

# Oakenwald Parent Advisory Council (OPAC)

*Learning for life in a safe, caring place.*

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 3, 2021. 7:00p.m.

Location: MS Teams virtual meeting

In attendance: Andrew Isaacs, Barry McKay, Dave Bryski, Damon Joiner, Henry & Candice, Kathryn Labiuk, Tanis Thiessen, "AWC", Karen Kampen, Suzanne Miller

**1. Call to order:** Andrew called meeting to order at 7:04PM

**2. Welcome/introductions**

**3. Adoption of Meeting Agenda and January minutes:** Dave made motion, Kathryn seconded and passed.

**4. Principal's Report:** Enrolment steady at 179. Reviewed Pembina Trails budget 2021-22. Intent to save \$12 million this budget due to insufficient funding from province. A number of proposed cuts may affect some programming at Oakenwald. Division also proposing goal to phase out school-based running of lunch program over next 2-4 years, replacing with divisionally determined fixed cost per child. Kindergarten info night attended by 23 people, 17 confirmed registrations. Dave to draft email to send out to mailing list advising parents that may not be aware of proposed cuts.

**5. Financial Report by Barry.** Balance at \$7,750 with \$800 cheque from bike rack to be deposited. Made some money off pizza lunch Same as last month.

**6. Lunch supervisor update and discussion:** Andrew attended consultation. Costs may go up for parents due to higher administration costs. Options for 2021-22 school year lunch program include keeping rates the same and plan on running out of money and then relying on grants, or raising rates. Tanis has grants available is OPAC runs out of lunch program funding before end of year. Andrew made motion that OPAC raise rates by \$10 to \$220 annual rate to bring them back up to what was needed previously to balance budget and then review next year. Kathryn seconded. Motion passed.

**7. Fund-raising update:** No update.

**8. Library Donation:** Suzanne advised at end of school year, book donated on behalf of OPAC to school library. Suzanne will speak to librarian and purchase book. Andrew made motion to purchase book up to \$60 on behalf of grade 6 class. Barry seconded motion. Passed

**9. Other Business:** None

**9. Short round table discussion:** Suzanne asked if there will be another teacher appreciation. Usually one done around end of year report card writing. To be added to agenda for next month.

**10. Future meeting:** Tuesday, April 13, 7PM.

**11. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned by Andrew at 8:15PM

## Principal's Information Report for OPAC

March 03, 2021

1. Enrolment – 179 (last year enrolment was 202 at this time of year)
2. Pembina Trails Budget 2021-22 – proposed draft budget released on February 26 highlights “There is no way we can avoid reductions in services to our students. With no taxation authority and insufficient funding from the province, we are left in an unfortunate position” (Kathleen McMillan, board chair). Proposed reductions include:
  - a) \* Increasing high school class sizes
  - b) \* Eliminating high school teacher-librarians and reducing the number in middle years
  - c) \* Reducing English Additional Language specialists in K-8
  - d) \* Reducing divisional-based allocation for educational assistant staff
  - e) \* Reducing school instructional budgets
  - f) \* Deferring the Kindergarten Here We Come program during the 2021-22 school year
  - g) \* Placing a number of building maintenance and ongoing improvement projects on hold
3. Lunch Program – Pembina Trails School Division is looking at phasing out school-based lunch supervision programs over the next 2-4 years. Currently, each school has a site-based program that is run either by the parent council, the school, or a combination of the two. The division will provide details in the future regarding fixed cost (per child) for parents, supervision levels at EY/MY/SY, and an anticipated timeline for moving supervision programs over to becoming division-run.
4. Kindergarten Info/Registration Night – we are anticipating one full morning kindergarten class for the next school year. We have begun accepting registrations online for K students. School of Choice forms for individuals outside of our catchment area are due by May 15, 2020. Decisions regarding school of choice acceptance will be made after that.
5. We are coming to the one-year anniversary of Friday, March 13, 2020 – when the province announced its first lockdown tied to the pandemic. Please remember that we continue to be diligent with monitoring students (and staff) for symptoms and will send people home if they have any symptoms on the current COVID19 symptom list found here: [Stop Covid-19 \(manitoba.ca\)](https://www.stop-covid-19-manitoba.ca) The province came out with new isolation requirements surrounding the “variants of concern” (VOC). Pembina Trails continues to update all websites’ “COVID19” menus with the most up-to-date information available. Thank you for your ongoing support as we do our best to keep everyone in our building safe, healthy, and cared for.