

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board
Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Sands	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Glenda Brown	Public at Large
Jessalyn Parsons	Public at Large
Auralei Agrey	Public at Large
Heather Johnson	Public at Large
Kimberly Burrell	Public at Large

ATTENDING

Sawyer Hick	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Manager
Sue Penner	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Admin Asst

OTHERS ATTENDING

REGRETS

Brenda Dennis	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Dena Thomas	Public at Large
Gloricel Cavago	Public at Large
Aaron Hoyte	Public at Large

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Brown welcomed all attending and called the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Member Parsons moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TREATY SIX LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A Land Acknowledgement was read to recognize that the Town of Blackfalds is on Treaty Six territory.

PRESENTATIONS

N/A

BUSINESS

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Approval of Minutes of January 09th, 2025

Member Johnson moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends Council adopt the minutes from January 09th, 2025, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Big Brothers Big Sisters Grant – Final Report

- Vice Chair Brown reviewed the FCSS grant application process.
- Manager Hick noted that mentoring programs in Blackfalds accounted for 48% or 211 mentoring relationships of the overall mentoring relationships facilitated by BBBSLD in 2024. The mentoring program remains one of the most requested programs from schools. The long-term consistency of matches in this program highlights its strong impact and alignment with the needs of participating youth.
- Their rapid growth in demand presents challenges. Blackfalds mentoring programs currently operate at a budgetary deficit. Moving forward they will analyze their organizational capacity and explore additional funding opportunities and community support to ensure they can say 'yes' to deliver additional impactful mentoring programs to youth who need them.
- It remains hard to find Blackfalds mentors.

Boys and Girls Club Wolf Creek Blackfalds Grant – Final Report

- BCG Blackfalds is a new organization to Blackfalds and this grant covered start up costs.
- BGC Wolf Creek, in partnership with Wolf Creek Public Schools, conducted a Needs Assessment in early 2024 that identified the need among families in Blackfalds for the following: Before School Care, After School Care, and full-day programming during Professional Development Days, school breaks (spring, fall, winter), and throughout the summer. In response to the very strongly expressed need for each of these potential options, BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds moved forward and began offering licensed childcare programs in September of 2024.
- With strong partnerships such as those they established over the past year of working toward and then opening the BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds Club, they are situated well looking to the future. Key players in the community have partnered with them, which strengthens our ability to determine, understand, and meet the needs of families in the community. Based on the success of the last several months, the future looks bright!

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FCSS Managers Verbal Update

- Manager Hick reported on the following:
 - Nominations are now open for our volunteer awards and the nomination form can be found online or at the FCSS Office with a deadline of March 1st, 2025.
 - Currently working on the FCSS Annual Report that is due in April.
 - Meeting with the Mayor and committee on Planet Youth.
 - The Planet Youth initiative is a youth-focused program that promotes the health and well-being of adolescents while reducing negative behaviors among this population. The program originated in Iceland and focuses on improving young people's health, safety, and future prospects by fostering healthier environments and better societal behaviors.
 - The initiative is grounded in research and evidence-based practices. Planet Youth surveys youth to gather data on their habits, attitudes, and behaviors. This information is used to guide interventions and strategies aimed at reducing substance use (like alcohol, tobacco, and drugs), mental health issues, and other negative behaviors while promoting positive actions such as physical activity, healthy eating, and strong social connections.
 - BYC attendance has increased to the point that the grades 4 – 6 and the homeschool groups are most often full and attendance has significantly increased for grades 7 – 12.
 - Working to offer seniors programming starting with a session on Transitioning to the Next Chapter March 18th and on March 25th Wills and Estate Planning.

Volunteer Programmer Report

- Volunteer Programmer planning for National Volunteer Week taking place on April 27 – May 3, 2025.
- Blackfalds FCSS will be hosting *Best of Blackfalds* including appetizers from our *best food restaurants*, beer tasting, cash bar, live music and awards presentation highlighting our *best community ambassadors* and the contributions they make to our community. The 18+ event is scheduled to take place on the evening of April 17; awards presented will include:
 - Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year Award,
 - Gloria House Mentor Award,
 - Outstanding Group Award (adult category), and
 - Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award.
- Our Oscar themed *Youth Recognition Night* is scheduled to take place May 1. There will be a Red Carpet, complete with VIP lanyards, paparazzi, a Walk of Fame, and invitees will be asked to wear their Oscar worthy ensemble. There will be appetizers, small performances from the IRJC school band, youth dancers, as well as the awards presentation. Awards presented will include:

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- Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award,
 - Leaders of Tomorrow (elementary, junior high and high school category),
 - Outstanding Group Award (youth category), and
 - Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award.
- Nominations Now Open (deadline to nominate is March 1) – If you know someone in our community who selflessly gives their time, please consider nominating them. Visit www.blackfalds.ca/volunteer for details!
 - Selection process will be facilitated by:
 - Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year Award (Town Council)
 - Gloria House Mentor Award (FCSS Board)
 - Outstanding Group Awards (FCSS Board)
 - Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award (Town Council)
 - Leaders of Tomorrow Awards (The Mayor, FCSS Youth Programmer and a FCSS Board Representative)
 - Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award (FCSS Board Representative, a family friend and a past award recipient)
 - Nominee Assessment forms will be submitted electronically to the Volunteer Programmer
 - **Seniors Programming:** Volunteer Programmer is currently exploring various options for information sessions to be held this spring. We are considering partnering with Servus Credit Union to host a session on wills and estate planning, collaborating with a local real estate agent and Lacombe Foundation to offer tips for seniors looking to sell their homes and to discuss future living arrangement options, as well as, offering a session focused on tenant rights and responsibilities. Stay tuned!

Town of Blackfalds volunteers were utilized at the following programs and events:

- Jim Hurley Free Skate on Sunday's (3 volunteers, rotating Sunday's)
- Snow Angel Program
- 28 volunteers are supporting 18 locations
- 5 residents participating in the Neighbourhood Snow Angel Program
- 4 on the waitlist

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

1. The monthly FCSS **Volunteer Newsletter**
 - a. In February, the newsletter was emailed to 293 contacts with the 'Open Rate' of 61%
2. **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**
 - a. Snow Angel Program – Winter months
 - b. Winterfest – February 17

Community Engagement Programmer Report

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

- Re-applied to be a host site in 2025.

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Interagency Meeting:

- 30 people in attendance
- 19 unique community organizations represented.

Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page:

- 981 followers at the close of January

Blackfalds Instagram Page:

153 followers at the close of January

Youth Programmer

BYC had a total of 140 participants.

Inspiring Virtues had 7 registrants.

Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safety had 13 registrants.

Youth Cooking Club had 6 registrants.

Youth Programmer Initiatives:

- Pink Shirts provided to TOB new employees
- Meet with the Social Worker of Iron Ridge Secondary School to discuss future collaborations.
- Preparing for BYC Bingo at Winterfest
- Organizing the Spring Easter Event
- Securing Spring and Summer program partners
- Early stages of organizing Youth Week in May
- Creating Life Literacy Camps programs for July and August

Vice Chair Brown adjourned the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting at 7:33 p.m.



Glenda Brown, Vice Chair



Sue Penner, Admin Staff