

## **HJ Cody High School Parent Council Meeting Agenda**

**January 25th, 2022**

**Welcome and Housekeeping** – Please turn your cameras on for welcome and introductions if possible.

**Call to Order** – 7:00 pm

**Attendance** – Alex Lambert, Amelia Balon, Briana Darbyshire, Chantal Landry, Clare Westcott Smallwood, Gary Heisler, Jackie Swainson, Jennifer Creasey, Kerri Zemlak, Kevin and June McKinnon, Laura Lauder, Mike Garrow, Randy Butler, Lindsay Clark, Veronica Belich, Deb Burton.

**Student/Grad Representative** – Amelia Balon, Grad Council, Spirit Week in Dec success with positive feedback and fun was had, people were involved. Grad hoodies currently being made, pushed back slightly due to shipping delays. Planning another event in the spring, TBA.

**Minutes from November Meeting** – CL motioned acceptance, LC seconded

**Additions and Approval of Agenda** – JC motioned acceptance of agenda, HHP seconded

### **Old Business**

1. Elections – Secretary/Treasurer (Vacant)

- RB nominate Heather, Chantal seconded nomination, Heather accepts.

2. Reminder if anyone has an idea for a presentation or discussion topic please email me at [hjparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:hjparentcouncil@gmail.com)

3. New High School Lobbying - removed

### **New Business**

1. Video of off campus incident

- Mr. Garrow opened up conversation, and encourage discussion, school supports are in place with Family School Wellness available all day everyday, please do contact Mr. Garrow or Ms. Lambert to discuss personally if needed, if more comfortable with certain staff they can be approached, social media has not been a friendly or proactive. School is in contact with Circle K owners and Timber across the road regarding community awareness and approaches. Parents need to take this concern to Town Council, where they can, and are required to, work with RCMP to find an avenue to better support our youth.

- question posed to have parents available to have a lunch time presence at Circle K. Comment added that members of Alliance Church have attended regularly, unknown how long they will continue. It is private property, respect for business and space needs to be in consideration when planning safety activity.

- question posed inquiring about the regular amount of violence at H.J. Cody. It is recommended not to be hanging out at Circle K as not a positive place during school hours for school

kids. Has become a larger gathering space gradually over last two years. Circle K head office has been in contact with Mr. Garrow regarding the behaviour, and frustration at the Sylvan Lake location on a daily basis.

- concern regarding negative effects on behaviour of unmet dietary needs.

- answer -we do have a breakfast program, and Mustard Seed provides lunch items

- question posed inquiring the position of the school regarding the stand up peaceful protest planned for and by students Feb 4 to the pier.

- Mr. Garrow and Ms. Lambert discussion with core protest planners. From students' perspective WHY?; they no longer want to tolerate sexual harassment and bullying. We need to do better as a community, as a school, as a student body. Choosing to use their 'student voice' to encourage a feeling of being safe.

- Is the message getting across to parents, the Town, the community, RCMP, etc to be prepared as the current mood is heightened and electric. Does the school have a plan regarding students requirement to be at school, and knowingly planning to leave.

- School administration needs time to debrief together, and will share.

- Yes, RCMP are aware and will have a presence if it goes forward. Discussion with the group has revealed aspects the school administration was unaware of. Looking to have committees created with student body to increase communication and develop support systems.

2. Grade 10 Flex – students were misusing the time as a 75-minute lunch rather than the intended study, catch up time, peer support. Modified to encourage appropriate, purposeful use of time. Student were receptive and onboard.

3. COVID update for athletics – Jan. 27, 2022 Chinook's Edge opening up, such as basketball games and tournaments, only one mask wearing parent allowed for viewing for now. Live streaming is available online.

4. Semester Change – any 9's/10's send Ms. Lambert an email, 11's/12's send email to Ms. Schaab and accommodations will try to be made.

5. Canteen – seriously motivated to fill this within the school, any ideas welcome.

- Suggestion/discussion: Would Hot Lunch orders be a possibility? Would need parent volunteers, such as elementary schools to hand out. May be difficult for businesses to handle the potential high number of orders. Teens often enjoy having a break away from school at that time, independence.

6. Update for school play – hoping to open back up to audience, but as of right will be streamed live, dates of March 31 – April 2, 2022, stay tuned!

7. New High School Parents Sub-Committee Randy phone - 403-396-6548

- Motivated to spread the word, the interest, and the reasons why it is necessary. Looking to grow committee. Message shared with Steffie Woima, C.P. Blakely, Poplar Ridge, and Fox Run school

councils. Randy will reach out to Beacon Hill. Future plan to take to Town Council to share when a solid group is created. Current Member; Deb Burton, Ms. Lambert, Laura Lauder, Randy Butler starting out.

**Admin Report** – Mike Garrow – covered above

**School Trustee Report** - Jackie Swainson – on Facilities and Committee. Capital Plan, priorities for new build and priorities for modernization. HJ has been on the line for priorities for modernization, but can be changed. Population and growth will be looked at. Alberta Education looks at school buildings differently than others, such as consider gathering spaces as education space. HJ has had some upgrades and modifications over the last decades, but is lacking many features a school of its student's population, academic stature, and so on that it should. Jackie is motivated to push forward on new building. ASCA may be a resource to reach out to support the subcommittee is driving forward.

Covid – teacher and supports are having high absenteeism, and low staff coverage available. Often limited time to find replacement.

Incident – there are policies, legal procedures that have to and will be followed. Social media has not been a positive source or resource.

Mental Health Supports – to best support the kids regarding covid and other mental health needs. There has been funds from the reserves used to hire and proceed with a pilot project where a strategy is that six Social Emotional Specialists, who are trained psychologists. Two in the north division (Sylvan Lake), two central, two in the south. Hoping to keep long term.

From other meetings, sharing information regarding the opinions and reality of how the children have been bombarded with the constant topic of covid in conversation, arguments, discussions over the last two years. Attempt to take proactive behaviour and refrain from talking at school about covid. Go back to former conversations that centred around fun, activities, interests, etc.

**Next Meeting Date** - March 29, April 26, May 31

**Meeting Adjourned** - 8:32 pm