

Pine Street School Council Meeting

January 14th, 2020

The regular meeting of Pine Street School Council was duly called and held on January 14th, 2020 in the library of Pine Street Elementary located at 133 Pine Street in Sherwood Park, Alberta. Quorum was present.

In Attendance:

Executive: Lesley Bowman (Chair), Cara Kern (Vice-Chair), Lorena Ellsworth (Secretary)

Administration: Shelby Hines (Principal), Kerri Remeika* (Assistant Principal), Lorna Magnan (Teacher Liaison)

Parents: Amanda Gibbons, Trina Loucraft, Marie Beliveau, Tanya Meek, Janice Mills

Absent with Regrets: Trina Boymook (Board Trustee), Nate Glubish (MLA), Jordan Walker (MLA)

* Denotes partial attendance.

1. Chair, Lesley Bowman, calls to order at 7:58pm.
2. Welcome & Treaty Six Acknowledgement – Lesley Bowman.
3. Attendance and introductions.
 - a. Mr. Glubish and Mr. Walker both replied to the email invitations to attend our meeting with their regrets.
 - b. Will continue to invite MLAs to future meetings.
4. Additions to agenda
 - a. None.MOTION: Amanda Gibbons motions to accept agenda, Trina Loucraft seconds.
IN FAVOUR: 8
NON-VOTING: 2
CARRIED
5. Adoption of December Minutes.
MOTION: Cara Kern motions to accept December minutes, Trina Loucraft seconds.
IN FAVOUR: 8
NON-VOTING: 2
CARRIED
6. Trustee Report – Shelby Hines on behalf of Trina Boymook
 - a. Trina is in Lethbridge for Alberta School Board meeting.

- b. Effective the 2019-20 school year, changes by the Minister of Education to the School Transportation Regulation allows school boards to charge eligible students for transportation services. By finding internal efficiencies and reallocating resources, the Board was able to avoid increasing bus fees at the midpoint in 2019-20. We didn't feel it was fair to impose extra fees in the middle of the school year. The new fiscal reality in which we operate, though, means we must examine the possibility of changes to the current fee schedule starting in 2020-21. The Board of Trustees requested a review and analysis of the structure of the current transportation fee in order to make an informed decision about transportation fees for the 2020-21 school year. The Board is considering a more equitable solution for families while maintaining the current service levels provided. Senior Administration will be providing its recommendation to the Board at the January 23, 2020
- c. The Board is focused on the upcoming budget. We are hopeful that we receive information on the new funding formula before the budget comes out.
- d. At the December Board meeting the Board approved modification to the draft 2021/22 calendar to account for the Diploma exam schedule. The calendar is available on the website.
- e. Questions/comments
 - i. None.

7. Administration Report – Shelby Hines

- a. Kudos
 - i. The support provided by School Council for our Christmas concert was greatly appreciated! From helping with costumes and conducting the preferred seating/parking raffle to connecting with Jason at Infinite Eye Photography so that families received incredible photos to purchase, it is truly amazing to work with such dedicated and generous individuals. Thank you!
 - ii. The staff surprises in the staff room in the form of stationary treats just prior to Christmas break were such a fun 'pick me up'! Staff was filled with gratitude at this kind gesture. Thank you!
 - iii. Thank you to Britney & Megan for the Xmas Cheer in the form of hot beverages and yummy treats that were brought door to door, no less. Staff were sincerely touched by this thoughtful gesture.
 - iv. Thank you to Lesley and Darrell who are working together to ensure our upcoming bottle drive goes off without a hitch!
 - v. The bulletin board in the grade five/six boot room looks awesome! Thank you to Helping Hands for making this happen as it demonstrates a sense of pride for our students & staff.
- b. School Events
 - i. Christmas Concert - We had our kindergarten to grade six concert at The Park Church. Our students were absolutely incredible! Based on the feedback I received, the night was a smashing success. Mrs. Vetro and I met December 16 and reflected upon the night. We also had preliminary discussions about next year. Nothing has been decided at this point. However, Mrs. Vetro was very hopeful we could work together to ensure that we could reserve The Park

Church as this venue has many characteristics that work very well for such an event.

- ii. Over the break, our custodian worked diligently to wax floors & it turned out wonderfully.
- iii. A new music room floor made out of rubber was installed.
- iv. Our counsellor, Ms. Stevens, is taking a lead role in planning a Family Day event for our students on February 13 to celebrate the diversity of the term “family” and kick off the Family Day long weekend.
- v. We received funding from Central which has allowed us to add support to our PALS program in the form of another teacher, JoAnn Strom. Students from all PALS classes will benefit from one on one and small group pull out, as well as in class support from JoAnn from now until the end of the year.

c. Literacy

- i. We have booked our Elk Island Public Schools literacy consultant, Heather Balog, to do professional development with staff focused on writing for a half day on March 6.
- ii. We continue to have focused discussions with certificated staff around literacy at our monthly staff meetings. Kathy Berger with Helping Hands is working on creating a room filled with the Elk Island Public School Writing Continuum so that staff and students can independently and collaboratively analyze works of writing and easily identify ‘next step’ writing goals.
- iii. At our December staff meeting staff were asked to reflect upon how administration could take action to positively influence the School Education Plan goals. Out of this collaborative work came the idea of Principal’s Pick which will occur the third Wednesday of each month. We are calling it Writer’s Wednesday and inviting all classes to submit one student’s ‘best writing’ (any genre) to me. Then all the submitted writers names will be put in a draw and the winner will receive one of the hats that was kindly donated by Darrell Bradley. We are planning on promoting this initiative through various methods such as sharing all or part of the writing in the announcements, taking a picture of the winner and putting the picture & winning writing up on display, etc.

d. Numeracy

- i. An EQUALS Math Kit was purchased in December. This is a kit meant to support struggling students from kindergarten to grade twelve in numeracy. We will be working with Lorena Ellsworth and Helping Hands to get all the parts labelled and ready for school wide use as quickly as possible. This will be available to staff and students as soon as possible.
- ii. We continue to have focused discussions as a certificated staff around numeracy at our monthly staff meetings. At the January staff meeting we discussed the many positive aspects of using Guided Math Framework. Staff were asked to reflect upon how this could be used in their own classrooms. In addition, we have booked our Elk Island Public Schools’ numeracy consultant, Alex Candler, to do a session with staff in the afternoon at the March 6 professional learning day.

- iii. Our Pine Street Elementary Family Math Night will be taking place on Thursday, January 23 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the gym. Alexandra Candler will be at the school that evening teaching participants different math-related games. Attendees will have their names put into a raffle to win prizes.
- iv. Please continue to spread the word about our Math videos which were created last year for parents, but are still a valuable resources to review in partnering with the school to support student learning in numeracy.
- e. Registration
 - i. Student Registration for the 2020-21 school year for returning Elk Island Public School students will run from February 1 to 29. Parents can complete the registration form on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. If you need assistance with this process please contact our school office @ 780-467-2246.
 - ii. Kindergarten Registration - if your child is turning five years old on or before December 31, 2020 you may register him/her from February 1 to 29 as well.
- f. School Fees

Pine Street Elementary School Fees Schedule			
<u>Fee Name / Description</u>	Per Student Fee 2019/20	Per Student Fee 2018/19	Fee Category
Cross Country	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	Extracurricular Fees
Short Track	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	Extracurricular Fees
Field Trips - ECS	\$ 43.25	\$ 38.50	Activity Fees
Field Trips - Gr 1	\$ 38.00	\$ 35.50	Activity Fees
Field Trips - Gr 2	\$ 50.00	\$ 32.00	Activity Fees
Field Trips - Gr 3	\$ 45.00	\$ 43.00	Activity Fees
Field Trips - Gr 4	\$ 42.50	\$ 39.50	Activity Fees
Field Trips - Gr 5	\$ 59.00	\$ 44.50	Activity Fees
Field Trips - Gr 6	\$ 59.00	\$ 42.00	Activity Fees
Grade 6 Gull Lake Trip	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	Activity Fees
Swimming	\$ 74.55	\$ 71.00	Activity Fees
Noon Supervision	\$ 105.00	\$ 100.00	Lunch Supervision & Noon Hour Activity Fees
ECS Noon Supervision	\$ 52.50	\$ 50.00	Lunch Supervision & Noon Hour Activity Fees

- i. Review of current fees:
 1. Increases are due to increased bussing costs (less students per class), Moneris (credit card processing) charges, an increase in the number of field trips offered, or increases in the cost of the trip.
 2. We are currently running a deficit in the school budget for noon supervision fees.
 3. Extracurricular that is relatively new (i.e. volleyball, basketball) has had the costs covered by the school.

4. Historically, any substitute costs related to extracurricular activities or field trips have been covered by the school (i.e. there is a short track race that takes place during the day so the coaches require subs)
- ii. Questions for parents:
1. Do parents want more/less field trips?
 - a. Likely not willing to increase amount of trips, but parents are still willing to pay for current allowance as they are things that “stick” with the kids. Pine Street is one of the lowest in the Division for school fees.
 2. Do parents want more/less extracurricular?
 - a. Assuming we can get more parent volunteers, parents would be willing to support the extra “outlets” for the kids. This is mental health benefit for our kids.
 - b. Swimming lessons must happen. Swimming is a life skill and parents see the value in the lessons through the school.
 - c. Do grade 6 kids take swim lessons through school? No, they historically used to do ski lessons but this got too expensive. Grade 6 students still do the distance trip to Gull Lake.
 - d. What happens to children who cannot pay school fees? Their fees are covered by the school as a part of doing business. Can we, as a Society, have a fund set up for people to donate money to in order for students to draw from for missing school fees? Yes. However, the collection of the money isn’t the difficult part, it would be the allocation of the funds through the school and division administration. We are part of the public school division, not a private school.
 3. Do parents want more/less tournaments for sports teams?
 - a. Assuming parents can help with tournaments outside of school hours, we would love to see more sports teams.
 4. Do parents want multiple student discounts i.e. noon supervision?
 - a. There is potential for fees to go to \$115 to cover costs. What is the proportion of families that would take advantage of this discount? Small.
 - b. If you take your kids home, do you pay noon supervision? No.
 5. What are your priorities related to fees?
 - a. Life skills (swimming), soft skills (arts, music), field trips – we do not want to lose these activities.
 - b. MakerSpace – collaborative time between grade partners is spent in this time. Staff, parents and students love this time. Very valuable, but extremely expensive.
 - c. Is there a publicly accessible list of items that would be “nice to have”, assuming parents could contribute to the list? No, but there is a Wishlist that Society has asked for from staff every year to help with defining fundraising goals. Can we generate

a list of items to donate that teachers may appreciate? Yes, Society can.

6. What are you willing to go without related to fees?

g. Questions/comments

- i. Will there be a parent survey sent out regarding what parents want to fundraise for / donate money to / where their financial priorities are? No. The invitation is put out to families to attend the Society meeting, the decisions are made at these meetings.
- ii. Will there be a survey sent out regarding fees as there was historically? No. Administration was mandated to have the discussion within the School Council meeting, with the addition of a request sent to families prior to the meeting.
- iii. Are staffing issues (teachers, EAs) affected by school fee decisions? No. Staffing is determined by class sizes. But extracurricular activities may fall off as staff have to commit to larger class sizes (extra prep, extra marking, etc) and do not have additional time outside the school to volunteer. Work/life balance must be considered.
- iv. Can parents help with extracurricular activities? Yes, must staff liaison must be present at all school related activities.
- v. We need to be mindful of the potential that there may be a bus fee applied to all students, regardless of home location. This may affect families' decisions to want to spend additional money on smaller item fees.

8. Teacher Liaison Report – Lorna Magnan

- a. No update.
- b. Questions/comments
 - i. None.

9. Chair Report – Lesley Bowman

- a. January COSC meeting was cancelled because of the weather.
 - i. We are updating our operating procedures – sorry I don't have anything to report on that.
 - ii. A piece of this is remembering our 'why' as parents and as people in this room.
 - iii. We are planning to have a discussion about our reason for attending these meetings, why do we attend COSC?
 - iv. For many of us, we want to have a more active role in our student's education, for me I feel that it is important for me to give back to my community and support those who take care of my kids every single day.
 - v. I want to do my best to make things better for every student at this school, not just my own, I value public education in Alberta, and I value the work that happens in this school every day.
 - vi. I am here to support my fellow caregivers and to help them in whatever capacity I can.

- vii. I am here to help support my school in achieving their education plan in my role as a parent and by helping to engage other parents.
 - viii. To understand our engagement at a district and provincial level and to share that with as many caregivers as I can.
 - ix. Obviously, I like to talk and to engage people and build relationships. I feel this is critical to creating a strong school community.
 - x. The overriding goal is to build a community around our school that is based on transparency, trust, and accountability. I look forward to continuing that with all of you.
- b. Accountability Pillar Survey
- i. Our accountability pillar survey should be in the mail in the next couple of weeks.
 - ii. Do we have any suggestions on how to engage caregivers of Grade 4 students?
 - iii. Would people be interested in attending a night where they would have access to the survey online and be able to complete it at the school?
 - iv. We need to have more participation this year, we are at 25% and the Province says that 75% is a good participation rate!
 - v. Please talk to other caregivers of grade 4 students and encourage them to participate.
- c. School Fees
- i. Thank you to Shelby for her diligence and thorough dedication to reviewing school fees.
 - ii. The opportunity to participate and engage with Administration to have the parent voice as a part of that conversation.
 - iii. I have spoken about my ‘why’ and I have said it many times here at this table, but another of my ‘whys’ is to be in the room and have my voice heard – and speak for those who have trusted me with carrying their voice – so when people are making important decisions that will impact our children, they will hear my voice, and picture me in their mind.
 - iv. This is one of those opportunities where we can use our voice and raise our concerns and have a genuine conversation about what we value and what we think is important to educating our students.
 - v. What do you think is most important? What are we missing? How can we do better?
 - vi. What can we do to support our students and teachers?
 - vii. Looking forward to a challenging year, where can we fill in the gaps? Let’s work together to make Pine Street the best we can be!
 - viii. Our Brand is Excellence!
- d. ASCA School Council Engagement Task Force – December 2019 Request for Input
- i. Lesley will summarize request and call for feedback from meeting attendees in an additional email. Request for Input document and Lesley’s summary will be appended to minutes.
- e. Questions/comments
- i. None.

10. Adjourned by Chair, Lesley Bowman at 9:26pm.

The next regular meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 11th, 2020 at 7:30pm.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:

Lorena Ellsworth, Secretary

Adopted by Council in the meeting of February 11th, 2020

Lesley Bowman
Chair

DRAFT

ASCA School Council Engagement Task Force - **December 2019 REQUEST FOR INPUT**

Thank you for participating in the *School Council Engagement Task Force (SCETF)* for the 2019 – 2020 school year.

The feedback your school council parent representative compiles and submits to the ASCA is greatly appreciated by the Board to assist in their considerations on education issues in Alberta.

The Board utilizes information gathered to inform the advocacy work of the association. This may include advising at external committee meetings, sharing with appropriate Ministries or provincial education organizations, and the potential for Board sponsored Advocacy Resolutions.

Request for input regarding “**Priorities for Education**”.

Background/context:

The **Alberta Education Business Plan 2019-2023** released in October 2019 contains four (4) Ministry Outcomes intended to provide leadership, direction, and oversight in the delivery of a student-centred K-12 education system that provides assurance to the public and promotes student success:

- Alberta’s students are successful
- First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students in Alberta are successful
- Alberta has excellent teachers, school leaders, and school authority leaders
- Alberta’s K-12 education system is well governed and managed

[Click here to view the complete Alberta Education Business Plan 2019-23](#)

Please submit feedback to ASCA by **February 2, 2020**.

Part 1: Provincial Education **Desired Outcomes/Goals/Priorities**

Using a scale of 1 – 5, with 1 indicating “*not* supportive at all”, and 5 indicating “*very* supportive”, please rate how *supportive* your school council is of the following Alberta Education Business goals:

Alberta’s students are successful

1 2 3 4 5

First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students in Alberta are successful

1 2 3 4 5

Alberta has excellent teachers, school leaders, and school authority leaders

1 2 3 4 5

Alberta’s K-12 education system is well governed and managed

1 2 3 4 5

- 1) Which of the current education outcome(s)/goal(s) does your school council feel Alberta Education should **increase** its focus on, and why?
- 2) Which of the current education outcome(s)/goal(s) does your school council feel Alberta Education should **decrease or eliminate** its focus on, and why?
- 3) Are there additional outcome(s)/goal(s) your school council feels Alberta Education should **include** in future Education Business Plans?

Part 2: **Key Objectives** to support Ministry Outcomes

Outcome One (1): **Alberta's students are successful**
Key Objectives

- 1.1 Ensure Alberta's curriculum provides students with the essential knowledge and skills and foundational competencies they need to be successful.
- 1.2 Reform provincial assessment to allow students, parents and teachers to clearly identify areas of strength and areas in need of additional support.
- 1.3 Increase opportunities for young Albertans' to participate in hands-on learning experiences in apprenticeship, skilled trades and vocational education.

- 4) Does your school council suggest any *additions, changes or deletions* related to the *Key Objectives* above for Outcome One?

Yes No

If yes, please explain:

Outcome Two (2): **First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students in Alberta are successful**
Key Objectives

- 2.1 Strengthen education programs, policies and initiative for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.
- 2.2 Ensure First Nations students have access to the provincial education system.
- 2.3 Support school divisions to enter into education service agreements with First Nations.
- 2.4 Work with education partners to enhance First Nations, Métis and Inuit students' educational outcomes.

- 5) Does your school council suggest any *additions, changes or deletions* related to the *Key Objectives* above for Outcome Two?

Yes No

If yes, please explain:

Outcome Three (3): ***Alberta has excellent teachers, school leaders, and school authority leaders***
Key Objectives

- 3.1 Support the updated teaching quality standard and the new leadership and superintendent leadership quality standards.
- 3.2 Provide guidance on the evaluation of teacher and school leader performance.
- 3.3 Support the development of the teaching workforce in areas of demand and need.
- 3.4 Enhance the level of subject matter expertise in the teacher workforce in collaboration with the Ministry or Advanced Education.

6) Does your school council suggest any *additions, changes* or *deletions* related to the *Key Objectives* above for Outcome Three?

Yes No

If yes, please explain:

Outcome Four (4): ***Alberta's K-12 education system is well governed and managed***
Key Objectives

- 4.1 Support choice in education.
- 4.2 Fund the education system.
- 4.3 Ensure resources are being used effectively while providing more freedom for how school authorities plan and measure their work.

7) Does your school council suggest any *additions, changes* or *deletions* related to the *Key Objectives* above for Outcome Four?

Yes No

If yes, please explain:

8) Additional comments:

School Council Name: _____

Thank you for your input!

Link to online input FORM: <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/the-parent-voice/school-council-engagement-task-force-input>

APPENDIX B – Request for Input: Chair Summary

Thank you for your patience while I dug into this survey and the Government of Alberta Business Plan 2019-2023. We did run late at our meeting on Tuesday, but I deeply value the candid conversations that occur at the meetings and the sharing of perspectives, and I believe it is a service to those of us in the room to allow for that. Thank you for attending and for adding your voice to the conversation.

I closely reviewed the Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) Parental Engagement Task Force Survey and the accompanying Alberta Business Plan 2019-2023. The survey is derived directly from the business plan and the intent of the survey is to determine if the values of parents in our association align with this business plan. The ASCA is the vehicle for the parent voice at a provincial level and it is their mandate to advocate for their membership, thus, if there is a divergence of opinion, ASCA will work toward advocating based on feedback from these surveys. I will attach the survey again and I will outline my notes and thoughts below. If you would like to send me your filled-out survey, I will tally the votes and submit the survey with the majority decisions. I will follow up with those who attended the meeting to ensure transparency.

The usual limitations of government issued business plans is that their nomenclature is not really specific. For example, the UCP still haven't really explained what they mean by 'choice in education' and why it is so critical to their platform. The cynical part of me assumes that it means more private education, which I do not believe is in the best interest of most students in Alberta. I will go through my thoughts on each question on the survey to provide some context.

Part 1: Provincial Education *Desired Outcomes/Goals/Priorities*

I would agree with the survey in that all four of these outcomes are desirable. I understand the focus on First Nations, Metis, and Inuit students as they statistically have outcomes not in line with the outcomes for other Alberta students.

I would agree that we are very supportive (5) of all four goals.

1. Which of the goals does your council feel Alberta Education should **increase** focus on?
 - a. We believe that a focus on 3 & 4 will lead to better outcomes for Alberta students.
2. Which should they **decrease or eliminate**?
 - b. None.
3. Are there additional goals Alberta Education should **include** in future Education Business Plans?
 - c. We indicated stable, predictable, adequate inclusive public education funding. Funding is addressed in the 'well governed and well managed' piece, but I still believe it warrants specificity as a goal.

Part 2: **Key Objectives to Support Ministry Outcomes**

Outcome One: **Alberta's students are successful**

- d. Reading further into the Business Plan, the focus for the UCP government continues to be on standardized testing results. That is the metric for measuring 'students are successful'. I do agree with their objective of a curriculum that provides students with essential knowledge and skills and foundational competencies.
 - e. I believe that the bulk of the K-4 curriculum re-development done under the former NDP government will remain in place with some changes. I do not know what that means for the curriculums for the other grades once developed.
 - f. An increase in accessibility to hands on experience, apprenticeships, and vocational education sounds good, but often is not a reality for rural students due to funding limitations and the limitations of smaller centres to offer extensive CTS options.
4. Does your school council suggest any *additions, changes or deletions* related to the *Key Objectives* above for Outcome One?
- a. Yes, 1.2 regarding provincial assessments. I feel that, again, without clarity of the intent of this government's intent to link funding to academic performance, it seems as though their use of standardized testing as a primary performance metric leads me to believe the outcome will be funding based on performance. I do not support this as I feel it is not in the best interests of Alberta students. I do like the addition of written response in the math diploma, no calculator portions of PATs. All of their performance metrics in the Alberta Business Plan 2019-2023 are based on PAT and diploma test results, so I understand why these tests are valuable to the government, but do not believe they are necessarily accurate representations of student understanding.

Outcome Two **First Nations, Metis, and Inuit students in Alberta are successful**

5. Does your school council suggest any *additions, changes, or deletions* related to the *Key Objectives* for Outcome Two?
- a. No, however, I would like you to know that the performance metrics in the Business Plan for this Outcome are, again based on test performance, but also call for an increase in High School completion for FNMI students. As stated earlier in the document and mentioned in our Council conversation, it is important to know that there has been a focus on 'all Alberta students' and the current statistics for FNMI students do not compare favourably with other Alberta students.

Outcome Three ***Alberta has excellent teacher, school leaders, and school authority leaders***

6. Does your school council suggest any *additions, changes, or deletions* related to the *Key Objectives* for Outcome Three?
 - a. I believe that the teaching quality standards are very important, as is the development of leadership and superintendent quality standards. These allow us, as parents, to have a framework to interpret the quality of the professionals in our classrooms, leading our schools and divisions. Guidance in the application of these standards through teacher and leadership performance is important as a goal for Alberta Education as they work to develop and implement standards for leadership and superintendents. I also believe that collaboration with Advanced Education to ensure to enhance subject matter expertise is a worthwhile objective.
 - b. So, yes, I would support this Outcome as is.

Outcome Four ***Alberta K-12 education system is well governed and managed***

7. Does your school council suggest any *additions, changes, or deletions* related to the *Key Objectives* for Outcome Four?
 - a. Again, until we see the Choice in Education Act this spring, it is difficult for me to know what kind of choice in education the Business Plan supports. I understand the need for separate, private, home, charter, and public education and that they all have a role to play in fulfilling the needs of students in Alberta, but I worry about the lack of funding for initiatives like inclusive education in the public system. If more money goes to private education or their funding model changes to include pensions, infrastructure or additional funding allocated to students, more of Alberta's students will suffer.
 - b. I hope the desire to maintain the autonomy of public school boards remains and that there is an understanding at a Provincial level that locally elected school trustees and boards know the issues facing their divisions and are best equipped to advocate for them.
 - c. Yes, I would like to add a section about adequately funding growth and inclusive education.