

## September 17, 2024 School Council Minutes - Sunnyside School

**In attendance:** Mitchell Van Dyk, Travis Davies, Abby Nelson, Geraldine Gratton, Rana Koopmans, Megan Crooks, Michelle Perlich, Ali Schneider, Lynnell Hudey, Jenn Knutt, Sharon Rutledge, Karleen Clark, Bobbie Geo Gschaid, Baylli Hain (online), Megan Smith (online), Daicya Munton, Conrad Van Essen (online)

### **Call to Order:**

- 1) Additions and Approval of Agenda:
  - a) 1st Rana Koopman's
  - b) 2nd Lynnell Hudey
  
- 2) Approval of Minutes of June 5, 2024 meeting
  - a) 1st Lynnell Hudey
  - b) 2nd Rana Koopman's
- 3) Elections for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
  - c) President - Daicya Munton willing to stand
  - d) Vice President - Rana Koopmans
  - e) Secretary - Abby Nelson (Jenn Knutt filling in)
  - f) Treasurer - Michelle Perlich
  
- 4) Trustee's Report (Sharon Rutledge):

### Highlights of Sept Board Meeting

#### HOME EDUCATION UPDATE

Palliser's Home Education Program has undergone significant changes from a small number of students to a dramatic increase. The new program is operated through Palliser Beyond Borders under the leadership of Principal Jason Kwasny and Facilitator Laurie Zeinchuk. The program has focused on building a community of families committed to high-quality learning with meaningful experiences for students through field trips, in-person workshops in language / fine arts and Celebrations of Learning showcasing students talents and skills.

#### INCLUSIVE EDUCATION UPDATE

Shane Cranston spoke of a new software platform to enhance support for inclusive education. It is hoped that this platform will enable support teams to collaborate more effectively and efficiently between staff, families and students to ensure continuity of support as students transition between grades, schools and beyond.

#### CELL PHONES SCHOOL POLICIES

The Govt. of Alberta announced in June 2024, that require school divisions to restrict access to cell phones and other personal devices during class time. A survey conducted by the Govt. of Alberta prior to the new directive, revealed strong support from parents, guardians, educators, and even many students.

For more information on how Palliser is supporting this govt. Initiative, please refer to the document "Cell Phone Policy Guidelines" or contact your child's school.

Special Note: The Air Quality Guidelines for Schools has just been posted on the Palliser website. It can be found under Staff Quick Links, Parent Quick Links and on the Inclement Weather section of the Parents page of the website.

Submitted by Trustee Sharon Rutledge

Next Board Meeting Tuesday October 08, 2024

#### 5) Principal's Report (Mitchell Van Dyk)

It has been an awesome start to the year - probably the smoothest yet since I have been here. So many classes have hit the ground running and it has been a seamless transition for many of our new students and students who are in a new grade configuration. Here are a few updates:

As you have probably seen, the greenhouse is built! We are currently waiting on a letter from our engineer to finish our occupancy permit - then we can get started on some of the raised beds etc. I think one more work day from a volunteer crew and we should be good to go to start building the beds. I have printed off a copy of the expenses to date - it looks like we will be right around that \$95,000 mark.

Our numbers are down a little bit from last year - last year we were around 140, this year we are around 130. Because we lost a few students with complex needs, we also lost an EA.

We continue to pursue the outdoors and opportunities for students to play outside. Each student spends close to 2 hours a day outside. This is something that we continue to be very proud of! The next few weeks will be very busy in grades 1-3 as we complete the mandatory assessments for Alberta Education. Every student in grades 1-3 will be tested on their basic literacy and numeracy skills, which is reported to Alberta Education.

The results of our Assurance surveys are out (although I haven't done a deep dive on them yet). Our results are, once again, excellent. Thanks to all the parents for filling out the surveys! One area that I need to look into a little more is that students had a more negative outlook on the school than parents or teachers.

Just a reminder that we will have our Terry Fox run on Thursday from 1:00(ish) - 2:00. Parents are more than welcome to join us!

We are going to pilot a new way of doing report cards this year. Last year we talked extensively as a council (and as a staff) about how better to communicate student learning and growth. We looked into a digital report card/portfolio, but ultimately settled on this (as a pilot project):

Teachers will be writing very little specific comments for students on the report card, however - we are adding 2 additional parent teacher interviews - one after the first report card and one after the second. This will give our teachers a chance to share all the great work that your child is doing - face to face, while showing you examples of their work, including what they are doing

well and what can be improved on. We think this could be a great way to make the communication even better while reducing the crazy workload of report cards. We will collect feedback after the first year to determine whether we continue it moving forward or not. We will also be having ongoing conversations about our grade configurations. Since our numbers have stabilized and increased, we no longer have to have split grades. There are pros and cons to both, so we are really weighing them throughout the year to decide what we would like to do moving forward.

Just a reminder that I'm almost always available to chat - feel free to send me an email or call the school!

6) Old Business:

- a) Greenhouse update
- b)

7) New Business:

- g) Sunnyside gear (Drunken Sailor is a good option)
- h) Sunnyside water bottles
  - i) Daicya will look after a sponsor
- i) Terry Fox run on Thursday
- j) Grade configurations
- k) Changes to report card template and comments
- l) Quick look at our assurance results from last year
- m) Sunnyside Jackets for grade 6's
  - ii) M/S/P - to spend \$60 per student for the Sunnyside jacket
    - (1) Michelle Perlich
    - (2) Travis Davies
  - iii) M/S/P - to spend \$500 for hockey pads
    - (3) Rana Koopmans
    - (4) Bobbie Geo Gschaid

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

- a)
- b)

**Adjournment: 4:59**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 15th (third Tuesday of every month)**