

October 15, 2024 School Council Minutes - Sunnyside School

In attendance: Sharon Rutledge, Jenn Knutt, Amanda Bohner, Daicya Munton, Ger Gratton, Whitney Schimanski, Rana Koopmans, Lynnell Hudey, Michelle Perlich, Mitchell Van Dyk, Val Siljack-Kissick (online), Megan Jackson, (online), Logan Orr (online), Britnee Pavan (online)

Call to Order: 4:05 PM

1) Additions and Approval of Agenda:

- a) Approved by Whitney Schimanski

2) Approval of Minutes of September 17, 2024 meeting:

- b) Lynnell Hudey
- c) Ger Gratton

3) Trustee's Report (Sharon Rutledge):

October's Board Meeting Highlights (submitted by Trustee Rutledge)
Palliser School Division celebrated the opening of Coaldale Prairie Winds Secondary (CPWS) on Oct 04, 2024. In attendance were dignitaries from the Govt. of Alberta, Town of Coaldale, Lethbridge County, Palliser Division, Elder Blanche Bruised Head, and CPWS staff and students.

Tyler McNeil, a CPWS student, took on the role of MC while the high school band entertained the crowd. As well, Jehrran First Charger performed a very special dance with 5 hoops.

Superintendent Dave Driscoll emphasized the importance of community and culture building within the school. Staff and students need to develop the culture that makes CPWS a great school that everybody wants to come to.

Minister Nathan Neudorf presented the official plaque to Palliser Board Chair Lorelei Bexte marking the school's formal opening. To further celebrate the occasion, CPWS instructor Chef Clemis and her students prepared a catered lunch, showcasing the school's commitment to student involvement and practical learning.

The Palliser School Division is pleased that Alberta Education has extended the Mental Wellness Grant for an additional six months. The grant has enabled Palliser to partner with community organizations offering specialized support to students and families as well as providing valuable training for our staff.

Joanne Wolochaty is Palliser's Division Wellness Navigator, providing programming and resources with focus on social learning and skill building. She has developed "Daily Physical Activity Kits" for all schools that includes tools and instructions for quick movement breaks helping students to regulate their emotions and improve focus learning.

Wellness Action Plans will be developed for each school in the coming weeks. The Wellness Teams will develop strategies for supporting student wellness. Parents, guardians and school community members are encouraged to provide feedback on these plans.

For more information about Palliser's Wellness Supports including Family School Counsellors, Making Connections Workers or Health Champions, please contact central office.

Next Board Meeting scheduled for Nov 12, 2024

4) Principal's Report (Mitchell Van Dyk)

There are a lot of great events and things coming up in the coming months - I'm really looking forward to what October and November have to offer! Here is a quick update of what is happening:

- As I mentioned earlier, our Assurance reports are out from the Provincial Government. I have compiled some of the highlights for you in a separate document.
- We had quite the busy September this year in K,1,2, as we were working through all of the mandatory assessments from Alberta Education.
- We should have our inspection finished on the greenhouse sometime in the next week or two. Then we will be able to have classes there while we finish building the beds and pond. If anyone knows a carpenter/jack of all trades who is looking for a little bit of work, I would love to have his/her number.
- We had a wonderful assembly last Thursday. We were able to give out the Sunnyside jackets to the grade 6 students - they were very excited! A huge thank you to the Community Association for purchasing these. What a great investment in our students!
- Our first of 4 parent-teacher interview nights is coming up next week Thursday. I hope that you have had a chance to sign up. We have a couple larger classes this year, so if there aren't enough slots available, please reach out to your child's teacher to arrange a separate time.
- I am going to be starting up a Student Council this year, starting with grade 5 and 6 students (possibly grade 4's as well). We are going to plan some fun events, starting with a spirit day and maybe something for Halloween as well. *Geraldine: Can students also help with other events, like bake sale? Yes - definitely an option.*
- Just a friendly reminder that if you want to go on a field trip with your child's class, you must have a criminal record check on file with us. Once you have one on file, it is good for 2 years before you have to get a new one. We can provide you with a letter to take to the RCMP or police so it is free.
- We have had a few parents sign up to help run wellness clubs on Friday which has been awesome! A big thanks to Ger Gratton for organizing this.
- We will be starting up mini-volleyball for the grade 5/6 students starting December 3rd.
- As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to send me an email or call me at the school. We can chat on the phone, email back and forth, or set up an in-person meeting.

5) Old Business:

a) Greenhouse update

<i>Should get engineers approval soon. Ribbon cutting ceremony is being planned. Sponsorship sign is being made. Mitchell is looking for contact(s) that could build raised beds in the greenhouse. Please share names/numbers if you know of someone</i>	<i>Action item:</i>
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b) Sunnyside gear:

<i>Rana and Mitchell are working on this. Rana has some examples of new school logos that could be used. Probably set up a page through the shop we go through so parents can order directly. Players Bench or Sinking Ship are options.</i>	<i>Action item: Rana and Mitchell will bring something to the next meeting</i>
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c) Sunnyside water bottles?

<i>Daicya and Mitchell will work together on this. Maybe 250 of them?</i>	<i>Action item:</i>
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d) Changes to report card template and comments

<i>Have discussed this at previous meetings and in the Principles update above. There won't be much for student focused comments in the report card. The School will be hosting four parent-teacher interviews this year instead of report card comments.</i>	Action item:
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e) Quick look at our assurance results from last year

<i>Copies of the assurance results were handed out and reviewed. Overall we had strong data even though there was a decline in student response in some areas - this is likely because the students weren't that engaged in the process.</i>	Action item:
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f) School Jersey's

<i>Mitchell found a box of old jerseys. They are in very good condition; some blue and some black ones. We will just use these and don't have to pursue new school jerseys anymore.</i>	Action item:
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6) New Business:

d) Descriptions for volunteer jobs

<i>Work with the event committee leads to develop this document. Maybe it can be posted on the website or in the school hand book?</i>	Action item: Daicya to continue working on this document
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e) Reiterate purpose of a School Council

i) Goals of School Council

(1) Build Community? Reach new volunteers? Enhance communication?

<i>Mitchell shared a document about what a school council is. Was wondering if Sunnyside had anything like this (no we don't currently). Would be good to have something so new parents can learn and know more about the school, the Council and volunteer opportunities. Jenn K offered to help review &/or work on this document with Daicya Council goals for this year? 1) get greenhouse up and running 2) wish list addressed 3) school council communication</i>	Action item: Daicya to continue working on this doc and share at the next meeting
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f) Survey for date(s) and time for School Council

<i>Would like to survey the parents again to see what time/day works best for school council meetings. Maybe we alternate monthly early/late meeting times? The hope is to get the most number of engaged parents out to the meetings.</i>	Action item: Daicya & Mitchell will work on getting this completed this month.
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g) Dreams for school fundraising dollars

Mitchell will work with staff to narrow down the school's wish list and then the Council can vote on it at the next meeting.

*Action item:
Mitchell to review & short list the items with staff.*

h) Community Dinner idea

*Discussed the idea of having a community dinner so families and students can get together to further develop a sense of community at the school.
Was mentioned that the school already has a lot of opportunities for connection between families with the current activities/events hosted. There are alot of "meal/food" events and come June the volunteers are pretty done. Let's leave the idea for now and see how this year goes.*

Action item:

i) Parent-Teacher Interview nights: dinners

*Motion by Daicya to supply supper for the teachers on these nights. Whitney 2nd.
Vote: all in favour*

*Action item:
Daicya to look after Oct 24th supper*

Interview nights: October 24; Week of November 25th (probably Thursday the 28th); Week of February 10th (prob. Thursday the 13th); Week of March 24th (prob. March 27th)

j) Brainstorming for fundraising ideas?

moved to November meeting

Action item:

k) Wellness Funding (Ger Gratton):

*Original intent of Wellness on fridays: Students learn a skill/engage in an activity they wouldn't normally get somewhere else.
Need to determine what the intent/goal is now. Ger and Mitchell will discuss this.
Ger made a motion for \$500 budget for Wellness. Whitney 2nd. Parents looking to be reimbursed or looking to purchase something for wellness need to be approved by Ger first. Vote: All in favour.*

*Action item:
Ger & Daicya to work on a 1-pager for "Responsibilities of a Wellness Volunteer"*

l) Turkey Bingo: Friday November 15th

Date set to Friday November 15th

*Action item:
Mitchell to let Mel Jones know of the date*

m) Other items discussed

Penny Carnival: SPRING - next meeting to discuss timing

Action item:

Christmas Concert: Likely be Dec 12 or 17th. Amy Hass has likely started working on this already, so not likely going to change the plan for this year. A festival idea (Whitney) could be presented again at a later time and discussed for next year.

Turkey Dinner will be Dec 19th

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

- a) Rana for all she does, which is everything!
- b) Daicya for stepping into the President role being a new parent to the school
- c) Mitchell for all his extra hours and commitment to this school, it's parents and students

Adjournment: 5:52pm

Next Meeting: November 19, 2024 4:00pm