

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

April 26, 2022

- I. Call to Order – 7:09
- II. Attendance - Randy Butler, Laura Duske, Kelly Balon, Kerri Orriss, Lindsay Clark, Debra Burton, Fei San Van, Steven Morris, Carol Smyth, Randy Wolkowski, Laura Lauder, Amelia Balon (Graduation Committee Representative), Mike Garrow (Principal), Jackie Swainson (School Trustee), Alexandra Lambert (Vice Principal),
Regrets – Chantal Landry (Vice Chair), Heather Houston Painchaud (Secretary)
- III. Student/Grad Representative Report – Amelia Balon
 - a. The Grad committee is in process of organizing the graduation dance, which will be hosted on Thursday May 5, from 7 pm – 11 pm at the Lions Hall. Tickets on sale on April 27, and will be sold over lunch hour up until the dance. This event is for graduates only. Tickets are priced at \$10. 70 tickets are available in total.
 - b. The Graduation Committee is also planning the Colour Run for graduates only, and Carnival, which will welcome all HJ Cody students. These events will be held on June 8 – time TBD), The colour is in, the committee is speaking with food trucks, and Adrenalin Motors has confirmed involvement. They are also hoping to partner with other student groups to help plan the Carnival.
- IV. Minutes from March Meeting – Lindsay Clark moved the minutes be accepted as presented. Laura Duske seconded. Motion carried.
- V. Additions and Approval of Agenda – No additions.
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Reminder to all parents, if you have any ideas for presentations that you would like to see at future PAC meetings, please reach out to the Committee Chair at hjparentcouncil@gmail.com
- VII. New Business
 - a. Hats On for Mental Health Week
 - i. On the first Wednesday in May, Albertans are invited to wear a hat to raise awareness of the importance of good mental health. Participating schools will relax their hat rules and encourage students and teachers to build understanding by wearing hats to school. HJ Cody is participating and encouraging students to wear hats in support of open conversations surrounding mental health and supporting mental health
 - ii. Other events for Mental Health Week include:

1. Monday 9 – 9:45 – Brett Gardiner is coming to speak about conversations around mental health, including empathy, depression and anxiety in youth. This will help students know where to go if they, or a friend, are experiencing these issues. This is a full student assembly, and will be livestreaming in the Arts Centre for students and parents who are not comfortable attending in person.
2. Wednesday – Connect Day – The theme for Connect Day is “Empathy” – we have different articles that we are having Connect teachers lead students through that will help students learn about empathy.
3. Thursday – We are having students sign up for a FLEX Wellness Sessions including colouring, nature walks, trail run, sing along/karaoke, and more. Students get to choose what would be significant to them and can join whichever they want. Hoping to help kids open up if they need to speak to someone.

b. June 1st Fox Run Orientation

- i. Ms. Lambert was at Fox Run prior to the Friday before spring break speaking to next years grade nine students, answering questions, and helping with having them with course selection. Hard copies are being collected tomorrow
- ii. June 1 – Evening Orientation, 5:30 – 6:30 – all parents and students are invited to come and see the school, so we can showcase the school. Most staff and faculty will be there leading tours with small group of students. Photo booths will be up, “Class of 2026” T-shirts will be given to students.. Parents will be kept in the gym for more parent focused information.
- iii. Questions - not all kids will have the comfort zone to do the tour without their parents, and may not have a friend to go on the tour with.
 1. Teachers will watch for those students and will try to include them. They also have private tours available for students with more anxiety or are nervous about taking tours with groups of students

VIII. Honour Roll

- a. This year, HJ has the following numbers of students on Honour Roll.
 - i. 43% - Grade 9
 - ii. 36% - Grade 10
 - iii. 25% - Grade 11
 - iv. 22% - Grade 12
- b. We do these stats every year, so it shows the tremendous work of parents and staff during COVID.
- c. HJ Cody students are in the top 3% in performance academically in the province.

IX. Walk-A-Mile

- a. Walk A Mile is put on by the Interact Crew (Youth branch of the Rotary Club) – facilitated by Alana Routhier. This is a walk that is in recognition of discussing domestic violence. Walk A Mile will be held on June 2 from 11 – 12:30 pm. Students and community members are welcome.
 - b. Barbecue afterwards, will run until 12:30.

- X. Career Presentations - May 11
 - a. 33 different professionals have confirmed that are coming to speak to our students – we are aiming for 40 professionals.
 - b. There will be a list, students will be able to sign up to 2 of them.
 - c. The goal is to do this every year like we were pre-COVID.

- XI. Post-Secondary Tours – grade 11 students
 - a. MacEwan and NAIT
 - b. University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge College
 - c. U of Alberta – potentially a trip there
 - i. Laura – are these for only 11's or can 12's go as well
 - 1. Mr. Garrow will talk to Mr. Payne to see if there is space for Grade 12's, but these trips were designed for Grade 11 students.
 - ii. Deb – Are we doing a trip to Red Deer Polytechnic?
 - 1. Not sure if they are open for tours yet. Randy will reach out to Red Deer Polytechnic to see if they are hosting group tours.

- XII. Planning for 2022-2023
 - a. This time of the year, Alex, Rebecca and Mike have been given budgets for next year. Projections are showing student numbers to increase by mid-40s, projected at 712. They will probably finish at around 730 students, we are at roughly 700 now. There is a .5 increase to teaching, so we will be posting a couple of positions.
 - b. Daunting task to plan all classes and try to get all students into the comps they want. Faculty will analyze the data, see how many students want each class, and try to plan from there.
 - c. Hoping for minimal change compared to the past few years.
 - i. Kerri Zemlak – are we doing an Awards Night?
 - 1. Athletics Awards are June 7
 - 2. Academic Awards will be occurring, but that event happens in October. We did a COVID friendly event previously, but we are hoping to do a banquet and larger event in October again.

- XIII. Additional Discussion
 - a. Summer School Schedule
 - i. Is it normal that they don't have a grade 12 diploma option, or is that this summer? Ms. Lambert stated that there was no diploma last summer either.

- b. What are the requirements for sharing medical records (including proof of vaccination) if another COVID outbreak happens?
 - i. Answer – None. Staff/faculty have not been mandated to ask for medical records or proof of vaccination and therefore have not been able to ask for those records, nor would they have wanted to.
 - ii. What if we are told to lock down again?
 - 1. If we are mandated to lock down again, we will do so under the guidelines provided by the Government of Alberta as we did with previous pandemic situations.
- c. Scholarship information available to parents?
 - i. Information is available on the website. Jas Payne helps students with scholarships during Connect. Students are encouraged to apply for every scholarship, as many don't get applied for.
 - ii. Mr. Garrow will double check to see if the scholarship information on website is up to date.
 - iii. Information about scholarships will be included in Cody Corner email distribution

XIV. School Trustee Report - Jackie Swainson

- a. We received a funding announcement for a new school in Penhold (design phase), the build phase will come next. Then HJ Cody/New School for Sylvan Lake will be the #1 capital priority for the school district.
 - i. They are not asking for a modernization, they are asking for a new school due to the age of the building and needs of today's students.
 - ii. There is a lengthy process now in preparing a report outlining the needs of the new school. The town has made land available, with the idea that it is more likely to receive the new HS if other community services and stakeholders are included.
 - iii. HJ Cody will be made into a middle school, and Fox Run an elementary school.
 - iv. Plans for another middle school or elementary school will come up eventually as well.
- b. Transportation Fees for next year will remain the same. The district is doing a full Transportation Review in Fall of 2022.
- c. Financially the school district is in a good position. They did receive all funds we requested, including increases for fuel and insurance.
 - i. Received funding from GOA for COVID learning loss. COVID had significant loss of learning at every grade level. The district is now planning for how those funds will be used.
- d. There has been a rise in the province in the number of absenteeism for teachers/staff in the past month.

XV. Next Meeting Date - May 31

XVI. **Meeting Adjourned - Adjourned at 7:59 pm**