

Minutes

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Minutes of Ralston School Parent Council Meeting – 8 March 2023

Present	JWS, KR	Parent Council Chair	Outgoing / Inbound Chair
	Ms N, Mr C	Ralston School	
	RD,DM,PF,MV	Parents	
	NJ, SB	HQ BATUS	

Item	Minutes	Action / lead
1. Introductions	a. Ms N welcomed all attendees. Due to the the attendance of NJ and SB from BATUS HQ, all attendees introduced themselves.	Nil
2. Meeting Minutes – Feb 23	a. Ms N issued a copy of the Minutes from the 15 th Feb 23 Parent Council Meeting to all attendees. The Minutes were removed and found to be correct.	Nil
3. Parent Teacher Interviews	a. Ms N reminded the Council that Parent Teacher interviews are due to take place on Weds 15th and Thurs 16th Apr. The following points were made: (1). Appointments can be made on the Ralston School website. There is a Parent/Teacher interview “button” to register. (2). It was acknowledged that both BATUS and CAF personnel may be on the Ski day on Weds 15th, which may affect appointment bookings. Ms N requested a list of the Children due to attend. (3). If neither date works for the Parents, then they should get in touch with the school and arrange a suitable time/date. (4.) Report cards will be sent home and used as a reference for discussions.	SB,
4. Casino Fund Raiser	a. Ms N discussed the Ralston School Casino Fund Raiser event to be held 16th & 17th June 23. The following points were made: (1). This event is a big fundraiser for the school but it relies on volunteers to be	

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	successful. A total of 16 volunteers are required, forms available from the school. (2). There are five roles that require filling; General Manager, Alternate General Manager, Banker, Countroom Supervisor & Cashiers/Chip runner.	
5. Prairie Rose School Division Attendance Policy	a. The subject of school attendance was brought up during the regular Safeguarding Meeting. NJ and SB attended the meeting to represent the Comd BATUS in order to understand the School attendance policy, to inform BATUS Standing Orders. The following points were covered: (1). Ms N explained the PRSD Policy for attendance. It was noted that the Policy was written in 2020. The Policy highlights the need for “Regular attendance”, with a figure of 90% attendance for the academic year. (2). NJ added that the UK mandates a 95% attendance for the academic year and as well as an educational minimum requirement, it is seen as a Child Safeguarding tool. (3). Ms N continued to detail the recording of absence. Attendance is recorded twice a day (am & pm) and falls into the following categories: (i). Present. (ii). Late. (iii). Absent – excused. (iv). Absent – not excused. (4). Absent excused is used for cases such as Medical appointments, or where Parents report their Child as sick. There remains a policy following the COVID regulations, that if a child has COVID like symptoms, they are to stay home, test and not return to school until symptoms have subsided. This includes a 24 hour period clear, following vomiting. (5). Absent not excused, i.e. not present at roll call (am or pm), and with no contact by the parents to inform the school of absence, is followed up by an attempt to contact parents by the school around 0900hrs.	

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	(6). Repeated absence is dealt with on a “Case by Case” basis and is linked to academic achievement. Mr C added that lessons are available on-line and students / parents have a responsibility to study and not fall behind, where able whilst sick. (7). Ms N continued to say that the Canadian Education system places more of an emphasis on child development in terms of Lived Experiences, encouraging Thinking and Decision Making at the elementary level. This is in contrast to the more academic focus in the UK system. The two systems converge around Junior High level. With this in mind and the unique nature of Ralston School, with the combination of both CAF and UK Military children, the proportion of excused Absences is probably greater than any other UK school. (8). NJ & SB acknowledged the above and stated that the Comd BATUS was seeking direction from the UK with regards to attendance, to ensure BATUS was supporting the school correctly and to ensure a BATUS Standing Order gave the Service Person the understanding of where the boundaries lie in terms of school attendance. BATUS will continue to work with Ms Stanton, as the UK link to the school, going forward.	
6. Ralston School Feb safety Report	a. Ms N presented the Feb 23 School safety report. The following points were made: (1). There were 12 incidents of accident or injury in the month of Feb, including six “bumps to the head”. On each occasion the Parents were informed straight away. (2). Locations for the incidents were: (i). Gym x 2 (ii). Playground x 8 (iii). Classroom x 2	
7. Ralston School Feb Financial Report	a. Ms N presented the Financial report for Feb 23. The following points were made: (1). Figures for Outgoings v Incoming cash stand at \$1400 (out), \$700 (in).	

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	(2). The provision of Hot Lunches is not making money. There were only ~30 requests for Hot lunches in Feb. At times the delivery charge alone can consume the money from the orders. (3). RD asked if there were paper forms available for the ordering of Hot Lunches. Ms N advised that although the main form of payment was via <i>School Cash</i> app, that paper forms were available from the School front office. (4). Ms N continued that some Parents were unaware that they have unintentionally blocked the school from sending e-mail announcements on the School Cash app and therefore sometimes missed the opportunity to order Hot Lunches. The solution is a simple tick box within the app to allow e-mails.	
8. Class Parent Representatives report	a. Nothing to report.	
9. Comments on Agenda items	a. Nothing to report.	
10. AOB	a. SN thanked JWS for his time as Chair of the Parent Council. b. Mr C informed the council that the school had initiated some Sports Teams at Junior High Level. c. The following points were made: (1). There is now a Badminton Team. The first event is scheduled for the weekend of 11th March. (2). There will be a Track Club that will compete regionally. More to follow. (3). The School will enter the School Division Soccer League. Open to Jnr High and Grade 6 students. Ralston kids will be part of a Prairie Rose Team due to insufficient numbers.	
11. Date of next meeting	a. The meeting was drawn to a close with the next meeting to be at 0900hrs, on the 19 th April 2023.	

Capt K J Rickerby, Parent Council Chair (des), 10 Mar 23.