

## January 21, 2025 School Council Minutes - Sunnyside School

**In attendance:** Mitchell Van Dyk, Rana Koopmans, Lynnell Hudey, Daicya Munton, Ger Gratton, Britnee Pavan, Eric Harker, Amy McDougall, Val Siljack-Kissick, Megan Smith, Connie Boulton, Sharon Rutledge, Erin Wallance (online), Baylli Hain (online), Sarah Orr (online)

### **Call to Order: 6:31PM**

- 1) Additions and Approval of Agenda:
  - a) 1st Michelle Perlich
  - b) 2nd Rana Koopmans
  
- 2) Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2024 meeting:
  - a) 1st Rana Koopmans
  - b) 2nd Ger Gratton
  
- 3) Trustee's Report (Sharon Rutledge):

### **Board Highlights from Dec 2024- Jan 2025**

Palliser School Division's Early Learning Program provides valuable learning experiences for 3 and 4-year-olds through play based learning, literacy and numeracy development and social-emotional learning. The Board is addressing the challenges of rising student needs with support provided by speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and family oriented programs. To inquire about an early learning program at your local school, please contact the school directly. The Palliser School Division's International Student Program continues to thrive, welcoming students from diverse global backgrounds and allowing domestic students to experience new cultures within their classrooms with exciting opportunities for reciprocal exchanges. In spring 2024, a group of Coaldale students participated in an exchange to Spain. In 2025, local students will participate in reciprocal exchange programs in Italy, Spain and Sweden.

Palliser made progress in Occupational and Safety by implementing facility inspections including air quality assessments and playground safety checks across several schools. The Division is working with the counselling team to launch a Pilot Behavioural Reporting System in Calgary and Vulcan schools. Staff and students can report concerning and positive behaviors using a familiar software platform allowing for a quick response.

The Division's Transportation Services operates 85 buses, transports 2,400 students daily across 63 routes travelling over 1.9 million kilometres annually. The "Think of us on the Bus" continues to raise awareness for safety supported by law enforcement. The Board approved draft calendars for the 2025-26 school year for South, North and Islamic schools. School administrators will consult with their staff and community to determine a local calendar.

The Palliser School Division, like many others across the province, is facing a Budget Deficit for the 2024-25 school year due to funding challenges. A \$1.5 million funding loss from a grant clawback due to enrollment overestimations is responsible for much of the deficit. While initial projections indicated a \$4.4 million shortfall, cost saving measures such as unfilled positions, new hires at entry level salaries, and operational efficiencies have reduced the deficit to \$2.6 million.

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

We are a couple weeks into the New Year and it has been a great January so far! Here's a quick update on what is happening at Sunnyside:

We are in the middle of mandatory testing for grades K,1,2,3 again. These are the same tests that students took in September. Any students identified as "at-risk" will be retested again in June.

Our word of the month for January is Responsibility. We have had some great conversations about responsibility through the month. We have also chosen connection (or some variety of it) for February and Growth! for March.

We had our first school-wide skating today. It was a lot of fun! A huge thanks to the Community Association for sponsoring these 3 skating opportunities.

We have purchased the lumber for the greenhouse and will be building the beds over the next month or so. Our goal is to be ready to start growing by the beginning of March. I can't wait to get the greenhouse started! We are looking at purchasing some shelving and grow lights to go along with the raised beds.

As a school, we continue to focus on the main priorities that we set out in our mission and vision. We are committed to helping kids grow regardless of where they are at - trying to integrate intervention for students who need some extra support as well as pushing students who are ready for more. We are also focusing on building up students' character and social-emotional skills as well as their sense of play and fun. The backyard rink has been a huge hit these last couple weeks!

We are planning on having student-led conferences sometime in the first 2 weeks of February. I will let everyone know once we have found a date.

Our Assurance results report is up on the website. Feel free to look at the entire document, but I can summarize it here for you:

Our results from parent and teacher feedback is extremely high. This is in regards to quality of education, safe and caring school etc.

Our results from students went down about 10 percent from last year. A few more students are reporting feeling anxious, like they don't belong, and that they don't enjoy school.

The results from our grade 5 class were lower than grade 4 and 6 - higher levels of anxiety and frustration about school.

The water bottles arrived! Becky and I will be giving out the water bottles to students sometime this week. These are free for students. We used our popcorn fundraising money from last year to purchase them. A huge thank-you to Daicya for doing all the work for them!

Just a friendly reminder that teachers are bargaining with the province right now. Both sides are in mediation at the moment, and we will probably know more towards the end of March.

5) Old Business:

- a) Kaylee Low presentation on digital citizenship

6) New Business:

- a) Teacher appreciation
  - i) Ger will look at her calendar and look for March/April
- b) Year end breakfast BBQ
  - i) Breakfast and Lunch for that day.
- c) Track and Field
  - i) End of May
- d) Penny Carnival
  - i) Erin Wallace is willing to head up the Penny Carnival in the Fall
  - ii) Combine the Penny Carnival and Friday night barn dance

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

- a) Thanks to Daicya for the water bottles
- b) Thanks to the hot lunch ladies

**Adjournment: 7:16PM**

**Next Meeting: February 25th @4PM**