

Barnwell School Council Minutes for Wednesday, February 7th, 2024

In attendance: Natasha M., Paige B., Tristy W., Mandy W., Elly R., Lori F., Wade G., Shayla A., Barb A., Angela J.

School council chair called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Adoption of Agenda motioned by Elly, motion carried by all in favor.

Motion to accept the minutes by Lori, motion carried by all in favor.

The chair reported that she had received positive feedback about our Twinkle Lights event. Having the band perform on the same night likely brought more people to the event. It was mentioned that there was some distraction during the band performance by children running in and out of the gym. It was suggested that next time we do not overlap Santa in the library and the band.

This year we tried baking our own cookies, this was not a great experience as it took too much time. In the future we will buy pre-made.

The hayride was a big hit but might need more supervision.

We also discussed the need to explain the evening to the families at the beginning of the night to avoid any confusion.

After some discussion on the lack of clarity and support for the yearbooks last year, our chair proposed we form a committee to manage the yearbooks. This will be a trial to see if it can be successful.

Paige, Tristy, and Lori will serve as co-chairs. Barb will help establish a way for families to upload their photo contributions and show the committee how to use the Peekaboo program.

There was some discussion on how it has become more difficult to get information to parents, possibly because emails often go unnoticed.

Principal's Report:

Barb shared that we have had some staffing changes. Mr. Johnson is on leave, Mrs. Yanke is not yet able to return, and Mr. Edlund may return this spring.

Mrs. Foster, Miss Humphrey's, and Barb will be filling in.

Barb has been working with students to improve their basic math skills. One way they have been doing this is by learning to play Cribbage.

Thank you to the families for the over 19,000 dollars raised at the cake auction. That money will go to the purchasing of a much-needed portable light and sound system. Any left-over funds will be used to buy jerseys.

Accountability Surveys have shown that our PAT and Safe, caring, and welcoming have gone down, however the latter is still above the provincial average.

Barb reminded us that one the surveys, 'I don't know' will count as a 'no' response. If you have any questions regarding the surveys, please reach out to the school.

Barb discussed the importance of consistent student attendance. There is some concern that some students are missing too many classes. Barb will be reaching out to parents shortly.

The school is trying some new option classes for the students including guitar, food & culture, and gardening.

Next week report cards will be sent home, please reach out to the teachers if you have any questions or concerns.

March 11-14th will be the drama performances 'Whole Lotta Latte'.

This performance is 2 hours long and therefore not appropriate for small children.

Barb handed out the school calendar for the 2024/25 year. The lunch break will be 2 minutes shorter to keep Fridays off after January.

For more details, please see the principal's full report posted on the school website.

There was some discussion about Wednesday evening meetings being difficult for some parents as kids typically have sports games that night. It was suggested that we could possibly rotate days. More discussion is needed and if any changes are made, they will likely be for the 2024/2025 school year.

The Barnwell School Council AGM will be held on April 10th at 6:30 pm, in the Art room.

Someone asked if we could have more options for less money at the cake auction so that anyone could purchase a treat/cake?

The room agreed that this was a good idea.

Next meeting will be held on March 6th at 6:30 pm.

Shayla motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 pm.

