

January 10, 2024 School Council Minutes - Sunnyside School

In attendance:

Sharon Rutledge, Riley Smith, Travis Davis, Geraldine Gratton, Baylli Hain (ONLINE), Rana Koopman (ONLINE) Mitchell VanDyk, Michelle Perlich, Lynell Hudey, Abby Nelson

Call to Order: 4:04PM

1) Additions and Approval of Agenda:

A) 1st Michelle Perlich B) 2nd Lynell Hudey

2) Approval of Minutes of December 6, 2023 meeting:

A) 1st Michelle Perlich B) 2nd Lynell Hudey

3) Trustee's Report (Sharon Rutledge):

WELCOME TO 2024

Let us begin with the key factors contributing to the Financial Surplus in Palliser of \$3,958,000 for the 2022-2023 school year and a five year Cumulative Surplus of \$4,296,000.

1) Instruction shows a surplus due to new govt. funding and increase in student numbers.

a) 88.6% of the instruction block goes to staffing costs, (72.25% for certified staff and 16.4% for non-certified staff)

b) Grid movement for teachers cost \$500-\$700K annually plus increases in ASEBP being announced about \$500-800K increase in 2023-24.

c) Every year, without an increase in the base grant, Palliser has to find \$1-1.5 million to maintain existing staff.

d) Using the surplus for staffing would be a one-time use of the funds. This would not help the long-term need at any school site, as after one year, there would be a need to reduce positions.

2) Plant Operations and Maintenance continue to face a deficit due to rising utility and supply costs.

3) Transportation program has a surplus due to fuel price contingency funding and savings in supplies.

4) Capital Reserves will be used to purchase 5 new buses, vehicle purchases and maintenance and allow investment of 900 new student Chromebooks.

5) Operational Reserves (about 4 million), school sites have about \$600,000 in reserves, and the Division has about \$3.2 M to support future technology and modernizing learning spaces. The reserves will be used to offset the 2023-24 budgeted deficit as well as help with the grade reconfiguration and retrofit Coaldale schools for the 2024-25 school year. Hence, Palliser has a limited capacity to cover operational days.

Palliser's Board of Trustees has officially chosen "Coaldale Prairie Winds Secondary" as the name for the new school ready to open its' door in the 2024-25 school year. The name

elements were proposed by the community through submissions on the website. A panel of members from the Coaldale school community helped refine the submitted names.

All schools in Palliser have had new camera and doorbells installed. This will provide better school safety by allowing office staff to identify individuals requesting access. The Facilities Team will be conducting assessments, in case future work needs to be done.

Palliser's Early Learning Program supports 226 children (2.8-4.8 years old) with a rich learning environment. The program is most beneficial for children in need of language development or have other identified needs. Unfortunately, there has been a decrease in funding which is concerning to Palliser.

Next regular Board Meeting will be on January 16, 2024

4) Principal's Report (Mitchell Van Dyk)

Happy New Year! I hope you all had an awesome Christmas break. It was so awesome to welcome back all the kids on Monday!

The word of the month for January is Responsibility. We will be doing lessons and activities with the students to talk to them about what it means to be responsible with the rights and privileges that we have.

The Palliser draft calendar is out. I have copies for everyone that we can look at. Please keep in mind that we will be adding some of our own days to this calendar.

If you haven't had a chance to look at our "Safe and Caring" policy, I have a few extra copies. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please let me know.

There are a few things that will be coming up over the next few months that I am really looking forward to:

Mini-basketball

3 on 3 basketball tournament at Immanuel Christian for the grade 5/6s

Ski Trip for grade 5/6s

Skating opportunities for the entire school

Continued Pavan Park trips for grade 1/2

We are making good progress on the greenhouse. Travis helped get the locates, we dug out the concrete slab that was beside the shed, and I have sent the specs to a recommended screw pile company for a quote. We are getting closer to seeing this dream a reality!

Just a heads up - it is supposed to be really, really cold on Friday. There is a chance that buses won't run. Bus students will be called by their bus drivers if this happens - possibly as early as Thursday.

I am curious what people think about grade 6 field trips. We have done a hiking trip to Waterton in the past, but are brainstorming some other ideas. We have thrown around the idea of staying in Waterton overnight, or possibly travelling up to Edmonton for a couple days. I have also done sleepovers at the school previously. Thoughts?

- 5) Old Business:
 - a) Sunnyside 70th Anniversary (in the Spring)
 - b)

- 6) New Business:
 - a) Palliser Division draft calendar
 - b) BLAST/after school program? what is the minimum of kids required, what would the cost be. We will inquire about more info for next meeting.
 - c) Assurance Surveys: for gr. 4, 5 and 6. Please fill out and encourage others to fill out.

- 7) Celebrations and/or Thank-you's:
 - a) Amy Hass for the amazing Christmas concert
 - b) Geraldine Gratton for the successful bake sale. Next year include savory snacks.

Adjournment: 4:43pm

Next Meeting: February 7, 2024