

May 1, 2024 School Council Minutes - Sunnyside School

In attendance: Sharon Rutledge, Mitchell Van Dyk, Lynnell Hudey, Ali Schneider, Ger Gratton, Travis Davies, Connie Bolton (online), Brittany Pavan, Jenn Knutt,

Call to Order: 4:00PM

- 1) Additions and Approval of Agenda:
 - a) Rana Koopmans
 - b) Lynnell Hudey

- 2) Approval of Minutes of April 10, 2024 meeting:
 - a) Travis Davies
 - b) Rana Koopmans

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

Board Highlights of April meeting

Dr. Adam Browning, responsible for literacy in the Division, reported remarkable growth in students meeting grade-level standards over the past four years. The growth is due to dedicated teachers and improvement of teaching skills presented in professional development sessions. A new reading assessment tool has been created to better evaluate reading skills and support strategies for students.

There have been significant advancements in numeracy with the formation of a numeracy committee comprised of teachers. The team is exploring strategies to engage students to better understand numerical concepts and their application in real-life scenarios. There has been two full days of Professional Development on numeracy programming.

Recognizing the increasing stress and anxiety among both students and staff, the Division is introducing longer breaks during the school day. Research shows the importance of breaks for active play, social skills development and better academic performance. To support workplace wellness, staff will benefit from the scheduled breaks to encourage time for connections with other colleagues.

Senior Administration has asked principals to incorporate a 15-minute break in the morning and afternoon with a 45-minute lunch break by the 2025-26 school year.

The Interim Financial Statement was presented. The projected deficit for the 2023-24 school year is just over \$1.5 million. More information can be found on the Palliser website.

Reminder: Council of School Councils session on Wed. May 08 at 6:30.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2024.

4) Principal's Report (Mitchell Van Dyk)

Welcome to May! Only 2 months left in the school year - which is so hard to believe. Here's to a great 2 months! Here are a few updates for you:

Our calendar for next year is finalized and will be sent to parents (and up on the website) within the next few days.

As I mentioned in the newsletter and my email yesterday (which you may not have seen yet), the Boys and Girls Club have put a pause on the after school program for September. I'm hoping to connect with other companies soon. There is also the possibility of it starting up in January, 2025. I will keep parents posted as more information comes available.

Our projected enrollment for next year is 140 students with 20 more in ELP. Our actual numbers may fluctuate from that somewhat, depending on staffing.

As many of you have probably seen, Jan Henderson is retiring. She will be missed, but we wish her well on her well-deserved retirement. We will be hiring a grade 3/4 teacher for next year.

Popcorn orders have been sent in - they should be here sometime in the middle of May.

We are currently working on tweaking our report cards for next year. We are looking at moving towards a digital portfolio that students and teachers can upload content to for parents to check out - kind of like a student-led conference, but digital. Thoughts? This would increase information to parents and spread out the workload of report cards.

Tomorrow, we have our assembly and our "pie the staff member!"

The contractor who is assembling our greenhouse can't start until the third week in May.

Hopefully we will have it finished sometime in June!

I have asked the grade 5 and 6 students what they think it means to be a Sunnysider. It was

pretty interesting to see their thoughts! The words that showed up for both of them were:

Country school, Wellness, safe place, homemade hot lunch, always be kind, "Once a Sunnysider, Always a Sunnysider", Fresh air, outside, waffles, great teachers, everyone belongs, skating, accepting others, do hard things, do the right thing. I thought that was a pretty great list!

Just a reminder that we will be having a "Poetry and Popsicles" event on June 6th.

We will also have our Track and Field day sometime at the beginning of June.

5) Old Business:

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

6) New Business:

- a) Staffing update for next year

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

- a)
- b)

Adjournment: 4:40 PM

Next Meeting: June 5, 2024