

## February 7, 2024 School Council Minutes - Sunnyside School

**In attendance: Laura Ostoya, Sharon Rutledge, Kaylee Low, Geraldine Gratton, Rana Koopmans, Mitchell Van Dyk, Baylli Hain, Val Siljack-Kissick, Erin Wallace, Michelle Perlich,**

### **Call to Order:**

1) Additions and Approval of Agenda:

- a) Rana Koopmans 1st
- b) Laura Ostoya 2nd

2) Approval of Minutes of January 10, 2024 meeting:

- a) Rana Koopmans 1st
- b) Laura Ostoya 2nd

3) Trustee's Report (Sharon Rutledge):

Cindy Rogers, Director of Finance, presented an updated financial report. As of Dec 2023, a deficit of 1.62 million dollars is projected which is in line with the 1.6 million dollars budget prediction for the 2024-25 school year. The division estimates a shortfall in funding in all areas. With the new changes to distance criteria, (2.4 to 1 and 2 kilometres), school transportation has resulted in bus ridership of over 340 students in Coaldale, Coalhurst and Picture Butte. Preschool student transportation has been eliminated due to near-capacity routes. The new funding formula based on ridership thresholds, has decreased per-pupil funding rate, negatively impacting the budget.

David Shaw, Transportation Supervisor, reported that Palliser owns 85 buses, 16 staff vehicles, 2 service vehicles and 12 maintenance vehicles. We have two repair facilities, in Lethbridge and Vulcan, staffed by 4 full-time mechanics. Bus drivers are the major contributors to excellent service and receive on-going training for safety with follow-up opportunities. Palliser transports 2200 students daily over 62 daily routes and travel over 1.9 million kilometres per year.

Occupational Health and Safety is maximizing safety for both staff and students. Schools are developing and practicing emergency plans through drills, conducted during "less than ideal" times under various weather conditions to be prepared for any real emergencies.

The Board has approved 3 Division calendars for the 2024-25 school year following review of feedback from Administrators and School Councils. School administrators can now consult with their staff and community to determine a local calendar.

Next Board Meeting scheduled for February 13, 2024

4) Principal's Report (Mitchell Van Dyk)

Happy February! Here are the things that we have been up to:

The word of the month for February is caring. We are going to be highlighting what it means to be a caring individual and a caring community.

A big thank you to the Sunnyside Community Association for paying for our school-wide skating! Tomorrow will be our third time and we have had a blast!

I have a school vision draft document that I would like to share with you all. This vision comes from our visioning evening last Fall as well as other input from parents and staff members. I would encourage any/all feedback. I will also be sending this out to parents in the next few days. I have connected with the Boys and Girls Club about the potential of an after school program here at the school. They have let me know that they would need about 4-5 months as well as at least 10 parents who are committed before it would be worth it. This would be the approximate fee schedule:

After School Care: \$475 (Does include PD Days and Holidays, but not Statutory Holidays)

Casual After School Care: \$250 (up to 8 afternoons a month, does include PD Days and Holidays.)

I will send out a survey to parents to see how many people might be interested. They also offer before school care, which is obviously an additional cost. I will also add that to the survey.

We are just about ready to purchase the greenhouse. I have the surveying, screw piles, and gravel work lined up and ready to go. Once we purchase it and get all the foundation work done, we will be ready to build! I'm looking into seeing if we can have some volunteers do some of the work and then get a crew to finish the work that will require a lift. It looks like we will be able to come in at or under budget.

We are currently accepting new registrations and have had quite a few requests for next year.

As of now, we have about 20 people on our waitlist and have someone on the waitlist for every grade. We are hoping to confirm all of our regular registrations from current students to see if we are able to add. Currently, we are looking at projecting our enrollment at around 140 for next year (K-6). We have requested a portable for next year.

I will be uploading our Safe and Caring policy to the website and School Handbook sometime in the next week or so.

Just another reminder that the Assurance surveys from Alberta Education went home to parents of grade 4-6 students. We would love it if all parents filled them out!

5) Old Business:

- a) Sunnyside 70th Anniversary (in the Spring)
- b) BLAST/after school program?
- c) Assurance Surveys

6) New Business:

- a) Sunnyside Calendar
- b) Sunnyside new EA hire

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

- a) Rana and Sam hot lunch program!

**Adjournment: 4:42**

**Next Meeting: March 6th, 2024**