

Barnwell School Council
March 3rd, 2025, Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Mandy W., Sarah P., Missy F., Natasha M., Angela G., Mrs. Arend, Graz B., Chelsie B., Elly R., Lori F., Maggie H., Joan C., Tristie W., Candice G., Angela J.

Guest Speaker: David LeGrandeur, Director of Learner Services.

Call to Order: 6:03 pm.

Chair Amended the Agenda to include an opportunity for parents to share any questions they may have for Phil Johansen, Associate Superintendent.

Lori motioned to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Angela G.

Motion carried by all in favor.

Past minutes were not approved as those in attendance were not included and there was an error regarding who would be speaking to the division. Corrected minutes will be shared at the May meeting.

The time was turned to David Legrandeur:

- David explained that the government no longer pays for coding of students as there was a marked increase of codes under that model
- Schools have increasingly seen an increase in special needs, Horizon has one of the highest ratios in southern Alberta
- School divisions receive \$943.00 per student
- Horizon budgets for extra tech supports based on need
- The Division uses a collective support resource called 'Southwest Collaborative Support Services. A parent commented that this website could be a useful resource for parents and should be linked on the Barnwell School website
- David shared that Alberta Education is giving schools more money this year
- A parent asked what can be done when they feel their child isn't getting the support they need. David suggested talking to the teachers. If further action is needed, parents can reach out to their principal, or Terry-Lynn Duncan, Associate Superintendent of Learner Services, or the Superintendent. Mrs. Arend shared that Wade G. is our Learner Support Teacher
- Mrs. Arend shared that when spending money for student learning support, she tries to prioritize people over things
- A parent asked for more information on the Power School breach. Emails have been sent to affected parents; 2 years of identity theft surveillance has been offered to those who fit the criteria. A parent asked why we can't identify students as numbers when keeping sensitive information about our children online. The response was that it would be too complicated

- A parent asked where in the contract with Google Classroom it addresses how and when students' data can or cannot be used. Answer: they can't use or share data as the students are minors
- Some parents shared that Google Chats is being used by students only for socializing. Mrs. Arend asked if parents wanted it removed. Several parents responded in the affirmative
- Mrs. Arend said it is as simple as asking the division to turn it off
- Mrs. Arend will be posting David's slide deck on the school website for parents to access

The Chair thanked David for his time.

The April 26th & 27th ASCA Symposium and AGM will be online only this year.

Angela is still working through the registration process.

A parent asked if every parent would have a vote. This information will be investigated and shared with parents.

The Chair announced that Phil Johansen from Horizon School Division will be presenting at the April meeting. The floor was opened for suggested questions for Phil:

- How does funding get distributed?
- What are our bussing deficits? What can be done to address them?

The Chair turned the time to Mrs. Arend for the principal's report:

- Julie will slowly return to work and will be back to full time by the end of the month
- Mrs. Arend checked with the division regarding cake auction tax receipts and reported that it does follow CRA rules. There was some disagreement among parents as to if that was correct
- Phil has requested that we have consistent guidelines for determining the market value of cakes
- Going forward, Mrs. Arend will be asking parents if they would like a receipt for their donated cakes
- Reminder that March 21st is the deadline to complete the Assurance Survey
- March 12th Jon Hansen, Author of 'The Greatness Code' will be presenting to the students. He has 20 years of teaching experience, he helps students unleash their inner greatness by reframing limiting beliefs, learning the power of self-talk, breaking free from comparisons, having real confidence, and using real tools. He can be followed on Instagram at @jon_inspires
- Mrs. Arend is purchasing a new phonics intervention program for grades 1-3, created by an Edmonton teacher
- Grade 8s & 9s are working on a windmill project on their lunch break
- April 28- May 29 the school will be practicing financial literacy with imitation money, taxes, bills, item rentals, and potential tickets
- The drama class will be performing at Dr. Hamman and Taber Christian School. Some Cake Auction funds were used to purchase bags and draping for the Drama program
- Grade 5s completed 2,000 multiplication facts in 6 minutes with only 1 error!
- The Crochet Club started today

- Grade 8s wrote, cast, directed, and performed their own plays
- Grades 1 & 2 celebrated 100 days of school
- T1G won basketball zones
- Report cards will go home on March 27th

Please see 'Principal's Report' on the school website for more information.

Natasha Motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Next BSC Meeting: April 7th.

Reminder that May 5th will be our AGM, and a new Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary will be needed for the next 2 school years. If you have any questions, please contact the BSC Chair at barnwellparentcouncil@gmail.com.