

Battalion Park School Council Meeting

February 26th, 2025

Minutes

Call to Order (6:34 pm)

Attendees (13): All online due to CBE Strike. Access to CBE facilities is not possible during the strike.

Brian McKinnon, Kristi McKinnon, Ashli Johnson, Ateeque Patel, Michelle Atkins, Meela Gunawardena, Silvy Tsolaskis, Zhang Hua, Tyler Lipsett, Tai Man Hin, Trudi Tallerico, Lisa Wilson, Mike Gaudet

Land Acknowledgement

- We would like to acknowledge the traditional territories and oral practices of the Blackfoot Nations, which includes the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai. We also acknowledge the Tsuut'ina and Stoney Nakoda First Nations, the Métis Nation, and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

Introductions

- Please introduce yourself.

New Meeting Format

- To recap from our November meeting, according to the Alberta School Council Association, it advises that the roles of School Council and Parent Fundraising Associations be separate entities with distinct contexts for parent and community involvement in the school. At our November meeting, we approved this split which resulted in fundraising moving from School Council to the Signal Hill School Enhancement Society.
- Going forward, starting with tonight's meeting, our meetings will be split into two. The first half of the meeting will be for the School Council, where Council will be an advisory body to work with school administration and staff to promote the well-being and overall effectiveness of the school community in improvement planning.
- The second half of the meeting will be for Signal Hill School Enhancement Society's members meeting (also known as the Fundraising Association meeting) with the objective for parents and community members to provide additional financial resources and support to the school. The primary role is fundraising, therefore all fundraising activities will be with the Fundraising Association meetings.
- If school administration requests financial resources, it will be tabled in the Council meeting, and then motioned for in the Fundraising Association meeting.

Approval of Agenda for School Council Meeting

- **Motion** to approve the February 26, 2025, agenda.
- **1st – Ashli Johnson**
- **2nd – Ateeque Patel**
- **Motion passed.**

Approval of Minutes

- **Motion** to approve the January 16, 2025, minutes.
- **1st – Silvy Tzolaskis**
- **2nd – Ateeque Patel**
- **Motion passed.**

What is School Council

- Alberta Education defines school councils as a collective association of parents, secondary students, the principal, teachers, and community representative(s) whose purpose is to advise the principal and the Board of Trustees regarding matters related to the school.

Student Council

- The grade 6 leaders are planning:
 - o Veteran's Food Bank Drive – so far they have collected 45 items with our last day tomorrow, Thursday, Feb.27.
 - o The grade 6 leaders are interested in collecting ideas to help our environment. They are looking into collecting used markers and other plastic school equipment to recycle.
 - o March Gratitude Month – Students will write down someone they are grateful to or something they are grateful for on a four leaf clover. These will be displayed outside the gym over the month.

Executive Reports – Kristi & Brian McKinnon & Ateeque Patel

(6:35pm-6:45pm)

- Volunteers
 - o Current roles we are looking for are:
 - Vice Chair (starting September)
 - Secretary
 - Volunteer Coordinator
 - Parent Engagement
- Grade 6 Farewell
 - o Will be the afternoon of Thursday June 26.
 - o Looking for volunteers to participate in the Committee to help plan the event. Planning should begin after March break.
- Alberta School Council Engagement Grant
 - o We have received the \$500 grant, by ways of a gift card.
 - o These funds are to go towards enhancing parent involvement and engagement.

- o We are open to suggestions on how to spend, but initially we are thinking of using this grant to create an informational council sheet, translated in different languages to give out to new families attending Battalion Park School.
- o <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/school-councils/support-services>
- Add a May Council meeting
 - o To help facilitate any decisions or motions that are required for activities in June, we would like to add a May Council meeting.
 - o The best availability is Thursday May 22nd.
 - o **Motion** to add a Council meeting on Thursday May 22nd.
 - o **1st – Michelle Atkins**
 - o **2nd – Meela Gunawardena**
 - o **Motion passed.**

Key Communicator – Marija Ivanovic

- No update.

School Report – Principal Trudi Tallerico and Assistant Principal Lisa Wilson (6:45 pm-7:05 pm)

- School planning engagement video
 - o Highlights include:
 - Budget of \$3.8MM, 75% is staff salaries. Currently about 540 students. Once budget is allocated in the fall, it does not change if enrollment goes up or down. September enrollment was 517.
 - School Fees: field trips, In-School activities, Artist in Residence (School Council / Parent Society offer supports and subsidies in these areas).
 - more details can be found at [Battalion Park School Fees](#)
 - o Survey for families to complete by March 14.

Any Other Business (7:05 pm-7:10 pm)

Next Meeting

- Our next meeting will be on Thursday April 24th.

Adjourn (7:11 pm)

Signal Hill School Enhancement Society Members Meeting (Fundraising Association Meeting) February 26th, 2025 Minutes

Call to Order (7:12 pm)

Attendees (13): All online due to CBE Strike. Access to CBE facilities is not possible during the strike.

Brian McKinnon, Kristi McKinnon, Amber Harlal, Ashli Johnson, Michelle Atkins, Meela Gunawardena, Ruth Thorkelson, Tyler Lipsett, huyen phan, Trudi Tallerico, Lisa Wilson, Sunny

Approval of Agenda for School Council Meeting

- Motion to approve the February 26, 2025, agenda.
- **1st – Ruth Thorkelson**
- **2nd – Meela Gunawardena**
- **Motion passed.**

Approval of Minutes

- As this is our inaugural meeting, there are no minutes to approve.

Introductions

- Anyone new that was not in attendance at the Council meeting, please introduce yourself.

What is the Signal Hill School Enhancement Society

- Signal Hill School Enhancement Society ("SHSES") is a non-profit, registered charity that supports the educational needs of the students attending Battalion Park School through fundraising.
- The objective of SHSES (also known as the Fundraising Association) is for parents and community members to provide additional financial resources and support to the school.

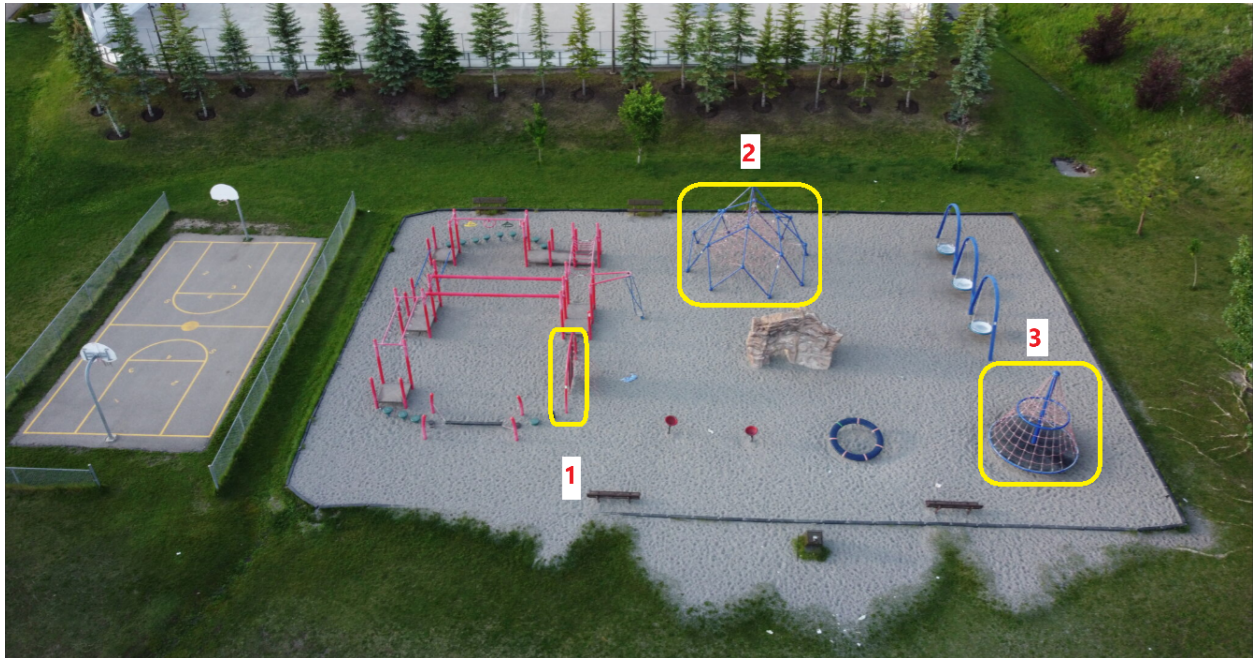
Executive Reports – Brian McKinnon (7:15pm-7:20pm)

- Volunteers
 - o Current roles we are looking for are:
 - Vice President
 - Playground Project (written communications, fundraising)
- Casino Update
 - o Next casino Oct-Dec 2025. Draw date to be provided in May 2025.
- Spirit Wear/school merchandise
 - o Next offering of school merchandise will be in March of 2025. Planning for March 3rd to 17th. New items will be offered!

- Veteran's Association Food Bank Drive
 - Student Council has offered to take on the food bank drive from the School Council.
 - In 2024, BPSC received financial donations totaling \$196.19 from our initial startup of the food bank drive. We will not proceed with the challenge with Griffith Woods, therefore raised funds will be donated.
- Financial Report
 - Funds available:
 - Casino \$60,247
 - Unrestricted (playground) \$13,695
 - General Fundraising \$21,954.45
 - These funds have been successfully moved from the ATB BPSC Account and a new Community Account at ATB for SHSES has been opened.
 - Activity:
 - Teacher First Aid Reimbursement (\$98.12)
 - School Family Christmas Gift Cards (\$300)
 - Insurance (\$1,203)
 - Healthy Hunger December sales \$297.95
 - Healthy Hunger January sales \$623.44
- Playground Project
 - First grant application was sent off this week! To Kal Tire RePlay for recycled rubber surfacing. Potentially received \$15-\$20K in funds. Actual cost to install rubber surfacing is approximately \$120,000.
 - Rubber surfacing statistics for the mini playground:
 - 5,200 square feet / 480m²
 - Will require 76,000 pounds / 34,500 kg of rubber surfacing.
 - Works out to be 2,200 recycled tires.
 - We have received a first draft of our business plan from KJ Street Consulting. This will accompany large grant applications.
 - Currently reviewing possible grants to apply for with Q1 application deadlines.
 - We have received letters of support from our Community Association and City Councillor, and we are expecting to receive a letter of support from our MLA and possibly our MP. Letters of support are used to help enhance our chances of obtaining grants.
 - **Discussion:** Core playground rope status and pea gravel cleanup event.
 - Images shown of the three rope structures affected in the Core playground (Beehive, Apollo and Red Planar)

**Battalion Park School Council / Signal Hill School Enhancement Society Meeting –
Weds. Feb. 26, 2025**

Status of the Core playground rope structures:



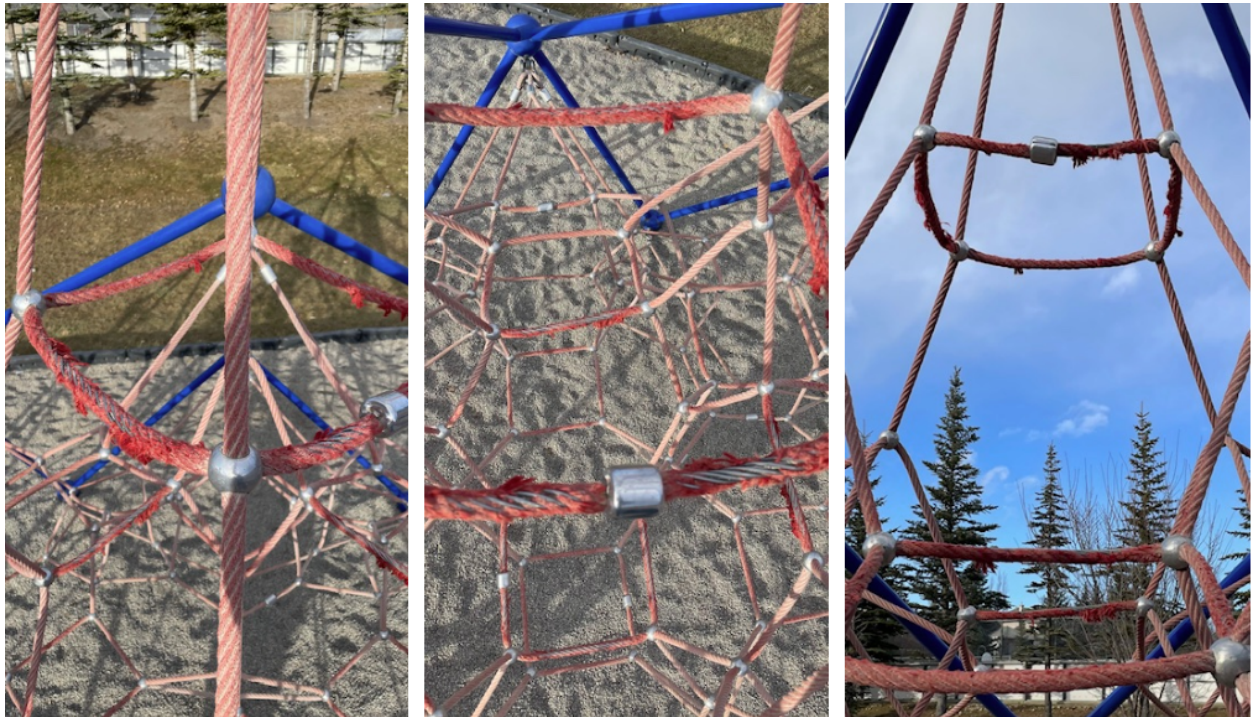
1 – “Red Planar” - popular for the “floor is lava games”.

2 – “Beehive” – older grades play on the higher levels, with smaller students playing on the lower levels.

3 – “Apollo” – all children play on this moving piece of equipment

Structures 1&3 can be replaced at any time for \$8995 + GST. Structure 2 does not have a current design. Anticipated in 2 years.

Examples of the “Beehive” rope fraying exposing the cable.



- Q from Amber Harlal:
 - **Can the rope replacement be covered by Casino funds?**
 - A: Yes, but all available Casino funds remaining from 2023 Casino proceeds and a large portion of the 2025 Casino proceeds are being directed towards the Mini playground replacement in 2026.
- Q from Ashli Johnson:
 - **Will the metal equipment need replacing in 5-7 years if we replace the rope now (cost of \$10-20K)?**
 - A: CBE says the structure is deemed fine and may last longer than 7 years.
- Q from Michelle Atkins:
 - **Can we just replace the rope and not replace the rope structures when the Core playground gets replaced? (replacing all structures except the rope structures)**
 - A: Possible but any changes 5 years later to the rope structures would affect the integrity and warranty of the proposed pour-in-place rubber surfacing. Another reason

is that metal fatigue will be that much greater over time. Unpredictable how that will fare. Assessment would be crucial at time.

Committee Reports (7:20 pm-7:30 pm)

Fundraising Committee Update – Amber Harlal & Meela Gunawardena

- Nothing currently planned for Q1 2025.
 - Real concern over fundraising fatigue. Many families also get asked to support sports, music and art fundraisers their children participate in.
- Looking Ahead:
 - 50/50 Draw at the Spring Concert - Thursday May 1.
 - Spring Bottle Drive - after May long weekend 2025.
 - Spring Flower Fundraiser - Sales will launch April 21. Deadline to order will be May 15 at 5pm. Delivery will be May 30.
 - Possible Texas donut fundraiser in June. (possible June 12 or 19)
- Ongoing Passive Fundraisers:
 - **Mabel's Labels** - Currently a balance of \$27.43.
 - **Skip the Depot** - Currently a balance of \$96.27.

Social Committee – Silvy Tsolaskis & Jessica Charney

- Skating party tomorrow night has been cancelled.

Healthy Hunger Lunch/Snacks (HHLS) Committee – Ruth Thorkelson & Roda Calacasan

- Online dates have been released to the end of March.
- April to June dates have been confirmed with the vendors.

Any Other Business (7:30 pm)

Next Meeting

- No meeting in March due to spring break.
- Next meeting will be on Thursday April 24th.

Adjourn (7:43 pm)