

Subject: June 6, 2023 Bannatyne Parent Council Minutes Changes Required
From: Pierre Attallah <public@pallix.ca>
Date: 2023-06-29, 14:21
To: Bannatyne Parent Council <bannatynepc@gmail.com>
CC: Alex Eyjolfson <alex.eyjolfson@sjasd.ca>, Heather Cadieux <heather.cadieux@sjasd.ca>

Dear Bannatyne Parent Council (BPC) Executive Secretary **Adam Milne**,

I have reviewed the minutes from the June 6, 2023 BPC meeting and changes are required as you indicate in section 8 of BPC minutes. Also note, that I don't believe you have ever commented that changes may be required before. What date did you provide your minutes to the school?

Below are the required changes that I put forward. I trust that every effort to update will be made immediately so that the attendees may add their names to their comments if they choose before they are officially motioned on at the next meeting.

Starting with section 2 BPC minutes, add my name Pierre N. Attallah after "an attendee." It should read:

*"1 correction, an attendee **Pierre N. Attallah** was missed from being recorded at the last meetings attendance,..."*

This also remains in error on the May 2, 2023 BPC minutes online and needs to be corrected there too.

Further in section 6, New / Other Business, there is much important information that was discussed on record that must be documented in the minutes. Several parents expressed concern over larger class sizes and mixing the grade 4 and 5's in the 2023/2024 school year.

It was stated that funding for smaller class sizes K-Gr3 is now gone.

Principal has been allocated fewer staff for all grades.

Principal strongly suggested to Vote / contact elected officials.

A parent raised concern that her daughter had 4 changes of teachers during the year and her child felt lost and complained that she wasn't learning anything when substitute teachers filled in. With a larger class size the parent felt that kids are going to get lost.

Pierre Attallah mentioned the role of the Superintendent in the allocation of funding. Also, that our **Superintendent Jenness Moffatt** is a **Chair** member of the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents (mass.mb.ca) and this association's priorities lay outside our country Canada to **global corporations**. Further, that MASS pledges to educate **global citizens** and not Canadian citizens. Alex Eyjolfson diverted this topic out of discussion.

Pierre Attallah also announced that he intends to **homeschool** his children for the 2023/2024 school year partly because of the increased class sizes and fewer teachers. Also, that he would remain a member of BPC and continue to attend meetings as an associate member of BPC. In response to the principals comment to vote, he **announced** that he intends to run for SJASD **school trustee** in the **Kirkfield Park municipal election 2026** and seeks the support of parents.

Another parent raised concern of their child being prepared for middle school and the principal addressed the concern. The parent suggested a meeting at the end of September to discuss concerns over the reduced staffing and increased class sizes. The principal further encouraged parents to contact her with any concerns **off the record**.

Another parent agreed that a "town hall" meeting would be helpful. She expressed her experience as witnessing a lot of disruptive learning with "aggressive turnover" of staff. She asked how the specific needs of this grade 5 class were taken into consideration of saying that a 4-5 split class will work. She also said that continuity would be having one teacher for the whole year. However, the principal pointed out that having one consistent teacher at Bannatyne school is not likely. She expects to have more than one teacher or another year of multiple teachers for any class.

The parent told everyone that after an assessment she determined that some children were so far behind that it was not possible for them to catch up and tried to do more work at home.

The principal responded by describing a responsive learning approach to educating where learning deficiencies are addresses as they are noticed.

Nicole recommended the MB curriculum website for parents to check where there kids were at for their grade, <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/mychild/index.html>

Parents asked to be able to speak to teachers at conferences to discuss weaknesses, strengths, and progress of their students. The principal said she would consider this.

Dana also raised her concern in agreement with other parents over merging into a split 4/5 class when she notices children/staff already struggling to teach/learn. She wants to be able to speak to teachers one on one during a school conference. She says that her child's work may be viewed at home.

A parent expressed the importance of parents coming together to address these issues. She pointed out that Alex is taking notes. Pierre said that all these comments should be put in the minutes and posted publicly for all the parents to read. The principal noted that Adam was writing a great deal.

It was said that the meeting went well and a lot of good information was revealed that all parents need to be made aware of. Hence, these minutes for the parents who did not attend.

A parent expressed that communication from the school to parents is a "major concern." She missed a link alerting parents to the staffing changes for next year because it was buried in list of other links. Further, **emails are being sent with a**

meaningless subject line. The principal indicated that she uses the subject line to put the date. However, Pierre pointed out and the principal knows that the date is automatically timestamped on each email. This led Pierre to question the intention of purposely placing a known meaningless subject line in communication emails to parents from the school.

Nicole stated that emails in the past were sent with the message in the body of the email. However, this was changed by policy at the Board level for the purpose of **tracking which parents read emails** and what parts of the email they read.

The Principal stated that if there was a way for the information to be more seen then she was open to hearing. It was recommended to have a meaningful subject line.

The principal stated there are 3 categories of information that get emailed. School, Parent Council, and community information.

One gentleman suggested sending each category as a separate email and not mixing school information with community information to make important messages more clear and less likely to be missed by parents.

Principal appreciated all the feedback from everyone.

Nicole made it clear that she is not employed by the school division.

Pierre N. Attallah B.Sc.

École Bannatyne Parent Council Member

Ness Middle School Parent Advisory Council Member

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