

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board
Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Sands	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Dena Thomas	Public at Large
Sheila Giffin	Public at Large
Glenda Brown	Public at Large
Auralei Agrey	Public at Large – joined the meeting at 7:25 pm
Cliff Soper	County of Lacombe Resident

ATTENDING

Rick Kreklewich	Town of Blackfalds Director of Community Services
Sawyer Hick	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Manager
Sue Penner	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Admin Asst

OTHERS ATTENDING

Jamie Hoover	Town of Blackfalds Mayor
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REGRETS

Brenda Dennis	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Jessalyn Parsons	Public at Large
Melissa MacLeod	Public at Large
Annette Bugutsky	Public at Large

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thomas welcomed all attending and called the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Introduction of Sawyer Hick, FCSS Manager to the Board.

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

Approval of Minutes from April 11th, 2024

Member Soper moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends Council adopt the minutes from April 11th, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion 2024 FCSS Grant Requests

Discussion was held on each of the grant applications received:

Iron Ridge Elementary Campus – members feel that if FCSS keeps funding the social workers then the school board will never increase their budget for these important social worker positions.

St. Gregory the Great – funding is not required for this request as Lacombe FCSS will cover the cost of training for the Rainbows Program and Blackfalds FCSS will purchase the supplies (books).

Beyond Food Community Hub – they are receiving other Town funding.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters – Chair Thomas noted they have received substantial funding in the past few years for this program.

Member Giffen moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board defer any decisions until the June 13th meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Additional Grant Information – BGC Wolf Creek Grant Funding Request

FCSS received a request from BGC in the amount of \$15,000 to assist with startup costs for their program. This decision was also deferred.

Social Needs Assessment

A copy of the latest SNA was provided to the Board at the April 11th meeting and members were asked to bring any changes they find to the May 9th meeting. Member Giffen noted that overall, there were many grammatical and spelling errors, and the Board felt this document could not be presented to Council until these changes were made.

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Member Giffen moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board ask Director Kreklewich to reach out to Moorhouse & Associates for an editable copy of the Social Needs Assessment document.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FCSS Managers Update

- Director Kreklewich talked about Manager Hick's first week consisting of showing her around, customer service training and slowly worked into basic duties. Sawyer attended the FCSSAA meeting held in Penhold on Thursday where she got some great ideas.

Volunteer Programmer Report

The Best of Blackfalds was held on April 18th and included local businesses supplying a variety of appetizers, live music, cash bar and award presentations. There were 170 in attendance and the recipients were as follows:

- *Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year Award – Robyn Devine*
- *Gloria House Mentor Award – Amanda MacLean*
- *Outstanding Group (adult) Award – Beyond Food Community Hub*

May 2 'Youth Recognition Night': What a night!!! The evening was enjoyed as we celebrated on our red-carpet, appetizers, short performances from IRJC band and Dancer's Edge Studio, and the awards presentation. The recipients were as follows:

- *Leaders of Tomorrow, Elementary – Corrado Citrigno*
- *Leaders of Tomorrow, Junior High – Kennedy Bertelsen & Eva Boomer*
- *Leaders of Tomorrow, High School – Alice Frantz*
- *Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award – Ben Adey*

The National Volunteer Week coloring contest had 26 entries who could win a \$25 gift card in four age categories: (50) under 6, (4) 6-11 years, (10) 11-18 years and (7) adults.

Community Engagement Programmer Report

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program started on March 1st and was extremely successful with 3 volunteers donating 39 hours to this program with a total of 103 tax returns filed.

Canada Carbon Rebate (formally Climate Action incentive payments) total dollars to Blackfalds residents: \$102,277 and GST total credits to Blackfalds Residents \$38,549.

Clean-Up Blackfalds:

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We were thrilled with the increased level of participation this year. We had 18 individual groups participating in 2024 (the total number of participants is unknown at this time), and in 2023 we had 14 groups.

Program highlights: the increased sense of Pride in our Community!

FCSS Facebook Page had 781 followers at the end of April.

In-office support:

- 1 Guaranteed Income Support (GIS) application assistance.
- 1 senior's medical online submission.
- 1 online Alberta Supports application.
- Many of the government and social assistance applications can only be done online, and it can be very overwhelming for many community members. As a team, we strive to support these community members by assisting them to complete these applications.

Youth Programmer

Blackfalds Youth Crew:

Offered Mondays from 3:45 - 5:45pm for youth grades 4 -6, Tuesdays from 5:00 - 7:00pm for youth grades 7 – 12, and now Thursdays from 1 – 2:30pm for homeschooled youth grades 4 - 9.

- April 1, 2 and 4 no programs due to Easter STAT,
- April 8 saw 25 youth in attendance, April 9 saw 10, and April 11 saw 11 = **46**
- April 15 saw 17 youth in attendance, April 16 saw 10, and April 18 saw 9 = **36**
- April 22 saw 10 youth in attendance, April 23 saw 9, and April 25 saw 11 = **30**
- April 29 saw 19 youth in attendance, and April 30 saw 12 = **31**

Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safety

Was scheduled for April 26th. The class was full and continues to be offered on a nearly monthly basis throughout the school year for youth grades 4 – 6. The next regular course is scheduled for May 17th.

Youth Cooking Club

This 8-week program started January 31st, wrapped up March 20th.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring: FCSS Youth Programmer is mentoring a young student at one of the Blackfalds community schools.

FCSS Youth Programmer initiatives during the month of April:
Creating FCSS Summer Camp – partnering with local businesses
Attended 2024 State of Child Wellbeing Launch
Attended Marco Corbo presentation at IRIC (FCSS funded)



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Chair Thomas adjourned the the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Sheila Giffin, Vice Chair

Sue Penner, Admin Staff