

Terrace Road Elementary School Parent Advisory Council Minutes

Thursday, 14 September 2023 – In-Person Meeting

1. Call to Order

The TRS Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Jacek Krzywicki (Chair).

2. Welcome parents and special guests

Approximately fifteen parents were in attendance and introduced themselves, including:

- Aleta Ambrose Parent
- Cristie Aschenbrener Parent
- Dan Buchanan Principal
- Amber Hamilton Volunteer Coordinator
- Eric Josue Parent
- Linda Josue Parent
- Melissa Kelly Parent
- Katie Koehler Fun Lunch Coordinator
- Jacek Krzywicki Chair
- Sean McCoy Secretary
- Jon Samuelson Casino Coordinator, Parent Association
- Jason Sokolosky Vice Chair
- Tracey Tran Fundraising Coordinator, Parent Association
- Sarah Walker Teacher
- Lindsay Weryshko Parent

3. School Update: Dan Buchanan, Principal

Dan introduces himself as the new Principal at Terrace Road Elementary School and shares his background and enthusiasm for this new role. He provides some statistics about the school:

- Students enrolled as of today: 184
- Teaching staff: 8
- Education assistants: 4
- Lunch supervisors: 6
- Library assistant
- Admin secretary

Dan notes that the breakfast program continues for the school. Dan would like to build community around the school and, to that end, is considering events like a school dance, movie night, or potluck this year. He is seeking input from the TRS community.

One of the major educational efforts this year in the school will be to incorporate new curriculum.

Questions and answers:

- How does the breakfast program work? Free to everyone, no questions asked. Funding comes from CBE. Meals provided by Meals on Wheels.
- What was the population last year? About 180, and over the past few years the school has been seeing a gradual increase. The utilization rate for the school building is around 60%. Could, in theory have over 300 in the building.
- Is TRS nut free? Nut aware? Dan says that he would prefer that students not bring foods containing peanuts, and this may be revised depending on results of student data collection.

Discussion:

- General support for a school dance in fall, particularly because MCA Jelly Bean Dance is cancelled.
- Lindsay Weryshko volunteers to work with Dan to organize.

Motion 1: Jacek moves that the PAC supports a school dance on October 26; seconded by Amber.

No objections. Motion passes.

Motion 2: Jacek moves that Lindsay Weryshko will work with Dan to organize and reach out to PAC as needed; seconded by Jason.

No objections. Motion passes.

4. Approval of previous minutes

Motion 3: Jason moves to approve June 12 AGM minutes; seconded by Amber.

No objections. Motion passes.

5. New Items for Discussion

Additional issues raised for discussion by parents with Dan Buchanan:

- Could we have Paul Davis (or similar) speak on online safety again this year? General agreement that this would be a good idea.
- Does TRS have a school-specific policy on classroom use of computers in school (in context of screen time)? No explicit policy, but teachers are aware of issues around screen time and use computers to support classroom education.
- Is online content filtered at TRS? Yes. Content is filtered at different levels by CBE policy that corresponds to the grade level of a school (e.g., elementary, junior high, high school). The filtering is applied and controlled centrally by CBE. There are hard filters and flags for obviously inappropriate content. The admirable use policy is meant

to create a conversation in the classroom, and student use of the internet (to avoid access to age-inappropriate content) is controlled in the classroom.

- Is there a mobile phone policy at TRS? Yes, at TRS, students shouldn't be using a phone unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Issues raised for discussion amongst PAC:

- Possible to get replacement TRS t-shirts. As an association fundraiser? For future consideration.

6. Teacher Updates: Tina Bisson & Megan Axford, Grade 1/2

Tina and Megan describe what they have done in the two weeks since the start of class, which has largely been focused on getting students settled in and learning new community. They mentioned they visited the community garden last week and will be making "stone soup" next week.

Questions and answers:

- Might we have an additional Grade 1/2 class? Possibly, but it depends on "bums in seats" on Sept. 30 for provincial funding allocations.
- If there would be 3rd Grade 1/2 added, when would that likely happen? After funding decisions are made at CBE level.
- Do we still have teaching assistants? Yes.
- Are split classes here to stay? Long answer, but there are a lot of good reasons (from a student learning perspective) for splits. At the current time, for TRS, this model also helps with managing class sizes over time.

7. Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting will be held in a hybrid format on Thursday, October 5 at 6 pm. In-person participation at TRS is encouraged, and parents may also connect using Microsoft Teams.

8. Adjournment

Jacek moves adjournment; seconded by Sean.

No objections. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sean McCoy, Secretary

Please see next page for Parent Advisory Council Association Minutes.

Terrace Road Parent Advisory Council Association Minutes

Thursday, 14 September 2023 – In-Person Meeting

The Parent Advisory Council Association (PACA) Meeting was held immediately following the School Council Meeting to discuss matters concerning fundraising to support Terrace Road School.

1. Call to order

The Parent Advisory Council Association meeting was called to order at 7:27 pm by Jacek Krzywicki (Chair).

2. Election of Treasurer

Although she can not attend tonight, Heather Sorensen, a TRS parent, expressed her interest in serving as treasurer.

*Motion 1: Jacek nominates Heather Sorensen as treasurer, Linda seconds.
No objections. Motion passes.*

The PACA welcomes Heather as treasurer!

3. Reports

a. Chair: Jacek Krzywicki

No updates.

b. Treasurer: Heather Sorensen

Not present. No updates provided.

c. Secretary: Sean McCoy

No updates.

d. Fundraiser: Tracey Tran

Sold 168 boxes of Apples!

Amber will find parent volunteers on Sept. 26 for apple distribution; Grade 5-6 students will help.

Discussion of fundraisers for current year. Ideas:

- Co-co brooks, Purdie's, art card project?
- Dan can ask teachers about art-card product.
- Christmas wreaths or poinsettias suggested. Plants in spring from ALCLA Native Plants?

Agreed that we should send out a list of future fundraisers in October, following the next meeting.

e. Casino Coordinator: Vacant

No updates. Next casino tentatively scheduled for Fall 2024.

f. Outdoor Classroom & Community Garden Coordinator: Melissa Valgardson

Not present, but other parents present make remarks on Melissa's behalf: Melissa thanks parents for watering the outdoor classroom over the summer. Notes the fence needs replacing and asks if the association would consider replacing. For separate discussion at later PACA meeting.

4. Bylaw Update: Sean McCoy

Sean summarizes the status of the PAC/A bylaws:

- The TRS PACA is a legal society in Alberta and our bylaws set out the rules by which the society is governed (e.g., role of the board, decision making), place restrictions on what we can do (e.g., borrow money), and set requirements to ensure we are compliant with laws and regulations.
- Parent council's (which schools in Alberta are required to establish) and parent council associations should operate at arm's length. In the spring, AGLC told PACA that our current bylaws do not meet this requirement, as our current bylaws (dating to 2003) do not sufficiently differentiate between the two.
- For us to continue to use casino funds and to be booked for future casinos, we need to revise our bylaws.
- Melissa has been working with a lawyer who revised Ecole Banff Trail's association bylaws.

Sean will circulate bylaws prior to next PACA meeting (in October) for discussion at the October meeting; they will be revised as necessary following the meeting; and, we hope they will be adopted by Special Resolution in November.

5. Requests for funds

Dan makes the following requests for funds: \$200 for welcome coffee on first day of school (general); an additional \$500 (to the approved request) to support a field trip for Grade 5-6 students to Open Minds (casino); \$2000 for learning common books supporting new curriculum (casino); up to \$15,000 for replacement iPads as part of the regular technology refresh (Casino).

Motion 2: Amber moves to approve up to: \$200 from the General Account for welcome coffee on first day of school; an additional \$500 (to the approved request) to support a field trip for Grade 5-6 students to Open Minds from the Casino Account; \$2000 from the Casino Account for learning common books supporting new curriculum; and, \$15,000 from the Casino Account for replacement iPads as part of the regular technology refresh. Tracey seconds.

No objections. Motion approved.

6. Next meeting date

The next meeting will be held in a hybrid format on Thursday, October 5, following parent council.

7. Adjournment

Jacek moves adjournment. Amber seconds.

No objections. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sean McCoy, Secretary