

**TOWN OF BLACKFALDS**  
**Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board**  
Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams  
Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.  
**MINUTES**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

|                  |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jim Sands        | Town of Blackfalds Councillor |
| Brenda Dennis    | Town of Blackfalds Councillor |
| Dena Thomas      | Public at Large               |
| Glenda Brown     | Public at Large,              |
| Jessalyn Parsons | Public at Large               |
| Annette Bugutsky | Public at Large               |

**ATTENDING**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Rick Kreklewich | Town of Blackfalds Director of Community Services |
| Sue Penner      | Town of Blackfalds FCSS Admin Asst                |

**OTHERS ATTENDING**

**REGRETS**

|                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Sheila Giffin   | Public at Large            |
| Auralei Agrey   | Public at Large            |
| Melissa MacLeod | Public at Large            |
| Cliff Soper     | County of Lacombe Resident |

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dena Thomas welcomed all attending and called the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting to order at 6:55 pm.

Member Bugutsky 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

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## **BUSINESS**

- 4.1 **Big Brothers Big Sisters – Annual Report**  
Director Kreklewich mentioned a few highlights from the Annual Report they submitted.
- There are 174 mentoring relationships in Blackfalds with 16 on a waiting list.
  - In 2023, mentoring programs in Blackfalds represented 42% of the overall BBBS mentoring programs.
  - Group mentoring programs saw an increase in the number of youths participating, with an additional 27 youth served compared to 2022.
  - The Kids & Kops Summer Day Camp is a highly requested program and last summer 24 youth participated.
  - In 2023 they witnessed a remarkable increase in the number of volunteer mentors completing training.
- 4.2 **Big Brothers Big Sisters Grant – Final Report**
- They provided financial information on how their \$15,000 grant was distributed.
- 4.3 **Iron Ridge Elementary Campus Grant – Final Report**
- The \$8,500 grant was used for Social Emotional Programming. This programming is proactive in developing working relationships with parents, students, and staff including counseling and consultation programming skills. The program helps to develop skills that will enable students and families to overcome difficulties, cope with challenges and develop skills for long-term resilience which in turn benefits the community at large.
- 4.4 **Iron Ridge Junior Campus Grant – Final Report**
- They received \$7,706.51 which was directed towards the School Social Worker Program Funding.
  - This allowed the school social worker to increase their FTE and be available fulltime within the school. The school social worker is utilized by students, families, and teachers to help enhance the development of student's educational, social, emotional, and behavioral experiences. They are a referral source to a variety of community agencies and play a major role in advocating effectively in support of students and families.
- 4.5 **Volunteer Appreciation Events**
- Director Kreklewich presented the Volunteer Appreciation Event information.
  - The selection process will be carried out the same as in past years:
    - 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)

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- The Best of Blackfalds is scheduled to take place on the evening of April 18; awards presented will include:
  - Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year Award,
  - Gloria House Mentor Award, and
  - Outstanding Group Award (adult category).
- Awards presentation during National Youth Week: Our Oscar themed Youth Recognition Night is scheduled to take place May 2. Awards presented will include:
  - Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award,
  - Leaders of Tomorrow (elementary, junior high and high school category), and
  - Outstanding Group Award (youth category).

4.6

**Minutes**

**Approval of Minutes from January 11, 2024**

Councillor Dennis moved That the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends that Council adopt the minutes from January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4.7

**FCSS Managers Report – Presented by Director Kreklewich**

- Blackfalds Youth Crew's numbers are increasing.
- Home Alone Safety scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to staff illness but make up classes were run on February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Youth Cooking Class is an 8-week program that started on January 31<sup>st</sup>. It is an Alberta Health Services program geared towards teaching youth about healthy eating, according to Canada's Food Guide.
- Mission Impossible is an obstacle course developed by the FCSS Youth Programmer to advance youth physical coordination and social skills and it had 15 youth registered.
- Christmas Bureau Program had 463 total users – 271 children, 127 women and 65 men. A total of 124 hampers were distributed to 103 families and 21 single or seniors' hampers.
- The Family Easter Event is on March 23 and the Blackfalds Community Centre from 12 – 2 pm.
- Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page has 655 followers as of the end of January.
- FCSS Manager position will be advertised this week.
- Tim Moorhouse of Moorhouse and Associates should have a final report to us next week as it is still with their graphic designer.

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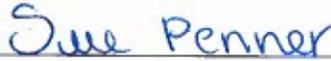
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Chair Thomas adjourned the the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting at 7:24 p.m.



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Dena Thomas, Chair



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Sue Penner, Admin Staff