

**Jennie Emery Elementary
School Council Meeting
Monday – February 12th, 2024**

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – 7:02 PM
2. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Danie Lawrence (Chairperson), Toni Klassen (Treasurer), Joisa Tillack (Secretary), Sharon Rutledge (Trustee), Debbie Laturnus (Trustee), Amy Kerr (Vice Principal), Chris Spanos (Principal), Shanda Westerhoud, Fallon Ritchie, Kim Booker, Lillian Northcott, John Koot
3. **REVIEW OF AGENDA**
 - a. ADDITIONS – None.
 - b. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – 1st Toni, 2nd Shanda, none opposed. Approved.
4. **REVIEW OF MINUTES**
 - a. ADDITIONS – None.
 - b. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 15th, 2024 MEETING MINUTES – 1st Toni, 2nd Shanda, none opposed. Approved.
5. **REPORTS**
 - a. **CHAIRPERSON** – Engagement Funds have been placed into our account which can be held for only two school years. Further discussion regarding what we could use these funds for can be discussed at a future meeting. Bank switch was finalized from BMO to Scotiabank. In the meantime though, we are keeping BMO account for grant application purposes. Buddy Treasurer position was reposted with no responses as of yet.
 - b. **PRINCIPAL** –
 - i. **VICE PRINCIPAL FAREWELL** – Congratulations to Megan Leusink who has moved onto Kate Andrews. We have posted a temporary part time teacher position for the remainder of this year to offset her teaching assignment. We are in the process of hiring for this position aiming for the end of February.
 - ii. **EVENT HIGHLIGHTS** – Choir sang the national anthem at the Hurricanes game. It was a great turn out, great game and no pucks on the head. Coaldale Businesses Hearts were dropped off by some classes last week. Kindergarten classes were able to go on a swimming field trip. Winter Walk happened with some classes paired up. Sledding with Mr. H or classroom teachers across the hill has been enjoyed. Parent teacher interviews were well attended and well timed.

Basketball club is wrapping up this week with the Grade 1 and 2s starting at the beginning of March. Upcoming assembly to celebrate Jennie Emery’s 30th birthday is this Friday February 16th with cookies to be handed out to classes after the assembly. March 11th will be closed for Kindergarten because of Parent Teacher Interviews. March 15th will be the date the report cards will be sent home for all grades except for Kindergarten which will be sent on March 28th.

iii. REGISTRATION – Registration for Early Learning is still open. Early on there was very limited interest with the half day so we will still assess half day versus full day as registrations come in. Parents are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

iv. SURVEY – Grade 4 families should have received a survey from the Alberta Education Assurance to be filled out.

v. PRESENTATION – Chris Mattatall workshop had mixed feedback from parents that attended. Suggestion to have more workshops like these.

vi. WESTWIND THUNDER DANCE – We are looking into hosting them again as it was very much enjoyed by the children last year. Waiting on availability and scheduling at the moment to see if it'll work this year.

- c. TRUSTEE – See attached. Discussion regarding busses and if more busses will be purchased for next year with the projected increase of numbers requiring bussing with the new school as well as improvements to some current bus issues (Palliser busses rented out by Lethbridge schools for their field trips which limits the dates for our school field trips and access to bussing availability).

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. ROOM ALLOCATION – With the change of grades for the school for next school year, it is anticipated that there will be empty classrooms available for allocation. A request for a lunch room was given.
- b. RI BAKER – With Grade 3's moving onto RI Baker, there was a question on whether there will be a field trip to RI Baker prior to their transition.
- c. COMMUNICATION – Multitude of emails in the last month regarding concern on the many different changes with staffing and unclear facts of what is happening. The lack of consistent communication, the many changes with staffing, school grade alteration and other uncertain circumstances regarding some classes have increased the concern of parents. Although, it is understood that some decisions were made with a quick turnaround that the communication could be improved between families and the school regarding staffing and any changes in general.

7. **NEXT MEETING** – Monday – March 11th, 2024 at 7pm

8. **ADJOURNMENT** – 8:16 PM

TRUSTEE REPORT:

JEES Parent Council Meeting

February 12th, 2024

Cindy Rogers, Director of Finance, presented an **updated financial report**. As of **Dec 2023**, a **deficit of 1.62 million dollars is projected** which is in line with the 1.6 million dollars budget **prediction for the 2024-25 school year**. The division estimates a shortfall in funding in all areas. With the new changes to distance criteria, (2.4 to 1 and 2 kilometres), school transportation has resulted in bus ridership of over 340 students in Coaldale, Coalhurst and Picture Butte. Preschool student transportation has been eliminated due to near-capacity routes. The new funding formula based on ridership thresholds, has decreased per-pupil funding rate, negatively impacting the budget.

David Shaw, Transportation Supervisor, reported that Palliser owns 85 buses, 16 staff vehicles, 2 service vehicles and 12 maintenance vehicles. We have two repair facilities, in Lethbridge and Vulcan, staffed by 4 full-time mechanics. Bus drivers are the major contributors to excellent service and receive on-going training for safety with follow-up opportunities. Palliser transports 2200 students daily over 62 daily routes and travel over 1.9 million kilometres per year.

Occupational Health and Safety is maximizing safety for both staff and students. Schools are developing and practicing emergency plans through drills, conducted during “less than ideal” times under various weather conditions to be prepared for any real emergencies.

The **Board has approved 3 Division calendars for the 2024-25 school year** following review of feedback from Administrators and School Councils. School administrators can now consult with their staff and community to determine a local calendar.

Next Board Meeting is Tuesday, February 13th, 2024.

Report submitted by Trustee S. Rutledge

Jennie Emery Elementary
Friends of Jennie Emery Elementary Society Meeting
Monday – February 12th, 2024

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – 8:17 PM

IN ATTENDANCE – Danie Lawrence (Chairperson), Toni Klassen (Treasurer), Joisa Tillack (Secretary), Amy Kerr (Vice Principal), Chris Spanos (Principal), Shanda Westerhoud, Fallon Ritchie, Kim Booker, Lillian Northcott, John Koot

2. REVIEW OF AGENDA

- a. ADDITIONS – None.
- b. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – 1st Toni, 2nd Fallon, none opposed. Approved.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. ADDITIONS – None.
- b. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 15th, 2024 MEETING MINUTES – 1st Toni, 2nd Fallon, none opposed. Approved.

4. FINANCIAL

- a. TREASURER’S REPORT – End of January balance is \$118,643.58 with \$92,571.24 spoken for and \$26,072.34 of unallocated funds. Christmas Concert fundraiser funds, Pizza 73 funds (\$65 from 13 orders), hot lunch, Engagement Funds, gala donations and table sales came in to the account for January.
- b. ENGAGEMENT FUNDS FOR 23/24 YEAR (\$500 x2) – Engagement Funds have been placed into our account which can be held for only two school years. Tabled again. Everyone to think of ideas on how we could apply this funding to the school and bring it to next meeting.

5. FUNDRAISING

- a. FUNDRAISER REPORT – No updates. Discuss “Bake, Share, Care” cupcake sale (with a little bit of cookies) which is set for April 17th.

ACTION: Toni to create Signup Genius for cupcakes and cookies. Joisa to create invitation and send to Nicole/Kristy.

- b. GALA UPDATE – We have currently close to 100 seats sold. Ticket and table sales are open and hoping to get more seats sold. Next meeting to be held on Tuesday - February 20th, 2024 at 7pm at the Coaldale Tim Horton’s. “Remembering the 90’s” themed fundraising gala is set for Saturday – March 16th, 2024 at the school gymnasium. Local businesses are slowly being contacted by a few parent volunteers for table and ticket sales and/or donations for silent/live auctions.
- c. FUNDRAISER IDEAS FOR NEXT YEAR – We will not be hosting a fundraising gala next year so we are looking for other ideas for fundraisers for the next school year. 50/50, Beef Raffle, etc. are some thoughts.

6. HOT LUNCH REPORT – It is going great with a ton of work by parent volunteer(s). Lunchbox will not

be applied to our school this year.

7. **PLAYGROUND REPORT** – Waiting on our last grant (CFEP) and we are hopeful as we just made it through the last stage of the application. We expect to hear back in the next 2-3 months regarding the status of the application.
8. **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**
 - a. **TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK** – To be held the week of May 1st but will discuss after the gala.
 - b. **MOTHER’S DAY / FATHER’S DAY REQUESTS** – Suggestions to do a “Tea with Mom” or “Donuts with Dad” was given. Discussion on capacity with parent volunteers and how it may need to be tabled for next school year with the fundraising gala planning in the process and meeting our objective we set from the beginning of the school year.
 - c. **FUN DAY DATE** – June 10th and 11th attentively booked with a set date to be decided on as soon as details are confirmed.
 - d. **BIRTHDAY ASSEMBLY COOKIES** – An order of 450 cookies from Coaldale Bakery has been scheduled for pick up this Friday morning. The gluten/dairy free cookies will be provided by parent volunteer Erin Van Esveld and will be dropped off on Friday morning. Cookies to be divided to each classroom after the assembly.

ACTION: Shanda to pick up cookies from Coaldale Bakery and help with dividing cookies to each classroom.
 - e. **BBQ / PICNIC** – Teacher appreciation week to be held the week of May 1st.
9. **NEW BUSINESS** – Danie was able to find an Indigenous elder that works with kids specifically that covers all of the required material in the new curriculum regarding Indigenous culture.
10. **NEXT MEETING** – Monday – March 11th, 2024 at 7pm
11. **ADJOURNMENT** – 9:00 PM