

MEETING NOTES

CALGARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL

Tuesday, October 23rd, 2018 1:30-2:45pm

PURPOSE OF MEETING

ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL COUNCIL

INSTILL PURPOSE FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL FOR THE 2018/19 SCHOOL YEAR

REVIEW PREVIOUS AGENDA & ACTION ITEMS

1. WELCOME & OPENING DEVOTION 1:30-1:40

- Introductions and Devotion (Michelle Zuk)

2. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT 1:40-

Parent Drop Off Zone VP, (Monique Wagner)

Feedback on the new directive

- Parent Drop-off zone was started October 15, 2018, due to feedback on the congestion/safety for 49th street SW.
- Guidance was provided by CPS with the resulting "Drop and Go" program. Pylons are placed across the street to allow for traffic flow along with safety guidance signage.
- This program has worked well and reduced congestion along with minimizing jaywalking.
- Traffic points of contact include the 49th street drop-off, back parking lot and along 30th roadway.
- Future plans include a larger sign made of durable (weather resistant) material.
- Parent feedback has also been positive.

Mike Thiesen (Elementary Principal): Administrator's report

- **PE program:** Almost all K-6 class will be taught by the PE teacher (with the exception of a few grade one classes to allow for prep time for Mark). Prior to this, the teacher had to enter the gym and set up the entire lesson and material use for each class. By having one assigned PE teacher, there allows more fluid and consistent programming (this has allowed for an additional 7 minutes of active gym class participation per class). School day was re-arranged to accommodate this change (recesses grouped together and a 30-minute recess at lunch). This has also allowed for lunch-hour intramurals (fun focussed rather than competitive). Further, new and fun trophies will be provided for intramural participating teams.
- **New Tardiness policy:** Introduced two bell system (8:25 and 8:35) with the second bell meaning the student should be in their class and ready to learn. This has resulted in a drastic reduction to the number of late students. For students after 8:35, this is followed up by a phone call to the home. Late policy is in the handbook.
- **New Dress Code:** Based on previous parent council conversations, there have been amendments to the dress code. Secondary campus was also in the process of revising the dress code and the goal is to have the two campuses aligned in dress codes (with the exception of hats which are allowed in secondary campus). As such, Elementary campus has adopted the secondary campus dress code.
- **Bible Instruction Pilot:** Three teachers piloted this resource last year and found there was not

enough material to cover a full year of instruction. Mr. Thiesen found a better alternative Bible teaching resource available through a group of Christian schools in Australia. Multiple classrooms to pilot this information (teaching to be specific to the appropriate age range) with feedback provided in staff meeting January 2019. The series is structured to go through the whole bible twice during their time within the elementary campus (i.e., entire bible read over a three year period.)

- **Math Differentiation:** We are supporting varying math learning competencies through math differentiation rather than grouping for Grades 3-6 (previously grouped in basic, middle and advanced.) Last year, a professor from the Education Faculty of Ambrose University, Nicki Rehn, came to speak and stated the research supports differentiation within the classroom rather than grouping (this is further backed by the social effects compared for each option). CCS staff was in support of math differentiation rather than grouping. Nicki Rehn will meet with each grade 3, 4, 5 and 6 level teams to work specifically on math differentiation (along with supplementary training through workshops) and its implementation within our classrooms. She will be meeting two afternoons between now and Christmas with each grade level team.
- **ELL Assessment:** To be put on next meeting agenda

3. EXECUTIVE/DEVELOPMENT OFFICE COMMUNICATION 2:00-2:05

Ken Dewyn (Executive Director):

Last year, we went through a branding exercise with a language to help better identify ourselves and tell our story. As we move forward, there is movement occurring to support enhanced secondary campus supports with our elementary campus goals to maintain viability moving forward. We have invested time and energy for the building to last us for a longer amount of time (safety, security, convenience and comfort). In the immediate future, looking to address the gymnasium and its need for updating. Maintenance staff and board members looking to invest funds to provide updated gymnasium, furnishings, and roofing concerns. Current priority is to shift the library to be more of learning commons with mobile options.

4. SCHOOL COUNCIL ITEMS 2:05-2:40

Michelle Zuk (Chair)

- **CCS School Council Purpose:** Due to difficulties with attending meetings, will continue to look for feedback on preference of daytime versus evening meetings along with potential for child care. Further, the goal is to engage more parents.
- **Volunteering:** Looking to better support teachers and administration through additional volunteers. Potential for a volunteer “champion” with a well-defined role to empower additional parents to fill volunteer roles as well as inform parents of school activities/needs. The school previously had a volunteer coordinator but moved to the sign-up genius which was convenient but appeared to result in less volunteering. Response was to better define the classroom parent room representative role with specified duties for both teacher and parent to highlight these needs.
- **Health Fundraisers (Fall Hike) (Ongoing)** will need parent feedback. Is the hike financially viable? This year was approximately 15 thousand dollars. This year some of the funds raised will be used to purchase art supplies and guitars for the music program as well as to cover the costs of our Artist-in-the-School residency which will take place this Spring. 10% to of the funds go to Belize
- **Open Floor**
Questions, comments and feedback - opportunity for attendees to raise concerns/ideas

Robert with Palliser –Follow-up below

5. CLOSING 2:40-2:45

- Assignment of next meeting date: TBD
- Next meeting to include a sign-in sheet with the grade(s) each parent's kid attends at CCS

6 Next meeting follow-up:

- January meeting to include updates on Math differentiation and bible pilot program.
- November meeting to include ELL assessments updates

Calgary Christian Elementary School Council Meeting: Robert and Lorelei updates

Welcome Back to another School Year. For new parents, Robert Strauss (403) 485-1758 and Lorelei Bexte (403) 485-0823 are your trustee representatives. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Robert Strauss introduction on "Who is Palliser" for new parents. Palliser is a Public School Division that works in partnership with the Calgary Christian School Society. We are a Public School Division in Alberta incorporated under the School Act. We have 6 Trustees that are essentially the Board of Directors. Our Geographic area stretches from the rural areas in both the County of Lethbridge and County of Vulcan as well as some schools in the City of Calgary. By being part of Palliser, your school benefits from being in partnership with a Public Division while allowing the school to retain its Faith based approach to Education. We would like to thank Ken Dewyn and the Society for the great work and positive partnership and relationship that has developed. Palliser has been involved in Partnership with faith based Alternative programs for well over a decade and have 11 sites in Calgary.

Our First Board Meeting of the new school year took place on August 28, 2018. Our second meeting of the school year was September 18, 2018, which was our Organizational Meeting followed by our regular Board Meeting. October 16, 2018 was our last Board Meeting.

All Trustees attended the Opening day ceremonies on August 30, 2018, at the CRC in Vulcan. It was a fun morning celebrating long service awards and listening to motivational speeches. Two speakers were our Palliser wall of Fame recipients, Mrs. Susan Poelman & Mrs. Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein. A luncheon was held in their honour after the ceremonies closed.

Just a Reminder that early last year the Board passed a motion to allow for a Citizen's Forum at Board Meetings. Palliser Regional Schools Board of Trustee meetings now offer the public a greater opportunity to participate in the process. The Board of Trustees approved guidelines for a Citizen's Forum component at every regular board meeting. The Citizen's Forum will be scheduled for 10:45 a.m. on regular board meeting days. Individuals will have to identify themselves and the organization they represent, if applicable. Comments will be limited to five minutes, and trustees will be permitted to ask questions of clarification. Community members attending meetings will be provided with a handout outlining the guidelines, including issues not open for discussion including personnel, legal, labour or land matters. Those looking for a response from the board, must still book a spot on the agenda in advance.

Highlights notable from all three meetings

- Robert Strauss and Sharon Rutledge attended a Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) meeting on September 20, 2019, in Edmonton.
- Trustees will be visiting their schools through-out September and October and bringing muffins and coffee to the staff before school hours to welcome them to another school year.
- Organizational Meeting Robert Strauss was returned as Chair of the Palliser Board of Trustees in the organizational meeting. Debbie Laturnus will once again serve as Vice-Chair, while Lorelei

Bexte will serve as Deputy Vice-Chair. All were acclaimed to those positions. The trustees also agreed upon a schedule of regular meeting dates for the remainder of the year. While a review was provided of remuneration for Boards across the region, trustees did not seek any changes in the area of remuneration, benefits or expenses.

- We have a new Facilities Services Manager. He joined the team on October 1, 2018. His name is Rod Swartzenberger.
- Enrollment and Staffing Updates: Secretary-Treasurer Dexter Durfey updated trustees on the enrollment figures with Palliser now sitting at 8,494 students, up 199 from last year. Of those additional students, 120 of them are kindergarten students. He also noted those numbers include international students, who are not here for the full year. The Board heard there are some schools which have seen a significant increase, and others where there are declining numbers but the overall picture is positive, said Superintendent Dave Driscoll. There are a few hot spots where additional staff may need to be hired.
- Building Status at Palliser Education Centre: Trustees will be provided with an update at December's meeting on significant repairs needed at the Palliser Education Centre. Those will include plans and cost estimates of the work needed, as well as details on where the funding will come to pay for it, said Secretary-Treasurer Dexter Durfey. The Board heard at its last meeting that a review of the facility indicated faltering systems including plumbing, heating and cooling, with no significant upgrades done for years. A fire-sprinkler system malfunction over the summer resulted in extensive water damage to Central Office and required all sprinkler heads to be replaced.
- The IT for Dominica Project: The Board and senior administration see an educational opportunity for students to support their counterparts in the Commonwealth of Dominica as they bounce back from a catastrophic hurricane. In a follow-up meeting to an earlier call for support, a project spokesman was told Palliser will explore ways in can help out. That could mean donating used technology, providing storage for donated technology and putting project organizers in contact with Palliser partners which may be able to offer support in various ways. Board Chair Robert Strauss said Palliser might also let schools know of Dominica's needs in case they are looking for opportunities to foster global citizenship in their students. Not only would students on the Caribbean island be grateful for the support of children their own age, the Palliser students might learn more about life in Dominica.