

September 20, 2023 School Council Minutes - Sunnyside School

In attendance: Chandler Cook, Sharon Rutledge, Brent Schultz, Jenn Knutt, Amy Mcoudgall, Lynnell Hudey, Sarah Baker, Travis Davies, Laura Ostoya, Rana Koopmans, Ali Schneider, Geraldine Gratton, Hayley Bolton-Elford, Mitchell Van Dyk, Michelle Perlich, Brooke Hubek (online), Val Siljack (online), Brienne Shimek (online), Tatiana Cook (online), Baylli Hain (online), Abby Nelson

Call to Order: 4:05 PM

- 1) Additions and Approval of Agenda:
 - a) Rana Koopmans
 - b) Seconded by Michelle Perlich

- 2) Approval of Minutes of June 14, 2023 meeting:
 - a) Lynnell Hudey
 - b) Second by Rana Koopmans

3) Trustee's Report (Sharon Rutledge)

Welcome to 2023-2024 School Year

First Board Meeting was held on August 22, 2023. Trustee Lorelei Bexte will remain Chair for the upcoming school year, Trustee Tony Montina Vice-Chair and Trustee Debbie Laternus will keep the role of Alternate Vice-Chair.

Tom Hamer was appointed Deputy Superintendent for the 2023-24 school year.

All Board Meetings for the coming year will be held on the second Tuesday of each month except for the third Tuesday in January 2024.

Opening Day was held on August 31, 2023 to kick off the new school year. All Palliser staff were connected virtually with greetings from Central Administration and the keynote speaker Kevin Lamoureux on the topic of "Seizing the Magical Opportunity of School as a Place of Healing" His message was to emphasize students need to be cared for and many come with survival techniques due to past traumatic experiences but not label them as mental illness. The Board recently approved locally developed courses that offer opportunities for students to expand upon provincial programs of study. All developed courses (elementary, junior high and high school) require school authority approval. The Board has authorized the use of over 125 courses. The most recently approved course is Neuropsychology.

The Alberta School Boards Association has been consulting with Alberta boards regarding full-day, full week, fully-funded kindergarten. The Board is carefully reviewing this program in consultation with education partners, parents and caregivers in the community. Space, employee talent and educational benefits would make full-day kindergarten beneficial. However, additional funding would be required to make this a reality. A change of this magnitude would likely take place over a long period of time.

Cindy Rogers, Director of Finance, provided a financial report as of August 31, 2023. There is a projected surplus of \$1.6 million due to increased govt funding.

Next Board Meeting Tuesday Oct 10, 2023

4) Principal's Report (Mitchell Van Dyk)

It has been a fantastic start to the year! We are bursting at the seams and have had a few growing pains, but overall, things have been going quite smoothly. Here are a few updates:

- 1) Our enrollment from K-6 is 136. This is up substantially from last year (126) and the year before (106). Overall, it is a 30 student increase over 2 years, which is a total increase of 28 percent from 2 years ago. We also had about 10 students on the waitlist that we had to say no to. We also have an additional 19 students in Early Learning, for a total of 155 students.
- 2) We were also able to hire a few new staff members. Amy Hass is teaching grade 5/music, Rana Koopmans is a new EA, and Allyssa Ockerman is our new Making Connections worker. She will help out with Friday wellness as well as connecting families with additional community supports. Allyssa can also host groups and do class presentations on wellness, social-emotional health etc.
- 3) I have tentatively scheduled a "Visioning" evening for our school on Thursday, October 19th from 6:30-7:30 (ish). It would be awesome if we could have a ton of parents (and we will be inviting older students as well) to join us in a conversation about what Sunnyside is doing well, what we can improve on, and what we would like our focus to be moving forward.
- 4) I'm wondering how things are going with pick-up and drop off times. Have they been ok so far? With so many extra students, we definitely have a few more vehicles to go through.
- 5) This year, we are selecting words of the month to highlight with the students. For September, we chose courage to go along with the Terry Fox theme. We will also be trying to do a "family activity" once a month to go along with that theme.
- 6) Thanks for all your support for our Terry Fox run! We raised over \$300 for cancer research, and it was a great afternoon.
- 7) We will be starting our regular Friday "Wellness" activities next week. If you (or any other parent) is interested in volunteering during this time, please let me know!
 - a) People are interested in Robotics
 - b) Video editing/green screen
- 8) Just a reminder that anytime you volunteer at the school and will be alone with children, you need to have a current criminal record check on file with us. Once you submit one, you are good for 2 years before you need to get a new one.
- 9) The greenhouse is taking longer than I hoped (but about as long as I thought it would). I will update more when we get to the greenhouse item on our agenda.
- 10) I am curious to get some feedback on our website. What do you like about it? What could we do a better job of? What would you like to see?
 - a) School Council meeting - update
 - b) It's not a flattering picture of the school! Update the picture
 - c) Calendar on the website
- 11) Facebook/Twitter posts - are they helpful? What do you like about them? What could we do better at?

- 12) Over the next few years, we will be implementing new report cards and a new way of doing things when it comes to sharing grades/report cards etc. I have a copy of what the report card will look like for this year and some information about what they will probably look next year. I would like to get some feedback from parents. What do you think?
- 13) As always, I am blown away by the support that this school receives. I think a big reason why we have grown so much is because of word of mouth. Thank you so much for representing Sunnyside so well in the Southern Alberta community. I think we have an amazing little school and staff supported by a fantastic community. Thank you!

5) Old Business:

- a) Engagement grant from Alberta Education (table)
- b) Sunnyside 70th Anniversary (in the Fall)
 - i) 70th anniversary in the Spring (choose a date next)
- c)

6) New Business:

- a) Elections - do we have any offices we need to have elections for?
 - i) Ali Schneider - president
 - ii) Rana Koopmans - vice president
 - iii) Michelle Perlich - treasurer
 - iv) Abby Nelson - Secretary
- b) School Council/Community Association activities for the year
 - i) Wellness Committee
 - ii) Building Committee
 - iii) Year-end breakfast and BBQ
 - iv) Track Meet
 - v) Teacher Appreciation
 - vi) Hot lunch
 - (1) Paper forms were a disaster. Set up a Google Form
 - (2) Start after thanksgiving
 - vii) Christmas Dinner
 - viii) Turkey Bingo
 - (1) November 17th
 - ix) Penny Carnival
 - (1) Need to reign in the prize table
 - (2) Do it in the Spring
 - x) Bake Sale at the Christmas Concert

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

- a) Thank-you to Mr. Van Dyk

Adjournment: 5:21

Next Meeting: October 4th, 2023