Battalion Park School Council Meeting
January 16th, 2025
Minutes

Call to Order (6:30 pm-7:30 pm) - Start time 6:36

Attendees:
In person (8): Brian McKinnon, Kristi McKinnon, Marija Ivanovic, Ateeque Patel, Jessica Charney, Lisa Wilson, Trudi Tallerico, Patricia Bolger

Remote (9): Michelle Atkins, Silvy Tsolakis, Meela Gunawardena., Peter Wares, Heidi Friesen, Mike Gaudet, Ashli Johnson, Nicole, Roda Calasasan

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.
- Online attendees can view the agenda at https://bpschoolcouncil.ca/

Approval of Agenda for School Council Meeting
- Motion to approve the January 16, 2025, agenda.
- **1st – Marija Ivanovic**
- **2nd – Jessica Charney**
- **Motion passed.**

Approval of Minutes
- Motion to approve the November 20, 2024, minutes.
- **1st – Jessica Charney**
- **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.
- 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.

Welcome CBE Trustee Patricia Bolger!
Discussion included:

- CBE has 251 schools, 34 of which are in overflow status, 30% of schools are English as Additional Language (EAL). CBE website holds a wealth of resources for families.
- How to engage parents with high EAL? Gathering ideas.
- Advice for schools (parent council and societies) tasked with replacing playgrounds.
- Snow removal & who is responsible to clear pathways and stairs as conditions are dangerous.

Student Council

- Our Mustard Seed donation drive was a huge success! We were thrilled to fill TWO donation bins.
- Upcoming ideas include: supporting the Veterans Association Food Bank drive in February and collecting dried markers around Earth Day.

Executive Reports – **Kristi & Brian McKinnon** (7:00pm-7:10pm)

- Vice Chair position
    - As mentioned in our November meeting, due to work obligations, our current Vice Chair, Leila Mehrabi, had to step aside.
    - Ateeque Patel, has graciously stepped up to be our new Vice Chair!
    - **Motion to approve Ateeque Patel as our new Vice Chair.**
    - **1st – Marija Ivanovic**
    - **2nd – Jessica Charney**
    - **Motion passed.**

- Volunteers
    - Current roles we are looking for are:
        - Vice Chair (starting September)
        - Secretary
        - Volunteer Coordinator
        - Parent Engagement
- Senior Centre holiday artwork
    - Michelle Atkins coordinated student art collection.
    - The senior's centre provided photos of the happy residents enjoying the artwork!
- Spirit Wear/school merchandise
    - Next offering of school merchandise will be in March of 2025.
    - request for more ball caps and toques.

- Grade 6 Farewell
    - Will be the last week of June. Possible dates are June 23-25.
    - Looking for volunteers to participate in the Committee to help plan the event.
- Alberta School Council Engagement Grant
    - We have received the $500 grant, by ways of a gift card.
    - These funds are to go towards enhancing parent involvement and engagement.
    - 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.
    - https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/school-councils/support-services
- Veteran's Association Food Bank Drive Challenge with Griffith Woods School:
    - We have decided to defer the food bank drive for now as we don't want to compete with Student Councils upcoming Mustard Seed donation drive. Announcements to come.
    - In 2024, in anticipation of the challenge, some financial donations were received totaling $196.19.
    - If the deferred food bank drive does not occur this school year, Council will provide the total donations received to VAFB.

- Migration of fundraising from Council to the Society
    - As approved in our November meeting, the Council fundraising bank account will be migrated to a new fundraising account with the Society.
    - We are in the final stages of getting the new bank account set up and the funds transferred.
    - Everything should be completed by our next Council meeting in February.

Financial Report – Gagan Grewal (absent)

- Financial update for January 2025.
- Balance as at January 15th: $22,629.
    - Art Cards fundraiser $1,015.41
    - Holiday plant fundraiser $187.09
    - Healthy Hunger: Oct sales $716.99; Nov sales $308.52.

SHSES Update – Brian McKinnon

- Next casino Oct-Dec 2025. Draw date to be provided in May 2025.
- Funds available: Casino $60,270; Unrestricted $13,670 (Playground account)
- Playground Project
    - Parent volunteers have delivered 1,000 door hangers to homes in the area. A huge thank you to everyone that volunteered!

    - Another 1,000 door hangers are planned to be delivered in the area. We are in need of more volunteers to assist in distributing.
    - Banners have been hung at the basketball court and teachers parking lot.
    - Shout out to parent volunteer Paulo Bezerra, who worked on creating both the door hangers and the banners. Paulo also helped install the banners. We couldn't have done this without your help Paulo! Your efforts are greatly appreciated!
- Positions available:
    - Vice-President
    - Playground Project (written communications, fundraising)

Key Communicator – Marija Ivanovic

- Update to be provided next month.

BPSC Committee Reports (7:10 pm-7:20 pm)

Fundraising Committee Update – Meela Gunawardena

- Art Cards by Kids:
    - Meela to give update on success of program
- GrowingSmiles Holiday Plant Fundraiser:
    - Sadly this fundraiser did not go as well as hoped. We only raised $187. Possibly due to overabundance of fundraising around Christmas time.
- Bottle Drive:
    - Our bottle drive in November raised $173.65.
- Ongoing Passive Fundraisers:
    - **Mabel's Labels** - Currently a balance of $27.43
    - **Skip the Depot** – Still attempting to get a hold of SkiptheDepot - etransfer issues - Outstanding balance of $49.76.
- Looking Ahead:
    - Nothing currently planned for Q1 2025.

Social Committee – Silvy Tsolaskis & Jessica Charney

- Next social event is the skating party.
- Date will be either February 12 or 19th depending on weather.
- At the party we will be selling hot chocolate and cookies.
- **Motion to spend $300 for purchasing the hot chocolate and cookies.**
- **1st – Marija Ivanovic**
- **2nd – Ateeque Patel**
- **Motion passed.**

Fun Lunch Committee – Roda Calacasan

- January dates have been released.
- Remaining program dates will be released once April is confirmed.

School Report – Principal Trudi Tallerico and Assistant Principal Lisa Wilson (7:20 pm-7:25 pm)

- Upcoming report cards.
- Kindergarten registration.

Any Other Business (7:25 pm-7:30 pm)

Next Meeting

- Our next meeting will be on Wednesday February 26th.

Adjourn (7:42 pm)