

## February 25, 2025 School Council Minutes - Sunnyside School

**In attendance:** Ger Gratton, Amanda Bohner, BobbieGeo Gschaid, Megan Crooks, Michelle Perlich, Sharon Rutledge, Daicya Munton, Mitchell Van Dyk, Rana Koopmans, Erin Wallace (online), Jen Schwartz, , Baylli Hain (online), Sarah Orr (online), Brittany Pavan(online), Conrad VanEssen (online), Kaylee Lowe

### **Call to Order: 4:04pm**

#### 1) Additions and Approval of Agenda:

- a) 1st Ger Gratton
- b) 2nd Michelle Perlich

#### 2) Approval of Minutes of January 21, 2025 meeting:

- a) 1st Ger Gratton
- b) 2nd Amanda

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

##### Board Highlights from Feb Meeting

The govt, Adjusting Bus Services, has announced planned changes to walk limits for the 2025-26 school year of 1.6 km for elementary students and 2.0 km for secondary students. The new proposal will impact up to 250 students in Coalhurst and Coaldale. The Board was presented with 3 Options and provided direction to Administration to support Option 1 of maintaining current service for the 2025-26 school year. A final decision will be made at the March Regular Board meeting.

The Technology Dept. has implemented Esports which offers regional tournaments and global competitions opportunities. To ensure a structured, safe experience for students, the Tech Dept. has standardized Game selection & Safety, Secure accounts and Software and Nintendo Switch consoles being tested to help smaller schools participate.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents both opportunities and challenges in education. The Board and IT team will continue exploring its impact, ensuring responsible integration into our schools.

Palliser's Counselling Team includes 15 full & part time Family School Liaison Counsellors (FSLC) and 8 full time & part time Making Connections Workers (MCW). Referrals to FSLC are for anxiety, peer issues, family/primary support group issues, depression, grief and loss, educational problems and crisis support. The team also assess student threats of violence and risk to others, support families with community resources and support school staff through consultations and presentations.

Bell Let's Talk Day was implemented division-wide to support mental wellness. New emotional support services were launched in two colony schools. Social-emotional programming is expanding with parenting courses piloted, as well as ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) support groups being introduced for parents and children. Priorities for next year include enhancing high school counselling, expanding

trauma-informed classrooms and increasing social-emotional learning for all student development stages.

Next scheduled Board Meeting is March 11, 2025

4) Principal's Report (Mitchell Van Dyk)

- Our word of the month for February is "Connection." We have been talking about what it means to be connected - in person, together. We are also planning a "family groups" activity on connection for Thursday. Our word of the month for March will be "growth".
- I will be working on next year's calendar in the coming weeks. I am just curious if there is any feedback on our current calendar for this year. Are there any questions you might have? Anything we should discuss?
- We have projected our enrollment to be about the same for next year - about 136 students from K-6, with another 20 (or so) in Early Learning. We currently have students on the waitlist for every grade (but mostly in kindergarten to grade 3).
- Student-led conferences are on Thursday from 4-6:30. I hope everyone will be there!
- As a staff, we had some excellent professional learning at our teacher's convention. I was able to attend sessions on autism, ADHD, reading intervention, and leadership.
- I have used school funds to purchase 2 lego robotics kits. I'm hoping to give them a try at our next Friday wellness class. They look really great!
- The greenhouse is so close to the finish line! The pond has been installed (just needs to be filled), the raised beds are built, and we have some of our shelving up. I can't wait to get started!
- Our Friday wellness sessions have been great. We have had between 2 and 4 parent sessions each week along with the sessions from the staff at the school. There are so many great things for students to choose from and explore. A big thank you to Ger Gratton for her help in organizing this.
- In the coming weeks, you will be receiving mail from Alberta Education for a code to fill out a survey about our school. This will be for every parent who has a child in grades 4-6. Please take the 15 (or so) minutes to fill this out. The information we gain from this survey is really important to us. It helps us outline what we are doing well and what we can improve on.
- If you ever have any questions or concerns, please reach out!

5) Old Business:

- a) Teacher/staff appreciation. Scheduled for March 11 (lunch) and March 13 (Breakfast). Ger Gratton

6) New Business:

- a) Teacher bargaining update
- b) Split class for next year's update. pros/ cons?
- c) Update for teacher appreciation March 11 & 23

- d) Track and Field
- e) Year end breakfast
- f) Greenhouse update

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

- a) To behind the scenes parents. We see you! And Thank you.
- b)

**Adjournment: 4:53 pm**

**Next Meeting: March 18, 2025 5:30pm**