

Barnwell School Council Meeting Minutes

February 3rd, 2025

The chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM and welcomed counselors Alicia and Hailey.

Elly motioned to approve the agenda; motion carried.

Joan motioned to approve the minutes seconded by Elly; motion carried.

Carolyn will be going into the division to share her thoughts on what we should be looking for in a new Superintendent. If anyone has any additional thoughts to share or would like to go with Carolyn, please let her know.

Hailey and Alicia gave their presentation on the survey given to junior high kids titled "I wish the Adults in My Life Knew...".

Please check your email for the summary document that was sent out by the school.

A survey for parents titled "I wish I could tell the kids" will be sent out when it is ready.

Hailey and Alicia run a games club for students; their attendance has roughly tripled.

Alicia offers counseling, hosts psycho educational groups, connecting to community, professional development, parent info sessions.

Hailey Offers classroom programming, psycho educational groups, clubs, awareness events (Bell Let's Talk, Pink Shirt Day), community events and supports spark fair, summer camps, Angel tree.

Alicia is currently working with every elementary grade.

Principle Barb said Alicia can send emails to her and she will send them out to parents.

We discussed how stigma at home and school are barriers to accessing counseling services. To help with this Alicia and Hailey are using classroom programming to remove the stigma and encourage parents to have conversations with their children at home. Parents are welcome to discuss options with the counselors if they feel their child may need support. Students can access counseling services one time without parents being notified provided there is no significant red flags Regarding health and safety. Should a student wish to continue counseling services thereafter, parental consent will be required.

Sometimes a phone call can be arranged if counseling staff is not on site and the child is in need of support.

A parent asked if sexual health was taught by the counselors. No, sexual health is not taught by the counselors, it is taught by the teachers.

Mandy thanked Hailey and Alicia for their presentation to the parents.

David LeGrandeur director of Learner Services for Horizon School Division will be attending our next meeting in March. Questions for David:

For kids that aren't coded, how do we get help with these students, Where can we find information on available supports?

Please address the Power School breach and what info was taken.

Barb mentioned that AB ED. Requires schools to keep student info organized and stored online.

These questions created some conversation around how Hapara Is used to monitor school Chromebooks. The school can monitor Google Chats and all activity on Chromebooks.

Principals Report:

Principle Barb thanked Mandy and everyone who helped with the Cake Auction, and Society for getting the Square for digital transactions.

The cake auction sold 133 books of raffle tickets, raised 1625 dollars in the silent auction, concession made 1919 dollars 946.00 of those dollars was through the Square, and the auctioned cakes made 19,150.00. The band cake made \$2500 for this year's band trip. All donation checks go to the horizon school division then to the school. Horizon gives a donation receipt minus their estimated cost of the cake. There was some discussion as to why this was the practice. A parent will be reaching out to the accounting department at horizon school division to get further clarification.

Parents wondered how the decision was made to dedicate some of the cake auction funds to building an outdoor track. Principle Barb said the staff had chatted about the school's needs and decided the track would benefit most students. This spring the school will look at location and cost. Some of the cake funds will be used for buses, drama curtains, stained glass supplies, and new Chromebooks for grades one and two.

Principle Barb explained our staffing needs and that we need a minimum of 11 staff. The 21/22 school year saw 177 students, the next year was 183 students, and it has been decreasing since. Next year Barnwell School is projected to have 159 students.

We had some discussion around how EA's are not paid enough.

Principle Barb shared her thoughts on the K-3 Literacy and numeracy screening assessments. Barnwell had to bring in a sub teacher to implement the testing, the testing takes a lot of time, is stressful for young students, and teachers do not know how the results are used. Barb encouraged parents to reach out to their MLA to share this perspective. A parent added that feedback shared with the MLA from parents is good, but hearing from the teachers who are having these experiences first hand is most helpful.

February 13th junior high students will be having their boxed lunch as prepared by the boys. Elementary students will be going swimming. Ski trip info went out to the grades 5-9 parents. The school will be using a 56 passenger bus.

February 26th is pink shirt day.

The school will hold their Purple Pride Assembly.

The band program has raised \$11,000 towards their trip to Edmonton.

A big thank you to the Camps for all of their support.

Joan Motioned to close the meeting at 7:51 pm.