

Probe Parent Council Minutes

October 4, 2023 Meeting in-person @ Probe School – 6:30 PM

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.
2. Welcome and Introductions:
 - A. In Attendance: Danielle Aubin, Margaretha Hallett, Rochelle Neville, Leah Heidinger, Carlie Ramotowski, Keith van der Meer, Bernie Boulet, Colleen Giesbrecht, Jacoby Smiegal, Bryson Duda, Shelby Tolman, Sara Bond.
3. Motion to approve the agenda: Leah/Margaretha. CARRIED
4. Motion to approve the minutes from June 7, 2023: Leah/Margaretha. CARRIED
5. Permission to let names be submitted in minutes: By consent.
6. Chairperson Report – Danielle Aubin
Danielle welcomed attendees to the first official parent council meeting of the school year, and shared highlights from of parent council activities from the previous year.
7. Administrative report – Keith van deer Meer and Carlie Ramotowski
 - Mapping the Trail will take place on October 19 – this new approach is a pilot project.
 - Parents will be asked to complete an exit survey.
 - Report cards will no longer have narrative comments from teachers. The Mapping the Trail events are intended to provide parents with more detailed information about how their child is doing, understand and see the work their child is doing and work with their child to set some goals for the school year.
 - This event is focused on literacy – benchmarks that are used, strategies and materials to support literacy at home, meaningful engagement.
 - The division literacy lead and the division digital wellness lead will be attending for parents to connect with.
 - The next event will focus on numeracy.
 - Although parent-teacher interviews are not intended for all students, parents who feel it would be beneficial, or at the teacher’s request, interview times can be set up for one-on-one or private conversations.
 - A hot dog meal for \$5 will be available during the event (vegetarian and Halal options).
8. Teacher reports – Bernie Boulet, Grade 2
 - The first month of school went by very fast. Kids are getting used to routines.
 - Activities include: art projects, zentangles, mindfulness, statements about themselves, what they wonder, learning about trees in autumn, Me Boxes (choose 6 things that are important to them and share with another grade 2 student), Napi’s run, learning about communities and the needs/wants students have for communities, fun stories and songs around turkey for Thanksgiving.
9. Division Council Report – Sara Bond
 - Sara shared information from Sarah Ahlgren, who attended the division council meeting on October 2.
 - Mike Nightingale is the new superintendent, some of his personal goals in his new role include empowering personal learning, authentic relationships, foundational culture of support and empathy.

- The school trustees will be continuing to hold Community Conversations – an informal time to meet with trustees and ask questions/share feedback.
- These conversations are held monthly at various locations around the city. The next Community Conversations will be held October 10 6:00-7:30 PM at the Fish and Game Hut.
- Feedback is also being sought on the social studies curriculum changes and westside school boundary changes.

10. Old Business: None

11. New Business:

A. Elections: The following parents were elected to parent council:

- a) Chair – Bryson Duda; all in favour CARRIED
- b) Vice Chair – Leah Heidinger; all in favour CARRIED
- c) Secretary – Sara Bond; all in favour CARRIED
- d) Division Council Representative – Sarah Ahlgren; all in favour CARRIED

B. Initiatives: A list of potential initiatives brought forward by Keith and Carlie were discussed. Please see society minutes for details.

12. Next meeting: November 1, 2023 at 6:30 PM

13. For information: Lethbridge Tim Horton's will be selling smile cookies November 13-19 with proceeds supporting Green Shirt Day and raising awareness of organ donation and organ donor registration.

14. Probe Parent Council was adjourned at 7:48 PM

Probe Parent Society Minutes

October 4, 2023 Meeting in-person @ Probe School – 6:30 PM

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:49 PM.
 - A. In Attendance: Danielle Aubin, Margaretha Hallett, Leah Heidinger, Carlie Ramotowski, Keith van der Meer, Colleen Giesbrecht, Jacoby Smiegal, Bryson Duda, Shelby Tolman, Sara Bond.
2. Motion to approve the agenda: Leah/Margaretha. CARRIED
3. Motion to approve the minutes from June 7, 2023: Leah/Margaretha. CARRIED
4. Treasurer Report – Margaretha Hallett
 - Margaretha reviewed the P&L and balance sheet.
 - Cheque for playground equipment needs to be given to the school.
 - Quite a few outstanding cheques.
 - Based on proposed initiatives, fundraising will need to be undertaken to fulfill the asks from the school, and things that parent council hope to do.
5. Playground Update: The playground grant writing was successful and a grant has been awarded to cover the cost of finishing the resurfacing of the playground – scheduled for spring.
6. Hot Lunch: Hot lunches for the year have been planned with some new vendors to try.
 - Things went smoothly with Pita Pit and feedback has been good.
 - Will remind parents of the option to donate a lunch throughout the year.
 - The students who receive these lunches are rotated, so each student on the list has a chance to enjoy a special lunch from time to time.
 - With the cost of hot lunch increasing, many families are not ordering every time, so these students do not stand out, and have access to other food supports as well.
7. Kernels Popcorn Fridays/Booster Juice: Grade levels have two different break times on Fridays – will ask for Booster Juice to be delivered for 9:45 in time for the first break.
8. Upcoming Initiatives/Fundraising:
 - In place of the Danceathon, the school will be organizing an ABC fundraiser for extra field trips.
 - Other initiatives that were mentioned include:
 - Ice cream prize for the ABC fundraiser, winter event (TBD), Motivational Magic, teacher appreciation supper, spring concert rental, pancake breakfast and end-of-year Kona Ice, and contributing to the outdoor learning space.
 - Parents indicated last year that opportunities to engage in learning about indigenous cultures are important – over summer parent council voted to support the purchase of Nitsitapii landscape installations from the Galt Museum.
 - Sara will prepare a land acknowledgement to include at parent council/society meetings.
 - Sara asked about funding class pictures for all students since Lifetouch no longer includes them free of charge. Keith will inquire about this with Mark Orenstein from Lifetouch.
 - Initiatives can be finalized during the budget meeting.
9. Old Business:

- A. Casino licence and account update – application has been submitted, waiting to hear back if/when we will get a casino night.
10. New Business:
- A. Elections: The following parents were elected to parent society executive:
 - a) Chair – Danielle Aubin; all in favour CARRIED
 - b) Vice Chair – Jacoby Smiegal; all in favour CARRIED
 - c) Secretary – Shelby Tolman; all in favour CARRIED
 - d) Treasurer– no nominations; will be decided by emergency email election at a later date. There was a kindergarten parent who attended the open house and may be interested. Danielle will contact Ms Moline to connect with this parent.
 - B. Update signing authority with the bank (need 2 to sign): The minutes from this meeting (once approved) will be signed and taken to the bank to change signing authority once a treasurer has been elected.
 - C. Fundraiser Ideas:
 - a) Big Box of Cards – another school might be doing this.
 - b) Chocolates - \$90/box, \$40 goes back to the school. Lethbridge market might be saturated.
 - c) Poinsettias - 25% kick back
 - d) Pizza night – Two Guys – a portion of sales using promo code PROBE donated back to school. Was successful in previous years. Fundraisers like this often go over better with our parent community – some families prefer not to sell anything.
 - e) Spring Market – went fairly well last year (the first year). Domesticated Divas donated services and table fees back to the school. Would have to inquire if she would be able to offer us a spot again this year.
 - f) Fundscrip Giftcards – Need to market strongly and early to families. We can accept e-transfer this year, which may be more convenient. Communicate that cards can be purchased for everyday shopping like groceries and gas, and can be purchased online all year long.
 - D. Budget
 - a) Margaretha reviewed a tentative budget that was created based off last year.
 - b) Newly elected members will have a budget meeting prior to the next parent council and society meeting to vote on initiatives and corresponding budget.
 - E. The Nitsitapii landscape installations from the Galt Museum have arrived and are ready for facilities to install around the school.
 - a) Would parent council/society members like to be part of deciding where each piece should go? Leah and Sara will meet with Keith to discuss locations around the school.
11. Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.