

March 6, 2024 School Council Minutes - Sunnyside School

In attendance: Mitchell VanDyk, Sharon Rutledge, Ali Schneider, Abby Nelson, Rana Koopmans, Travis Davie Kaylee Low, Geraldine Gratton, Lynell Hudey, Laura Osteya, online- Baylli Hain, Megan Jackson, Jennifer Knutt, Val Siljak-Kissick, Bobbie Geo Gschaid, Brittnee Pavan.

Call to Order: 4:04pm

- 1) Additions and Approval of Agenda:
1st: Rana Koopmans
2nd: Geraldine Gratton

- 2) Approval of Minutes of February 7, 2024 meeting:
1st: Travis Davie
2nd: Lynelle Hudey

- 3) Trustee's Report (Sharon Rutledge):

Highlights from February Board Meeting

The Board received an update on our efforts and achievements in supporting students mental well-being, one of our top priorities. Thanks to a mental health grant received in 2022, made it possible to train staff in social-emotional skills development, implemented programs to connect students with supportive communities and provided expert-level assessment and care. However, the grant is about to expire which presents a new challenge. The Board is exploring various options to continue supporting our students.

In a Technology Service Report, the Division continues to struggle with underfunding by the govt. The schools have a rise in Network usage, Google workspace and increases in Supernet bandwidth, currently costing an additional \$11,000 per month. With software platforms increasingly moving online, the necessity for robust infrastructure becomes more critical. Cybersecurity is also a concern with the rise of more sophisticated threats demanding enhanced protective measures.

Recently, our Board and representatives from the Town of Coaldale had the opportunity to tour the new school and adjacent recreation center. The state-of-the-art facility will become the community hub providing exceptional learning opportunities with students having a convenient access to the rec center. We eagerly anticipate the opening of the Coaldale Prairie Winds Secondary for the 2024-25 school year.

Next Board Meeting scheduled for March 12, 2024

4) Principal's Report (Mitchell Van Dyk)

Happy March! Here is what has been/will be happening this month:

The word of the month for March is inclusion. Essentially, this means that we want everyone to feel like they belong at Sunnyside. We will be having conversations with students and focusing some of our health/wellness classes on this topic.

Thanks to everyone who filled out the Assurance surveys. We really appreciate your feedback! We have put a 50% payment down for the greenhouse! We are planning on starting the foundation work the last week of March during the break. We will then complete all the gravel work. After that, the greenhouse will be delivered and we just need to assemble it. They say it takes a crew of 3 about 80 hours to build. I'm still looking for a crew to build it - so if anyone has any construction connections (framers etc.) please let me know!

Our Safe and Caring policy is now uploaded to the website and it is in the School Handbook as well.

Thanks to those who gave feedback on our School Vision document. Hopefully we will have it finalized soon. One thing that a few people mentioned was that it would be great to have a slogan that fits who we are/want to be. Here's a few that I brainstormed:

"Embracing kindness, play, creativity, and the outdoors to learn and grow"

Sunnyside School. Play. Outdoors. Kindness. Creativity. Growth.

Sunnyside School: Be Kind. Be Creative. Be Outdoors.

Sunnyside: A community of kind, hard-working, weather warriors who love to learn and grow!

Over the next month I will be working on next year's calendar. I have a few questions for the council:

How does everyone feel about the extra week in April?

How does everyone feel about taking the Friday off before Christmas?

Any other thoughts?

We sent a letter home yesterday about the grade 6 graduation trip. We are planning on going to Waterton overnight and hope to make an overnight trip somewhat of a tradition (if it goes well).

We continue to look for parents or former students who are interested in volunteering their time for our Friday Wellness time. If you know any parents or students who would like to run a wellness group, please send them my way!

I would just like to give a shout out to the amazing staff here at the school. Every day I see them go above and beyond for your children. We are so lucky to have such a kind and dedicated group helping our students learn!

Any questions or concerns?

5) Old Business:

- a) Sunnyside 70th Anniversary (May 24th 5:30-8:30pm)-something to commemorate alumni
- b) Penny Carnival (May 24th 5:30-8:30pm)- charge for tickets: games, bbq, treats and prizes
- c) BLAST/after school program?

- d) Calendar for next year
- e) Intentional with Tech presentation - Kaylee Low. Book for sometime the end of April

6) New Business:

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

- a) Mitchell VanDyk thank for always being here for parent, staff and for our children

Adjournment: 4:56pm

Next Meeting: April 10th, 2024