



## **Peace River High School Council Meeting - November 2, 2021 at 7:35**

**Attendees: Jonathan Pittman, James Pobuda, Beckie Rudneski, Maya Directo, Robyn Verreault, Katrina Martin, Tammy Novak, Susan Rumleski, Crystal Owens.**

### **1.0 Welcome and introductions**

### **2.0 Review and approval of previous minutes and agenda**

**2.1** Minutes approved as written – Beckie made a motion and Katrina seconded.

### **3.0 Principal's Report – Jonathan Pittman**

**3.1** Cells Phone Use Policy: A growing concern is the amount of usage of cell phones and electronic devices during class time for non-educational purposes. Below is a draft cell phone policy for PRHS. 3. 4. Grad Dates - The options for grade dates this year were Wednesday, June 29th, and Thursday, June 30th. The majority of respondents were able to choose between these two dates, there were three parents with concerns it wasn't happening on a Saturday. The rationale behind date choices. i. Having grad at the end of the school year allows most students to position themselves to participate and to successfully graduate high school. ii. This year the Saturday after the last day of classes falls on July 2nd which is four days after the last day for staff and students and therefore the staff would not be available to run graduation. iii. There is a Physic 30 diploma on Monday, June 27th therefore Saturday, June 25th was not an option.

#### **School-wide cell phone policy- PRHS draft cell phone policy 2021-2022**

1. Upon arrival students will power down or turn their cellphones/ personal electronics on silent.
2. Upon entering the classroom students will place their electronic/cellphone in the designated area that the teacher has assigned for storage.
3. During class the teacher will allow for a 5 min tech break where students will be allowed to check devices and respond to any messages they have received.
4. After the break staff will make an announcement that devices shall be placed back in the storage area and class work is to resume.
5. Staff may make an exception regarding use of personal devices in the event that there may be extenuating circumstances. Students should discuss this with the staff member prior to the start of class. An example of an extenuating circumstance could be that a family member is in the hospital and the student is receiving updates on their condition. Consequences for non compliance
  1. A private conversation with the student will occur asking the student if they understand the expectation. If so, why are they not meeting the expectations?
  2. Multiple non-compliance of expectations, teachers will request that the student turn in their cell phone/devices be picked up at the end of the class from the teacher.
  3. If defiance to staff's request continues then an administrator will be called and the student will be asked to turn the cell phone/devices over to the administrator and the cell phone/device can be obtained at the end of the day in the office.



4. Chronic noncompliance- students' cell phones/devices will have to be turned in to an administrator and can be obtained from the office when a parent or guardian can pick it up. At which point a meeting will be set where parent/guardian and student will meet to discuss the barriers to following expectations and to find alternatives to bring the device to school.

Katrina: how are we planning to enforce this? I think it's great and something does need to happen. Robyn: I used to have a park and chare station and the kids did buy into it quite well and used the phones to trade time. Did work well. Jon: I did implement this in my class, and the rational was that you can't pay attention when your phone is dinging in your pocket. I do know the parents may need to call in the school if they need to talk to their kids. There are non-compliance items in policy. Crystal: Some kids are going to have an issue with the school holding their possessions. Would there be an option of just not having their phones out, there were issues before when this was tried. Jon: My concern with the in pocket it is still a distraction. Maya: I think kids will try and take other kids phones. Jon: The phones would be in a locked location in the class. Beckie: My kid has had his phone taken and thought it was a funny joke and that was in a box in the teacher's possession. That did cause allot of stress. I do agree it is a distraction. Jon: Would like some feedback of the draft and will email. Tammy: Agree that phones are a problem, another option would be if the phones were on do not disturb. I might have some policies from other school divisions that I can pass along. Katrina: I would also like some discussion around the anxiety of losing the phones. Jon: I will do my best to make sure kids will understand that were doing this so they don't have the distractions. James: We are having departmental and kids have to give up phones, and watches to write the exam. It's been 2 years since kids have written diploma exams. Crystal: Some kids just don't bring their phones for the exams. Maya: I don't think kids have a problem giving up their phones, I think during the lectures, some kids need to have something to do. Tammy: One policy is that kids phones stay in their lockers.

- 3.2 Attendance: There has been a growing concern regarding student attendance for school and class. Some students are either arriving significantly late, not coming at all, or arriving at school and not attending or coming late to class Possible solutions
- i. use incentives such as awards and draws for students who are arriving at class on time.
  - ii. Addressing these concerns in a school-wide assembly speaking with students about the importance of arriving at school on time.

Katrina: I find it disheartening that kids seem to get extensions to their assignments and there is no consequences for late assignments. Jon: I do understand the issue and we are hoping to use positive incentives to encourage assignments being handed in on time. Beckie: I have an opposite to Katrina and I want to know if the assignments need to be handed in on time and the kids that are not high achievers and how that would impact them. Jon: Allot of kids don't have the ability to set long term goals and complete them. It is why we are trying to set goals and achieve them. These are skills they will need for life. Beckie: The Teachers are amazing at getting the kids to keep going. Jon: does effect the teachers when they need to mark assignments with a



busy schedule it does impact other people. Katrina: This would be a good conversation for the assembly. Jon: it is on my list. I'm hoping to get some donations for the incentives. Maya: It may actually discourage the kids that don't get the assignments in even more. Susan: I don't feel that rewards should be given as it will continue to make the divide between the students even greater. Tammy: possibly some form of peer mentorship might be positive. Maya: We do have some students that do need some tutoring and we have student that might be able to help out. Perhaps there is mentorship credits. Katrina: I would like to see that kids get rewarded for really trying.

- 3.3 Develop the school culture: School culture- we are hoping to increase school culture and student involvement in a student-driven school culture. Working with Kendra (Project Peace) I would like to reinstate the LOL group (League of Leaders). We will be addressing this with students at the school-wide assembly.

#### **4.0 Teacher's Report (Robyn Verreault)**

- 4.1 Exams, volley ball & basketball sports, reports cards digital. Beckie: Why are parents not allowed to watch as spectators? Robyn, it's not the school it is the Crystal: Due to covid we choose to not allow spectators for indoor activities. Beckie: Is there staff that check the vaccines passports the Baytex facility? James: We have used Baytex in the past and the line is really the vaccine and having that division. Maya: We were allowed a parent on the bench and live streamed the games. Maybe we can do that for the future. Tammy: I do find the policy frustrating, I do understand the reasons and I do find it difficult of not being able to participate with her has been tough. We are going to Rocky Mountain House and is allowing 1 parent per player, would there be the ability to meet in the middle with this. Maya: We are looking for score keeper and could train them. Crystal: We are feeling frustration as well. We are focusing on education not health care. I'm not sure what the schools are allowed to do with this. Jon: this is a divisional policy.

#### **5.0 Student Report: Maya Directo**

- 5.1 Less vandalism now  
5.2 Healthy snack options now  
5.3 Cold weather will probably make marijuana come back in the schools, do we have a plan to deal with this? Jon: We do have a plan in place to deal with this. The smell of it does not indicate consumption. Beckie: is this related to the tictoc videos? Maya: yes based off the devious licks tictoc. Jon We did have had some vandalism in the school and it has decreased.  
5.4 Mentorship program:

#### **6.0 New Business**

- 6.1 No new business.

#### **7.0 Trustee Report (Crystal Owens)**

- 7.1 Covid: Freedom of choice.  
7.2 Bus garage almost ready to move in  
7.3 Antiracism Committee  
7.4 Council of school councils – on line.



Katrina: I heard the school boards are asking to pay back the money for covid supplies is that true? Crystal: We are not giving it back, with covid we were down on numbers and then they reduced us due to enrolment and took it back. Beckie asked if it was ok to attach the board highlights to the minutes and sent to Susan.

Beckie: Tammy: School health promotion roll: Short staffed and working to try and support our divisions locally.

Beckie: have you gotten any feedback about having grad on a week day vs weekend survey?

Jon: We have had 17 feedback received. Beckie: it is challenging with family that live far away and cannot attend. Crystal: Does not grad have to be in school hours? Beckie: I think that was for covid. Crystal: We will probably be sticking with the same as last year. Tammy: It is not ideal with how the calendar has fallen. I did do the survey. Do you know when the decision will be made? Jon: Not too sure yet. Maya: I feel like the students should have some input as well. Jon, Saturday ideally works the best for parents when this year it falls on the holiday weekend. For some it is an advantage and other not. It's before the diploma exams or it's after the school closes so we are left for a day during the week. Decided on Wednesday and Thursday after exams and before the weekend. Beckie: Tanners Grad was on a long weekend. Jon: it is not acceptable to as staff to stay on 4 days past the end of the year. Crystal: It was only 1 day and allot of the staff were gone. Crystal: Are we planning on the drive through town? Tammy: Yes we are. Maya: One issue with the parade was the traffic circle.

#### **7.0 Date of next meeting**

- January 11, 2021 at 7:30 pm

**Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm**

#### **Peace River High School Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**

**Attendees: Jon Pitman, Beckie Rudneski, Katrina Martin, Susan Rumleski, James Pobuda Robyn Verreault, Tammy Novak**

#### **1.0 Treasurer's Report**

- August 31, 2021 – Attached to minutes.

#### **2.0 New Business**

- PAC Casino - December 9 & 10- Need volunteers
- Casino – Need at least 13 more volunteers as of today. Jon, Susan & Beckie to work at a possible campaign to try had get more volunteers.
- Beckie asked if we can advertise this meeting in the future. Also can we have a google classroom and have the agenda posted in there for the meeting? Jon: yes we can probably get that for January. If we do a week before for the agenda.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.**



Peace River High School Parents Association

Treasurers Report

November 2, 2021

	Bank Balance as of September 30, 2021	<b>\$ 6010.40</b>
INCOME		<b>\$ 0.00</b>
TOTAL	Closing Balance on October 31, 2021	<b>\$ 6010.40</b>
DISBURSMENTS		\$ 0.00
TOTAL		\$ 0.00
ASSETS		\$ 0.00
TOTAL		\$ 0.00
LIABILITIES		\$ 0.00
TOTAL		\$ 0.00

Susan Rumleski

NAME

Treasurer

POSITION

November 2, 2021

DATE