

RI. BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL – SCHOOL COUNCIL BYLAWS

Mission Statement

The RI Baker Middle School Council will work together to support children to become informed, engaged citizens and curious life-long learners through continual communication and commitment.

Basic Principals

The RIBMS School Council (hereinafter referred to as *The Council*) is a collective group of parents, school staff, students and community members who work together to effectively support and enhance student learning. Through the council, input can be provided by:

- a) Attending council meetings
- b) Offering advice to the principal and school board regarding matters pertaining to the school.
- c) Submitting a request to the chair to be placed on the agenda at least 14 days prior to any council meeting
- d) No member of the council shall receive any remuneration for services rendered for the council

Council Membership

The Council will use a Town Hall Model of Governance. Membership of the School Council shall consist of the following:

- a) Parents of students that are enrolled in the school
- b) Teachers and staff at the school
- c) The Principal & Vice Principal
- d) Teacher representative
- e) Community member(s) to a maximum of three (3) with a vested interest in the school.

Council Executive

All Council members who are parents of children attending the school are eligible to be council executives. If there are not enough parents interested in being on the executive, then a community member shall be eligible to hold an executive position.

- a) The executive shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary
- b) The executive shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), held prior to the first council meeting
- c) The terms of office are for 2 years. In the event an executive position becomes vacant, the Council may appoint a replacement to complete the remainder of the term of the departing member.

Duties of the Council Executive

Chairperson

- a) Preside over all meetings of the Council
- b) Ensure that all decisions of the council are carried out
- c) Prepare and submit an annual report for the year they have served on council. The report must be submitted to the School Council and School Board by September 30th of each year.
- d) Represent the Council and school as required
- e) Convene special meetings
- f) Prepare agendas to review with the school principal at least 10 days prior to the Council meeting.
- g) Circulate the agenda to members of the Council at least 1 week prior to the council meeting.
- h) In the event of a tie, the Chair will be the tie breaker.

Vice Chairperson

- a) Assist the Chairperson in carrying out his or her duties
- b) Assume the responsibilities of the Chairperson in his/her absence

Secretary

- a) Record, retain and arrange for the distribution of the minutes of the council minutes
- b) Minutes shall be made available to the members of the school council community at least 2 weeks prior to a school council meeting. Utilize email and send the minutes to those who attended the previous meeting.
- c) Attend to all correspondence of the council.
- d) Ensure all advertising is circulated to the general public
- e) Ensure that Council members are contacted for Council Executive meetings

*Please note that other members may share the chairing and minute taking of the council meetings. The decision to do this must be made and agreed upon prior to the commencement of the said meeting.

Council Meetings

The following protocols will be followed in conjunction with the School Act-School Council Regulations:

- a) The council shall meet at minimum of four (4) times during the school year, convened by the chairperson.
- b) Meetings shall be held at RI Baker Middle School, Coaldale Alberta
- c) The council and principal will consult with each other regarding invitations extended to the school support personnel to attend any meetings.
- d) Simple Rule of Order (Appendix A) shall govern the rules of procedure and order of business at all Council meetings unless otherwise specified in school council bylaws
- e) Quorum will be attained when the majority of voting members present at any meeting are parents and community member(s) (if applicable), inclusive of at least one Council executive and the principal or his/her designate.
- f) If a quorum is not attained after two (2) meetings, the School Board may suspend the Council and assign the Council duties to the principal.
- g) Decisions will be made by consensus as much as possible
- h) Motions shall be moved and passed by a majority of School Council voting members.
- i) The voting members of the School Council shall consist of the parents, and community member(s).
- j) The non-voting members of the School Council shall consist of the Principal and Vice Principal, and a teacher representative.
- k) Parents of children in the school, all staff and community members may attend all or part of any and all Council meetings
- l) Minutes shall be kept in a binder by the principal for a minimum of seven (7) years, and be readily available at each Council meeting.
- m) The School Council Bylaws shall be reviewed and may be amended at the AGM prior to the new Council and its executive being established.
- n) *If any parent, staff member or board or community member who wishes to present an issue to the council on which they are requesting action to be taken shall submit a written request to the chair at least eight (14) days prior to the meeting. The request should clearly state the issue(s) and reason(s) for the concerns. The presentation will then be put on the agenda.*
- o) At the beginning of school council meeting, members will state their name and affiliation.

Council Executive Meetings

The following procedure shall be followed:

- a) The council shall meet as convened by the chairperson

- b) The meeting will be held at the school and the Council Chairperson will consult with the principal to determine the necessity of school support personnel to be in attendance.
- c) The council chair may invite, at their discretion, any parent, student, staff member, Board member, or community member to be present at the meeting.

Formation of the School Council and Council Executive

The following procedures will be followed:

- a) The first Council meeting (AGM) shall be held immediately following the organizational meeting
- b) The Organizational meeting and the first council meeting shall be held within forty (40) school days following the first day of school.
- c) The principal shall advertise these meetings throughout the school community at least 14 days in advance of the meeting.
- d) If the Council has not *been* elected at the Organizational Meeting, the principal may establish an advisory committee for that year to carry out one or more of the duties or functions of school council.

Council Roles

Council members shall abide by the Alberta School Councils' Association suggested Code of Ethics (Appendix B) and the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA). The Council may offer advice to assist in the development of the schools

- Mission, vision and philosophy
- Policies
- Annual education plan
- Annual results report
- Budget
- Community integration and its' expectations during school based planning

Other Roles

The Council chair person or the designate shall sit on the selection committees for the position of Principal. This member will represent the Council on the selection committee and will be voting member of the selection committee. Excluding transfer of positions within the school division, the school Council chair may (at the discretion of the superintendent) be invited to attend an interview and provide input of internal or external candidate by applying for posted positions.

Nothing in these Bylaws, or its application by the Council, shall contravene any policies or legal statutes of Palliser Regional Schools or the Alberta Government.

Conflict Resolution

If at any time ten (10) parents or (50%) of the executive Council members of the school council are of the opinion that the school council is in a state of conflict such that its operation is significantly impaired, they may deliver a written request signed by them to all school council members and the following shall apply:

1. The chair person will call a special meeting of the school council
2. The secretary will provide a minimum of five (5) days notice to all parents and school council members of the date, time, place and purpose of the special meeting
3. At the special meeting all parents and school council members will present and have the opportunity to hear and discuss the issues causing the conflict.
4. On motion, seconded by any parent or School Council member present at the special meeting, a vote shall be held respecting the proposed resolution to the conflict.
5. If the combined majority of parents and School Council members present vote in favor of the proposed resolution, the School Council shall immediately act upon the passed resolution

Amendments

Amendments to the RI Baker Middle School Council Bylaws can be made at the organizational meeting. At this meeting the amendments shall be voted on and approved by a simple majority vote of the members in attendance.

Appendix A

Simple Rules of Order

1. An individual must be recognized by the chair before speaking and before obtaining the floor to make a motion.
2. Once the individual has the floor here she may speak and or move a formal proposal or motion.
3. All motions must be seconded.
4. The chair will then state the motion that has been moved and seconded for clarity. All discussions will then focus on the proposed motion.
5. Whether it is a motion or a matter that involves discussion then 90/10 rule shall govern conversation.
6. When the motion is on the floor the chair opens debate. Each member may speak to the motion twice, and although there are no time restrictions, everyone must be aware that the meeting must proceed in a timely manner.
7. If no one indicates a desire to speak/speak further to the motion, the chair conducts the vote by asking for those in favor and those opposed. The vote may be conducted by a show of hands.
8. The majority needed to pass a motion is 51%. If there is a tie in the motion it is defeated.

* The 90/10 rule pertains to discussion about a motion or matter at hand. Only 10% of the discussion should be about the actual issue at hand, and 90% should be centered on the suggestions and a resolution.

Appendix B

The Alberta school Councils' Association: Suggested Code of Ethics for School Council Members

- Abide by the legislation that governs the School Council
 - Be guided by the mission statement of the school and our School Council
 - *Endeavor* to be familiar with the school policies and operating practices and act in accordance with them.
 - Practice the highest standards of honesty, accuracy, integrity, and truth.
 - Recognize and respect the personal integrity of each member of the school community.
 - Apply and adhere to the democratic principles.
 - Declare any conflict of interest.
 - Foster a positive atmosphere in which individual contributions are encouraged and valued.
 - Consider the best interests of all students in our decisions and deliberations.
 - Respect the confidential nature of some school business and respect limitations this may place on the operation of the School Council.
 - Never disclose confidential information.
 - Limit discussions at school council meetings to matters of concern to the school community as a whole.
 - Use the appropriate communication channels when questions or concerns arrive.
 - Promote high standards of ethical practice within the school community.
 - Except accountability for school council decisions.
 - Except no payment for school council activities.
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These Bylaws have been accepted by a majority of the members entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting of the School Council.

Date_____

2017/2018 Executive Name

Signature and Position

2017/2018 Chairperson's Name

Chairperson's Signature

Principal's Name

Principal's Signature