

**Jennie Emery Elementary
School Council Meeting
Monday – March 11th, 2024**

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – 7:05 PM
2. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Danie Lawrence (Chairperson), Kim Hazuda (Co-chairperson), Toni Klassen (Treasurer), Joisa Tillack (Secretary), Sharon Rutledge (Trustee), Debbie Laturus (Trustee), Chris Spanos (Principal), Jade Barron (Teacher), Shanda Westerhoud, Lillian Northcott, John Koot
3. **REVIEW OF AGENDA**
 - a. ADDITIONS – None.
 - b. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – 1st Shanda, 2nd John, none opposed. Approved.
4. **REVIEW OF MINUTES**
 - a. ADDITIONS – None.
 - b. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 12th, 2024 MEETING MINUTES – 1st Shanda, 2nd Danie, none opposed. Approved.
5. **REPORTS**
 - a. CHAIRPERSON – Everything is set for the gala, we have 128 guests confirmed which is great for our first fundraising gala. Wonderful response from the local businesses, teachers and parents with the donations.

We are still in possession of the ASCA funds (\$1,000) and currently in the process of brainstorming which workshop we could book this year to use up the \$500 for this school year.

Buddy Treasurer position was reposted again with no responses as of yet.

Inclusive playground application requirement was sent last month and now just waiting for results which may take a few months.

- b. PRINCIPAL –

- i. EVENT HIGHLIGHTS – Westwind Thunder Dance was well received by our students and may be looking at hosting them at our school annually. 100th Day, 30th Anniversary Day, Pink Shirt, Random Acts of Kindness Week, Red Shirt, and Throwback Day were the highlights the past month. Grade 1 and 2 Basketball has begun with high interest where some classes have the entire class signed up and something that all the students have looked forward to. Field trips for the Kindergarten were well enjoyed. Next student assembly is March 22nd.

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. Teachers should be sending out messages to families and giving options for either receiving reports cards via email or Dojo.

- ii. PALLISER SCHOOL DIVISION CALENDAR – Draft of this calendar was handed out during the

meeting for feedback from parents. Other schools have also been communicated with to try and coordinate bus schedules for PD days. Suggestion provided for Palliser and the school to have PD days on a different day other than Fridays as finding child care is difficult when there are multiple Fridays in a month that families are required to take time off for.

ACTION: Chris to follow up with Palliser regarding the PD day suggestion. Debbie and Sharon to send Danie an email regarding information about topic above.

iii. REGISTRATION – Encouraging families who know of other families that are new in the community who are interested in Jennie Emery Elementary School to reach out. Tours can be arranged to provide new families information.

c. TRUSTEE – See attached.

6. **NEW BUSINESS** – None.

7. **NEXT MEETING** – Wednesday – April 17th, 2024 at 7pm

8. **ADJOURNMENT** – 8:02 PM

TRUSTEE REPORT:

JEES Parent Council Meeting

March 11th, 2024

(1) Highlights from February Board Meeting

The Board received an update on our efforts and achievements in supporting student's mental well-being, one of our top priorities. Thanks to a **mental health** grant received in 2022, it was possible to train staff in social-emotional skills development, implemented programs to connect students with supportive communities and provided expert-level assessment and care. However, the grant is about to expire which presents a new challenge. The Board is exploring various options to continue supporting our students.

In a **Technology** Service Report, the Division continues to struggle with underfunding by the govt. The schools have a rise in Network usage, Google workspace and increases in Supernet bandwidth, currently costing an additional \$11,000 per month. With software platforms increasingly moving online, the necessity for robust infrastructure becomes more critical. Cybersecurity is also a concern with the rise of more sophisticated threats demanding enhanced protective measures.

Recently, our Board and representatives from the Town of Coaldale had the opportunity to **tour the new school and adjacent recreation center**. The state-of-the-art facility will become the community hub providing exceptional learning opportunities with students having a convenient access to the rec center. We eagerly anticipate the opening of the Coaldale Prairie Winds Secondary for the 2024-25 school year.

On March 06, the Board had the opportunity to have a **virtual meeting** with **Minister Joseph Schow (MLA for our area)** to discuss our concerns for our school division. Topics presented involved the govt. short-fall in funding for Mental Health, Technology, Transportation and the Southern Alberta Collegiate Institute needing long term funding to carry on with the dual credit programs.

Report submitted by Trustee S. Rutledge

(2) Jennie Emery - Transportation Questions

Coaldale Bus Stops:

We've worked hard to ensure that our bus stops in Coaldale are conveniently located for most students, usually within a block or two of their homes. Although there might be times when only a few students are at a stop, we strive to maintain these locations for consistency and ease. On rare occasions, if a student misses the bus, we do make a second round when possible. Additionally, for our students with special needs, personalized transportation is provided directly to their residences.

Pre-School Transportation:

We are passionate about the importance of early childhood education. Yet, it's important to note that current guidelines from Alberta Education classify preschool children differently from K-12 students, impacting transportation funding, resource availability and safety guidelines. With growing numbers in our schools and other constraints, we can not offer transportation to preschool students.

Field Trip Transportation:

Our mission is to enrich student learning through various experiences, including field trips. However, this year, due to the expansion of our routes and a reduction in available buses and drivers, planning these trips has become more challenging. We are actively working with school principals to accommodate as many trips as possible, prioritizing educational opportunities while navigating these logistical constraints. If we have an existing commitment to a partner, such as the College, we can not always coordinate a last-minute request

from a school. Our transportation department will be better able to meet the needs of our schools when booking requests are made in a timely manner, short turn around times are not always possible. The Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of field trips and has reduced the rate for drivers and mileage.

Driver Training ("S" Endorsement):

The safety of our students is paramount, which is why all our bus drivers undergo rigorous training, including the "S" Endorsement for specialized school bus operation. This comprehensive training ensures that every journey your child takes with us is safe and secure. While we are always on the lookout for volunteer drivers, the training requirements are quite intensive. As of April 2023, the Province changed the program from the Melt 2-S training of a mandatory 53-hour course to all operators requiring an "S" Endorsement on a Class 1 or 2 licence. We're exploring ways to make training more accessible, including potential summer programs, to expand our dedicated team of drivers. We welcome any volunteer driver with a class 1 or 2 license. Please reach out to your school or our transportation services department.

Report submitted by Trustee D. Laturnus

Next Board Meeting is Tuesday, March 12th, 2024.

Jennie Emery Elementary
Friends of Jennie Emery Elementary Society Meeting
Monday – March 11th, 2024

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER – 8:03 PM**

IN ATTENDANCE – Danie Lawrence (Chairperson), Kim Hazuda (Co-chairperson), Toni Klassen (Treasurer), Joisa Tillack (Secretary), Chris Spanos (Principal), Jade Barron (Teacher), Shanda Westerhoud, Lillian Northcott, John Koot

2. **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

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

3. **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

- a. ADDITIONS – None.
- b. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 12th, 2024 MEETING MINUTES – 1st Toni, 2nd Shanda, none opposed. Approved.

4. **FINANCIAL**

- a. TREASURER’S REPORT – End of February balance is \$122,595.28 with \$99,132.97 spoken for (almost \$80,000 is allocated for the inclusive playground [\$79,696.44 to be exact]) and \$23,462.31 of unallocated funds. ASCE funds of \$1000, \$200 from opt out fundraiser, hot lunch, gala came in to the account for February. Field trip requests and cookies for the 30th Anniversary assembly (overbudget of \$5.10) came out of the account. As of today, we have received \$3,564.99 from the opt out fundraiser alone.
- b. ASCA ENGAGEMENT FUNDS IDEAS – Engagement Funds of \$1,000 have been placed into our account which can be held for only two school years. Accepting ideas for courses/workshops that could be arranged for parents to be able to use \$500 for this school year. Ideas provided during the meeting include: ADHD and Cyber Security for Children and Online Safety. Looking for input on topics we could set up for parents.

ACTION: Everyone to bring ideas to next meeting. Chris to follow up with the FCSS and see if we can extend on their current ADHD workshop. Chris to follow up with Dr. Chris Mattatall on a list of presentation options for us to review. Chris to also look into sending out a survey for parents to fill out to find out topics they would be interested in.

5. **FUNDRAISING**

a. **FUNDRAISER REPORT**

i. BAKE SHARE CARE (APRIL 17th) – Less cookies, more cupcakes. Four parent volunteers will be assigned for cookies and the rest will be cupcakes.

ACTION: Toni to create Signup Genius for cupcakes and cookies as well as volunteers for the day of. Joisa to create poster. Danie to forward poster to Nicole to post on Dojo and April newsletter.

ii. GALA (MARCH 16th) – Everything is booked and ready to go. Set up will be at 3pm on

Friday – March 15th once BGC is out of the gym. More set up to happen on the day of the event and clean up on Sunday – March 17th. We have 128 seats sold. Danie to be in charge of having the building key and fob.

b. NEXT FUNDRAISING MEETING DATE – TBD.

6. **HOT LUNCH REPORT** – Continues to be doing well and looking forward to next year’s hot lunch plans. Looking for feedback from teachers and if disruption has decreased with the improvement of having a separate hot lunch room and more practice to stay organized. Suggestion to look into Costco hot dogs as a future hot lunch idea.

7. **PLAYGROUND REPORT** – No new updates. We expect to hear back in the next 2-3 months regarding the status of the grant application.

8. **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

a. **TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK (MAY 6th – 10th)** – To be held the week of May 1st but will discuss after the gala.

MOTION: To set a budget of \$500 for Teacher Appreciation Week to be determined with details at next meeting. None opposed, approved.

b. **FUN DAY DATE CONFIRMATION** – Confirmed June 10th as the date for a full day of activities. Kindergarten will have M/W and T/TH students and will need support. Parent volunteers for each class will be required.

ACTION: Toni to set up SignUp Genius for parents and to contact high school student / international student volunteers to help out. Ideas for stations to be brought at next meeting.

c. **BBQ / PICNIC CONFIRMATION** – Will proceed but date TBD. There will need to be a discussion on safety.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **INDIGENOUS ACTIVITY REQUEST** – No updates as confirmation on some details are needed first before discussing budget request from FOJEES.

ACTION: Chris to follow up with Nicole Kaminski on the status of this Indigenous Activity quote and bring back to next meeting.

b. **FOJEES LOCKER STORAGE** – Lockers (2) need to be cleaned out and organized. One is the locker community storage by Mrs. C’s classroom and the other is in the staff room. After the gala, we will set a time to get parent volunteers to get this done.

c. **PIZZA FOR GALA SET UP** – Unknown number of volunteers will attend this Friday to set up.

MOTION: To order pizza for the volunteers to set up on Friday with the budget of up to \$150. None opposed, approved.

10. **NEXT MEETING** – Wednesday – April 17th, 2024 at 7pm

11. **ADJOURNMENT** – 8:50 PM