Bishop Pinkham Parent Council (BPPC)

Meeting Minutes – October 29, 2026

Location: Virtual
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 12:03 p.m.
Facilitator: Julie Hrdlicka, BPPA Chair & Allison Ryan, BPPC Chair

1. Call to Order

- Welcome and review of the agenda.

2. School Update

Rishma Hajee, Principal

Enrollment and Programs

- Current enrollment is 705 students, an increase of approximately 100 students over last year.
- The school offers four programs:
    - English
    - CSSI
    - Late French Immersion
    - French Immersion

Student Voice Council

- Students participated in a Well-Being Symposium, identifying initiatives to support student wellness and belonging. Staff and students will work together to implement ideas.
- The school continues to celebrate and honour different cultures through Friday homeroom activities.
- Student feedback indicates a 13% improvement in students feeling represented at Bishop Pinkham.

Student Leadership Team

- Snack Shack: Operates twice weekly on a non-profit basis. Students manage inventory and track nutritional information.
- Student Volunteering: Opportunities include:
    - Supporting CSSI students through art and reading activities.

    - Leading school tours.
    - Scorekeeping at sporting events.
    - Making school announcements.
    - Assisting with cleanup and organization.

Upcoming Student Trips and Activities

- Grade 8 French Immersion trip to Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa.
- Grade 9 SEAS sailing trip to British Columbia.
- Additional offsite learning and recreational opportunities include:
    - Zoo visits and SMATH activities.
    - Theatre and Humanities activities.
    - Band festivals and camps.
    - Canoeing and kayaking.
    - Skiing, hiking and biking.

Onsite Student Opportunities

- Competitive school sports.
- Intramural activities.
- Student clubs.
- Artists in Residence programs.

3. Parent Council and Parent Association

BPPC and BPPA Contributions

The school acknowledged the active involvement and support of the Parent Council and Parent Association, including:

- Fundraising for furniture for the Cub Hub.
- Financial support for student trips.
- Grade 9 Farewell activities.
- Artists in Residence programs.
- Fun Lunch opportunities for students.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

Parents are encouraged to participate through:

- Field trip supervision.
- Fundraising initiatives.
- Other school activities and events.

Role of Parent Council

In response to a question from Julie, Rishma provided an overview of the Parent Council's role:

- Meetings provide an opportunity for school administration to share updates, discuss upcoming activities and collaborate with parents.
- Agendas are circulated in advance.
- Daytime meetings are being offered to encourage greater parent participation while reducing additional commitments for school staff.
- Attendance of approximately 15 participants was viewed positively.
- The School Council receives $750 annually from the Government of Alberta to support engagement among students, parents and teachers.
- Previous initiatives have included parent paint nights.

4. Questions and Discussion

Student Residency and Enrollment Requirements

Julie asked about students whose permanent residency or immigration documentation is pending, noting that Calgary Board of Education requirements may affect their ability to attend school.

Rishma confirmed that several Bishop Pinkham students are currently awaiting federal immigration approvals and are unable to attend school until the required approvals are received. Students may return once their documentation is approved.

5. Administration Introduction

- Rishma introduced Lisa Twa, Vice Principal.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

7. Upcoming Meetings – November 26, 2026

BPPC Meeting: 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
BPPA Meeting: 12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.