Kristina 2nd. None Opposed. Carried.

**4. Treasurer's Report:** please see Shauna's attached report. Shauna also reported that the Corporate Annual Report was sent in December (2015).

**5. Playground Committee:** On behalf of Sandra, Kristina reported that the Municipal Grant cheque is being processed, so upon its arrival the bill for BDI can be paid.

- The \$15,000 from the Lethbridge Community Foundation has not been returned back to the Playground fund from Palliser as of yet. Shauna will look into this.
- There has been email communication that the Playground fund will be receiving \$10,000 from the Richardson Foundation.
- A \$10,000 donation is forthcoming from the Kinette Club of Coaldale. They are just awaiting approval of their Casino funds from Alberta Lottery.
- Details are being finalized to apply for the Agrium Grant and the Bayer Grant.
- The CFEP Grant is being applied for again and recipients will be notified some time in June 2016.
- For the following reasons, the general consensus is to move the projected build date to September 2016: i) all bills for phase one of the build will be paid, ii) there will be a more clear financial picture at that time, iii) all Grant monies that have been applied for will have been awarded by that time, iv) there will be feedback on the softTile surface from the summer months when it is hot outside, v) the Play Program will be able to utilize the field and current playground during the summer months, vi) there is a possibility that with continued fundraising, softTile may be affordable for the second phase of the build as well.
- The goals for the next month are: i) to meet with the town of Coaldale, Palliser Operations, Mr. Wall and the "in-kind" companies that can advise on drainage for the field and what will be suitable and cost-effective landscaping, ii) continue to look for fun, cool, and new ways to raise funds for the Society.

**6. Movie Night:** Natasha reported that the event went well. It would be feasible to continue with the same format and month for next year.

**7. Christmas Concert Door Prizes:** Natasha reported that this event was successful. A 50/50 draw was added this year. The same format can be followed for next year's Christmas Concert.

**8. Teacher Appreciation Lunch:** Volunteers are secured and the menu is planned for the January 26th date. Jodi will prepare/organize the Lasagna, Caesar Salad, Strawberry or Mandarin Spinach Salad, and Dinner Rolls and Natasha will prepare/organize the Angel Food Cake for dessert. The Lunch will be served from 11:30am to 12:45pm.

**9. Pancake Brunch:** On behalf of Jodi Klassen, Sherrie reported that the BBQ is booked and the flour is ordered for the March 2, 2016 date. Wiebe's Sausage is currently undergoing renovations, so they have not been able to give a concrete answer as to what they would be willing to donate as of yet. Sherrie will put a sign-up sheet for volunteers in the office and a notice on the school web-site.

**10. New Business:** None to report at this time.

**11. Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016, in the JEES Staff Room, immediately following the JEES PC meeting.

**11. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:37PM



