

Barnwell School Council Minutes

January 6th, 2025

In attendance: Mandy W., Angela J., Barb A., Aaron E., Rachelle C., Candice G., Lori F., Chandra B., Joan C., Cari N., Jodi C., Valeena B., Whitney B.

Mandy opened the meeting at 6:00 pm

Joan motioned to approve the Agenda, motion carried.

Cari motioned to approve the minutes, carried.

Lauren from FCSS gave a presentation on what programs and services are offered by FCSS to support families in the Barons-Eureka-Warner district. FCSS hosts many programs to support parents, children, seniors, indigenous, and newcomers. FCSS offers counselling services as well. FCSS would be willing to come present to parents on topics such as anxiety and how to support your children with a minimum commitment of 3 families willing to attend.

If school council would like to host a parent session on anxiety and depression, Kim Forchuk would be our FCSS contact.

A parent in attendance shared that they have used FCSS supports to help guide them through assisting their child with anxiety and found the resources helpful.

More information can be found on their website at: www.fcss.ca

Our annual cake auction will be held on January 30th at 5:00 pm. School council was asked to organize concession. School council agreed and will send out donation requests for fries, buns, etc. with the help of Mandy, Valeena, Rachelle, and Chandra.

Our cake auction requires many cakes to be successful, so please consider buying or making a cake for this fundraiser.

Sometimes it is difficult to decide which cakes will be raffled and which will be auctioned, and it often depends on how many cakes are donated.

A parent suggested that we in addition to the auctioned and raffled cakes, that we have some that are silent auctioned so more families can contribute in the middle range. This is something staff will consider as well as possibly including other items.

Mandy asked if parents would like to have David LeGrandeur, director of Learner Services come and speak about inclusive education. After some discussion parents agreed that it could be helpful to have him talk at one of our meetings.

Lori asked if it would be possible for concession to have a Square for electronic transactions. Many people have not purchased concession items due to the cash only option. Barb said it would be easier for Society to manage the Square administration.

A Square costs \$420.00 to purchase and would have no monthly fees do to us being under the income threshold.

Barb suggested Society ask Taber Christian any questions they may have about using a Square for concession.

Society will discuss this option.

A parent mentioned that our concession prices are much lower than other schools and could probably raise the prices if they wanted to.

Wilco Tymensen, superintendent of Horizon 67 School Division will be retiring this year.

The division has sent out a survey to schools and schools councils to get input out desired qualities of our next superintendent. School council discussed if parents in attendance should go through and complete the survey or send it out to all Barnwell School parents and compile the responses.

School council agreed to send it out. Barb will email the survey questions to parents and results will go to School Council who will then compile the results and send them to the division. Surveys must be sent in by the end of January. School Council will give parents one week to respond.

Principal's Report:

- No more Fridays for the rest of this school year!
- Julie will be gone until at least April 1st.
- Mrs. Yanke might be back September 1st, 2025.
- Our school won the cardboard boat races.
- Student Leadership attended the Southern Alberta Student Leadership conference.
- The band program will be holding a bottle drive this Saturday to raise funds for the band trip.

Alberta Education has implemented student assessments for students this year including kindergarten. This will be a lot of work for time for teachers.

Barb reminded us that the Assurance Survey will be open until March. Results will be discussed when they are available.

The counselling team will be visiting tomorrow to ask students what they would like to share with parents but haven't. Students will be anonymous except to counsellors who will be able to identify each respondent should they feel the need to investigate further.

Anonymous results will be shared with School Council.

Our basketball and volleyball tournaments went well.

The ski trip will be on Feb. 26th.

As always, please read the principal's full report on our school website.

Joan motioned to close the meeting at 7:11 pm.

Next School Council meeting will be held on Monday, February 3rd at 6:00 pm.

A special thank you to all who volunteer to make Barnwell School great for our kids!