

September 14, 2022 School Council Minutes - Sunnyside School

In attendance: Geraldine Gratton, Kayla Douville, Whitney Schimanski, Rana Koopmans, Tatiana Cook, Samantha Davies, Britnee Pavan, Ali Schneider, Mitchell Van Dyk, Joanna Zazula, Lynnell Hudey, Sharon Rutledge, Mel Jones (online), Baylli Hain (online) Abby Nelson (online), Laura Ostoya (online), Erin Wallance (online), Jennifer Knutt (online) and Jessica Davey (online)

Call to Order: 4:08pm

1) Additions and Approval of Agenda:

a) Additions added by Ali Schneider: cookbooks and School wide assembly

a) 1st Rana Koopmans

b) 2nd Samantha Davies

2) Approval of Minutes of June 1, 2022 meeting:

a) 1st Samantha Davies

b) 2nd Rana Koopmans

3) Trustee's Report (Sharon Rutledge)

Welcome to a new school year!

The Board of Trustees held their Organizational Meeting on August 23, 2022. Trustee Lorelei Bexte will remain as Chair, Trustee Tony Montana Vice-Chair and Trustee Debbie Laturnus will assume the role of Alternate Vice-Chair. Trustees were also assigned to various committees for the upcoming school year.

Two new Area Directors began their roles with the division in August. Jackie Kark will serve the Lethbridge region and Mike Thiesen was appointed for the Calgary Region. They look forward to building connections with staff and school communities while supporting the unique needs of students.

Three Value Scoping Meetings were held in June for the modernization of Coalhurst Schools. The process identified options for delivering K-12 education within the Town of Coalhurst. The participants included a facilitator, architects, and cost consultants. Stakeholders were invited from Coalhurst Town Council, County of Lethbridge, Alberta Education, Alberta Infrastructure and Palliser Schools. The report has been submitted to Alberta Education.

The Board approved a 1.75 % salary increase as of Sept 01, 2022, to employees not covered by a collective agreement. When a settlement occurs with one pay group, consideration of a salary increase is given to all other employees in the division.

Next Board Meeting is September 20, 2022

Report submitted by Trustee S. Rutledge

4) Principal's Report (Mitchell Van Dyk)

The start of the year has been quite exciting! The first normal school year in 3 years has brought about a lot of fantastic new things that I didn't get to experience last year. It has also brought up a few challenges, but overall, it has been a great start to the year!

- A. In terms of enrollment, we are up 16 students from last year - which is a big deal when we only had 105 students last year. That's about 15%! We even have had to cap our Kindergarten, grade 1/2, and grade 5/6 classes. I have inquired about getting another portable for a second grade 5/6 class, as well as potentially having more teaching staff after numbers are finalized in September (I have no idea if we are going to be eligible or not)
- B. We have adjusted our recesses from last year - the students are separated into grades 3/4/5/6 and K/1/2 for our first recess and then everyone is together for lunch recess and the last recess. This has been great, but has presented a few challenges that we are trying to work through. Having 120 students all outside at the same time is a lot and we are working through a few kinks.
- C. A HUGE thank-you to all of you who helped put together the Meet the Teacher BBQ. I think the evening was a huge success and there were a lot of new families who were able to come out and meet everyone. It's been great!
- D. Just a heads up, we received our Assurance surveys back from the government. We had a total of 6 parents fill out the surveys, which resulted in some skewed results.
- E. We have a couple events coming up that parents are more than welcome to come and be a part of:
 - a. Terry Fox run on September 22
 - b. School-wide assembly on September 29
 - c. Pumpkin/Harvest festival in October
- F. I met with our superintendent, Dave Driscoll, about the toboggan hill. He had a number of concerns about it:
 - a. From the sounds of it, we can't put it by the septic field. (I will call our plumber guy to double check)
 - b. We would need to move sprinklers.
 - c. We may need to uproot fences and/or trees
 - d. We may need to put it somewhere away from fences and trees, which causes issues for supervision (students behind the hill etc.)
 - e. Amy Hass had an interesting idea - what if we were able to get permission from the farmer on the land to the East and put it on the dry pivot corner? Does anyone know who owns that land? (Then the hill would belong to them, but we could just get a permission form and use it for PE classes etc.)

- G. Some of you have probably heard, but we switched over our student information systems this summer. It's been a little tricky, and so School Messenger for absences isn't working and we have had to manually put in a lot of our data. Because of this, it's tricky to know who has signed permissions to have work on Twitter, Facebook etc. So I haven't been posting a lot to social media, but I hope we will get to do more once we have our data sorted out.
- H. I have a request around initiatives/ideas.
- I. I have a list of things I've brainstormed for our barn dance money. Just ideas I have thought of - not necessarily things that have to happen. I would love your guys' feedback.
- J. Thank you, thank you, thank you! You all have been such a great support for me, the staff, and the school. I know how lucky we are to have such an awesome School Council and I am so appreciative of all the work you put into Sunnyside. Also, a big reason why our numbers are so healthy is the positive word of mouth - thank you for sharing all the great things happening at our little school!

5) Old Business:

- a) Anything from last year?

6) New Business:

- a) Hot lunch: payments will be made by etransfer and lunches organized for payment till January. Will continue with Mondays, they have been working well. Will keep tithe meals homemade, it'd more affordable, healthy and less waste. Teachers appreciate simple serve meals.
- b) Volunteering opportunities: will send out an email explaining detail events so volunteers know what is expected and what we still need volunteers for.
- c) Afterschool pick up: trying out a new system to eliminate vehicles parked on the side of the road. Will try getting buses off earlier so that the bus lane can be use for pickup traffic.

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

- a) Mark Thibodeau for painting lines outside.

Adjournment: 4:49

Next Meeting: October 12, 2022