

BOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 1, 2017 - Learning Commons

Attendees: Fiona Gilbert (Board Trustee), Rob Kimura (Principal), Valerie McCracken, Karen Packer, Francine Wieliczko

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Valerie at 7:02pm

2. Guest Presentation – Safe Coach - Jason Garagan

- Safe Coach is a youth homelessness & prevention program
- Jason Garagan is a Youth and Family Support Worker with FCSS and has been in the position for almost 1 year
- FCSS took over the program from the Boys & Girls Club who implemented the program for 1.5 years but the Boys & Girls Club is still involved by being a resource for the program (e.g. provides free tutoring)
- The program supports youth and their families
- More often than not, it is the child that chooses to stay away from home
- The Safe Coach program works to keep the door open to the family to hopefully reconnect and stay connected
- Stable housing results in youth staying in school, and maintaining physical and emotional safety
- Safe Coach first assesses the youth's current home they are at and if it is safe, they are encouraged to stay there
- Host Home Families are typically a "last resort". They are screened and trained so they can support and empower the youth that stay with them
- Safe Coach provides financial support and wrap around services (e.g. youth worker) for youth
- Since April 2016, 36 youth/families have been supported by Safe Coach. Currently 4 youth are staying in Host Homes and the parents are involved in all of them. 6 Host Homes are approved in Cochrane (with 1 more likely to be approved soon)
- Jason wants to diversify the type of Host Home Families available so that all types of youth have a fit with a Host Home
- Expectations of all groups are considered: 1) youth, 2) bio family, 3) host family, and 4) FCSS Safe Coach
- Recruiting Host Homes is an ongoing challenge
- The program is actively building programs to have resources for prevention of homelessness for youth aged 7-18 years old (there are many resources available for children aged 0-6years)

- There is a need for affordable family therapy in Cochrane
- More information attached to minutes

3. Welcome & Introductions

Everyone welcomed

4. Approval of Agenda - February 1, 2017

Motion: Karen motioned to approve the Agenda as circulated. Francine seconded. Carried

5. Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2017

Motion: Francine motioned to accept the Minutes of January 11, 2017 as circulated. Karen seconded. Carried

6. Old Business/Outstanding Items

i) Parent Volunteer Form

- Valerie has started drafting the form for an on-line process.

Action: **Valerie** will finish the draft and give it to **Administration** to review

ii) Guest Presentation for March 1 Council Meeting

- No guest speaker will be planned for next meeting. Time will be set aside to review the ASCA resolutions if they are ready for review

7. Report from Bow Valley Administration

- BVHS received some support to purchase some equipment: 1) Industrial 3-D printer for CTS (for F1 track), and 2) additional cross-country skis for ODL program
- March 2 – BVHS Open House
- Equine Therapy – given the phenomenal results from the fall session, another session will start in the spring
- Space has been found to open an additional guidance centre specifically for students with anxiety. Stepping Stones and other staff have been allocated to support this space. The room has not yet been named. Furniture will arrive this week and centre will be open next week.
- Grade 9 students continued to attend classes during exams. Was not a positive experience for teachers. School Council asked if there is a way that parents can support the teachers during this time (e.g. help supervise exams, act as a scribe/reader, etc)

Action: **Mr. Kimura** to investigate potential of having parents assist

8. Report from the Board of Trustees

- Fireside School attendance boundary change approved because enrolment would be too high too soon. This will also help equalize the enrolment between schools

- Board will be revising the capital plan in April. BVHS expansion will likely move up in the timeline. By 2021, Rancheview and Fireside schools will be at capacity. It is anticipated BVHS will have 998 students by then
- Board approved to change the Electoral Ward boundaries. Minister needs to still sign off on the modifications: 1) have 8 (vs 7) trustees (Chestermere 1, Airdrie 3, Cochrane 1, Rural (east, north, west) 3, 2) current wards of 4 and 5 will combine into 1
- Next Joint Board School Council Meeting – March 30, 2017

9. New Business

i) ASCA AGM – April 30, 2017 - Edmonton

- Conference held April 28-30, 2017. Good speakers have been arranged that cover a spectrum of topics
 - Proxies due by April 26
 - Funding from Boards to cover a portion of the registration fees, hotels, etc for Council members to attend the Conference & AGM would be helpful
 - There are 9 proposed policies to be voted on
- Action: **Karen** will track the status of their readiness to discuss as a council and present to the group at March or April's meeting

ii) Staff Meal Hosted by School Council

- Parents to provide supper for staff at next Parent-Teacher Conferences on March 9
- Action: **Valerie** will work with Gemma to coordinate the email to go to parents

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm

Future Meetings: March 1 - 7pm; April 5 - 7pm; May 3 - 9am

The Safe Coach Program

The Safe Coach Program provides support to youth and families experiencing a wide variety of challenges within their family. The program aims at assisting youth, families, community members, and professionals to strengthen a family's capacity to stay connected, foster a long term support system and positively transition youth to adulthood. Typically, when an individual reaches out to the program, a youth is at risk of attempting to live independently with minimal supports, either by their choice or because they've been asked to leave the home by a parent. The Safe Coach Program offers Host Homes as a place for a youth to stay while the family sorts through the issues at hand and to allow the healing process to begin.

PARTICIPANTS

Youth and Family Support Worker (YFSW): The YFSW works closely with youth, family, community members, and professionals to develop individualized plans to support family reunification and/or youth transitions to adulthood. The Safe Coach Program works hard to engage with all relevant individuals in the youth's life to wrap supports around the young person, promoting positive transition through adolescence, and increasing the chances of reuniting them with family.

Youth and Families: While in the program, youth and parents are encouraged to engage with the YFSW to create goals and work collaboratively with each other using a family centred approach. The aim is to disrupt the youth's life as little as possible and begin to rebuild family relationships even if the youth is out of the home.

Host Homes: Host Home Providers are community members passionate about supporting youth and families. After completing the screening process, which includes an application, interview, home study, and security checks, Host Homes Providers work closely with the YFSW to create a safe living environment for the youth. Host Homes are provided a per diem to cover basic living costs for the youth; however, they are not provided a wage for this work. Host Home providers are passionate and committed to working collaboratively to strengthen the youths' ability to heal from whatever has led them to their current situation.

Community Partners: The Safe Coach Program relies heavily on relationships with community professionals, non-profit agencies, and volunteers to effectively wrap services around young people and their families to obtain safety and healing, and move toward family preservation and reunification. Each family situation is unique requiring interventions and supports tailored to them. The Safe Coach Program is a community program that addresses complex family dynamics and requires a collaborative approach to family interventions.

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