

June 5, 2024 School Council Minutes - Sunnyside School

**In attendance: Sharon Rutledge, Lynnell Hudey, Mitchell Van Dyk, Rana Koopmans, Geraldine Gratton, Abby Nelson (online)**

**Call to Order: 3:58**

- 1) Additions and Approval of Agenda:
  - a) 1st Lynnell Hudey
  - b) 2nd Geraldine Gratton
  
- 2) Approval of Minutes of May 1, 2024 meeting:
  - a) 1st Lynnell Hudey
  - b) 2nd Geraldine Gratton
  
- 3) Trustee's Report (Sharon Rutledge):

Our Division is committed to fostering a community of diversity and belonging for all learners as defined in our Three-year Plan of Inclusive Education.

During the 2023-24 school year, Palliser has supported 246 self-identified First Nations, Metis and Inuit students. The Division emphasized learning of Indigenous perspectives, student well-being, building relationships with local Indigenous groups, understanding of residential schools and how to address learning gaps. Our Indigenous Success Coordinator, Kylie Fineday, has shared resources, educational opportunities and student success stories with regular newsletters.

The Terry Fox Foundation acknowledges the generosity of 16 Palliser Schools in supporting the 2023 Terry Fox School Run with \$14,529.80 raised in support of cancer research.

The Alberta Govt. provided teachers, parents and other staff an opportunity to provide input about cellphone use in schools through an online survey which closed on May 03. Also, the ATA passed a motion, at their recent May annual general meeting, in support of restricting smartphones in classrooms during instructional time. All this input will help inform potential future govt. direction. Palliser is working to create a procedure, in consultation with other southern Alberta school divisions, on cellphone use in the classroom.

Wishing all of you a safe and enjoyable summer.

Next Board Meeting is June 11, 2024

- 4) Principal's Report (Mitchell Van Dyk)

I can't believe that the end of the year is just around the corner. Unbelievable! Here is a few things for the end of the year:

I wanted to say a HUGE thanks to you, the School Council parents. The awesome Staff Appreciation dinner, the pancake breakfast, the volunteers for track and field day, the Penny Carnival/70th Anniversary Celebration and all the other great stuff you all contribute to. Thank you!

I have connected with the Blast program in Lethbridge. They let me know that they would need at least 10 people for a morning and afternoon program. Our numbers in our most recent survey didn't support that. We had 5 for both AM/PM, 2 casual after school, and 2 after school only.

As you probably have heard, we hired a new grade 3/4 teacher to replace Mrs. Henderson. His name is Marcus Johnston.

Would the School Council want to contribute something for Jan's retirement?

Our greenhouse work is starting on Saturday - we will have a crew out to build the pony walls for the actual building. Hopefully this is the start of getting it finished before the end of June.

Now that our class sizes have mostly stabilized, we are having a conversation as a staff about whether we want to continue with split grades or straight grades.

Just a reminder about our Poetry and Popsicles event tomorrow!

We are participating in field testing the grade 6 PAT exams for the new curriculum in LA and Math.

Just a reminder of our graduations on June 26th. Kindergarten is at 11am and grade 6 will be after lunch, probably around 1:00.

Our support staffing for next year is still being finalized, but those decisions will probably be made within the next few weeks.

As always, feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns!

- 5) Old Business:
  - a) BLAST/after school program?
  
- 6) New Business:
  - a) Staffing update for next year
  
- 7) Celebrations and/or Thank-you's:
  - a) Sunnyside Staff!
  - b) Volunteers!

**Adjournment: 4:15am**

**Next Meeting: September 11th, 2024**