

March 2, 2022 School Council Minutes - Sunnyside School

**In attendance: Lynnell Hudey, Ali Schneider, Rana Koopmans, Geraldine Gratton, Samantha Davies, Mitchell Van Dyk, Sharon Rutledge, Mel Jones, Michelle Perlich, Abby Nelson, Erin Wallace, Val Siljack-Kissick, Amy McDougall, Crystal Smith**

**Call to Order: 3:54**

- 1) Additions and Approval of Agenda: 1st - Rana Koopmans, 2nd Lynnell Hudey
  
- 2) Approval of Minutes of February 2, 2022 meeting: 1st - Rana Koopmans, 2nd - Samantha Davies
  
- 3) Trustee's Report (Sharon Rutledge):

The following were discussed at the Board Meeting held on March 1, 2022.

1. Between Feb 25 and May 2022, the **Ministry of Education** will conduct its annual **telephone/online surveys** to collect information on the satisfaction of Alberta's education system. The surveys gather responses from a random sample of parents, the general public, high school students, teachers & principals (online), school board trustees, as well as employers of recent high school graduates. Participation is important as it provides valuable information to help the ministry identify areas of strength and areas needing improvement.
  
2. Dr. Adam Browning shared the **COVID update**. The Division has seen a gradual decline in self-reported cases and general illness. As of March 1, 2022 no masks are required for students or people entering a school. Cohorting is still recommended in large gatherings, sanitization is still required and continue to minimize the sharing of materials and supplies. Mandatory isolation based on symptoms or positive COVID tests will continue.
  
3. In 2021, the **Palliser Family School Counselling Program** increased from 9 to 18 counsellors, with Erika Publow hired in August as the Clinical Team Leader. The increased support at each school has provided more consistent and meaningful mental health and wellness support to students and families. The caseload for the 2021-22 school year has risen significantly with anxiety the most prevalent among students.
  
4. Student athlete **Ale Loutitt, a grade 12 student at the National Sports School in Calgary**, made Canada and the district proud with her **Bronze medal performance in the Mixed Team Ski Jumping event at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics**.

5. Associate Superintendent Audrey Kluin shared the **Human Resources report**. Palliser has 1019 contracted employees (554 Certified staff, 465 Support staff) and 632 casual and substitutes. From March 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022, approximately 6200 tasks were completed. The Human Resources Team also plays a key role in bargaining with the ATA and CUPE Local 290.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

4) Principal's Report (Mitchell Van Dyk)

- 1) The month of February was great! We had a number of kindness initiatives that went really well. It was great to see the students all working together to bring some positivity and kindness to others!
- 2) Tuesday marked our first day without mandatory masking for adults and for class cohorts. It was unbelievable to watch how excited the students were to be able to spend time with each other!
- 3) Assurance surveys have been sent out. You should have received one in the mail. Please take the time to fill it out - it really helps us as a school know what we are doing well and how we can improve.
- 4) Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you to the Community Association for being willing to purchase Sunnyside School buffs for our new students and staff members!
- 5) We are hoping to learn about additional funding to help students in grade 1 who have had less exposure to school due to covid-19. We are hoping to add some hours to our assistants so that they can spend some time working on students' literacy and numeracy skills. This is going to be really helpful when it comes in.
- 6) With a lot of the rules for covid-19 regulations changing, we definitely will have more opportunities for parents to volunteer and help in classrooms. Some teachers really love having this (usually teachers in the younger grades), while others don't need as many. If you are interested in volunteering and helping out in the school, please reach out to your classroom teacher!

5) Old Business:

- a) Hot lunch: There has been great response, students seemed very excited to have it back. Decided to move forward and resume to having every week on Mondays. Rana is getting things more organized and there will be an email out for parent volunteers. We will continue to use etransfer as payment method for the time being, will look into different option for next year.
- b)

6) New Business:

- a) \$500 grant from the Alberta government:

Through the Alberta School Council Engagement Grant, each school council will receive \$500 to better support individual school councils and strengthen engagement with parents.

Examples of parent engagement activities and projects that funds can be used for include:

- workshops for parents to increase capacity for school council members
- information sessions on how parents can support student learning at home and at school
- parent resources and workshops on important topics such as, mental health and well-being, cyberbullying, healthy living, etc.
- programs to support families including those of English language and of indigenous learners
- parent resources and tools in multiple languages
- events to engage parents on important local issues
- parent engagement in promoting the value of arts
- trainer or facilitator costs for the professional development, workshops or sessions associated with the above

7) Celebrations and/or Thank-you's:

- a) Crystal Smith for organizing getting more buffs for new students.

**Adjournment: 4:28pm**

**Next Meeting: April 6th, 2022**