

Kate Andrews High School Parent Council Meeting Minute

May 5, 2021

7 pm via Google Meets

Present: Cindee Nyrose, Sherrie Duda, Diane Gallagher, Scott Godin, Kris VanWieren, Daniel Grimes, Sharon Rutledge, Shannon Little, Debbie Laturnus, Megan Curtis, Tom Hamer

Regrets: Tina Kochan, Trisa Thompson

1. **Call to Order** - 7:02 by Sherrie
2. **Welcome and Introductions**
3. **Additions/Adoption of Agenda** - Diane made motion to accept agenda. 2nd by Cindee. Carried.
4. **Adoption of Minutes**
 - 4.1. Megan made motion to accept minutes from January 28, 2021. 2nd by Cindee.
5. **Business Arising from Minutes** - none
6. **Reports**
 - 6.1. **Trustee Report** - Sharon Rutledge - March Palliser Board Report and Debbie Laturnus - April Board Report (see attached)
 - 6.2. **Principal's Report** - Daniel Grimes

KA has fared quite well during pandemic. Mr. Grimes spoke with each class today and thanked them for helping to keep the school community safe over the past months. Since Easter there have been no class outbreaks at the school but Mr. Grimes acknowledged it is difficult for many students to stay engaged in their learning. At a staff meeting this past Friday, priorities for the remainder of the school year were discussed:

 1. Assessments - It was decided that the approach to assessments needs to be adjusted. All tests going forward this school year will be open book. While there will still be some rote learning assessed in the manner, there will be more emphasis put on critical thinking and application skills.
 2. Inclusion - Conversations with staff and students has brought out interesting perspectives on many topics this year. As a school, there is an effort to support students individually but also build the school as a community. Staff will work on recognizing similarities and emphasizing civility and respect.

All students will move to online learning for t 2 weeks as of Friday, May 7, as per government guidelines. Chromebooks are available for any students who need them. The school will remain open during this time. Teachers may be working from the school or home.

Mr. Grimes responded to a question from Megan Curtis regarding staffing for next year. He expects the FTE to be similar to this year and the school should be able to maintain the same level of programming. Megan voiced concern over teachers available for 30 level classes and that some students are feeling "lost" with the loss of several long-standing teachers. Mr. Grimes acknowledged there have been staffing challenges this year and that there will be some changes going into next year. He is looking to set up succession planning moving forward so more teachers get experience with a variety of classes and levels.
 - 6.3. **Teacher Rep Report** - Scott Godin (see attached)
 - 6.4. **Student Rep Report** - none

- 6.5. Associate Superintendent Learning Services** - Tom Hamer - Information already covered in Board Reports.
- 7. Old Business**
- 7.1. New School Planning Update** - As reported by board representatives, a new grade 7-12 school was approved for Coaldale by the province. More planning will take place once the final go ahead is given and groundbreaking will hopefully take place this summer. Megan asked if there will be school name changes. The new school will have a new name and there is a policy for how the new name will be selected. Tentatively K-3 will be at Jennie Emery and 4-6 at Baker.
- 8. New Business**
- 8.1. AB Education Proposed Curriculum** - Even though Palliser is not pursuing pilot of the curriculum, to make sure schools are prepared, groups will meet with teachers for feedback for the board to provide to Alberta Education.
- 9. KAHS 'Toasts'** - Cindee - thank you to staff for all they are doing even with the difficulties faced this year.
- 10. Next Meeting Date** - Mr. Grimes and Sherrie will stay in touch to see if another meeting will take place this school year.
- 11. Adjournment** - Diane moved to adjourn at 7:42 2nd by Megan. Carried

Chairperson, Sherrie Duda

Secretary, Diane Gallagher

KAHS Parent Council Meeting
Trustee Rutledge Report May 05, 2021
Board Highlights from March Meeting

Great excitement shared by all in Palliser, with the announcement made on March 10 for the new high school build in Coaldale replacing the existing KAHS building. Palliser is presently working on the design phase with hopes of moving to construction as soon as possible. As of right now, we do not have all the details but will share them as they become available.

Facility Services Supervisor Rod Swartzenberger shared his report and thanked his staff for continuing all the work in Palliser schools and school grounds during the COVID situation. At KAHS, tennis court overlay with nets and posts to be installed this spring. A special thank you was given to all custodians in keeping the schools safe for staff & students with disinfecting and extra cleaning.

The Palliser HR Department is dedicated to providing services to its' 1,588 staff, comprised of 535 Certified staff, 470 Support staff, and 583 casual employees and substitutes. The team processed over 32,000 transactions from March 2020 - March 2021 that include leaves for sickness, long term medical, COVID, unpaid, maternity and parental leaves. This is an increase of over 37% processed last year.

The 2021-2022 budget is being reviewed and discussed by the Board and Senior Administration to have it ready to submit for the government's deadline of May 31.

Information was shared on funds for special projects raised by School Fundraising, School Generated Funds and a Society under the School Council Umbrella. Schools must follow guidelines when raising funds, and must be used for the purpose for which they were raised.

Board Chair Robert Strauss congratulated Dr. Adam Browning for completing his Doctorate. Dr. Browning's hard work is evident in all he does for Palliser's staff and students, but especially during the pandemic, as head of the COVID Response Team.

Trustee Report -April Board Meeting
Debbie Lataurnus

The Palliser School Division Board of Trustees has taken the opportunity and time to listen to its teachers, parents and senior administration. Since the Draft K-6 Curriculum was released on March 29, 2021, Palliser School Division has sought feedback from teachers and administration, listened to concerned parents and attended information sessions on the proposed pilot projects. The information that was gained from all these sources has led to the Board's decision not to pilot the Draft K-6 Curriculum. The Board does not feel it would be in the best interest of the Palliser School Division, its students, its staff or the community to be involved in such a major pilot project at this time. COVID-19 has placed a tremendous challenge on the staff and students in the division and the community. The Board's priority is, and will continue to be, creating and maintaining safe and healthy learning environments for students and staff. Preparing to return to school next September will already be a challenging and complex task without a pilot project involved. Creating a positive, safe environment for students to return to in-person learning next September will be the Board's focus.

The Three Year Capital Plan and the Ten Year Planning Priorities (2021-2031) were approved by the Board for submission to Alberta Education. Coalhurst High School, County Central High School, and Sunnyside School are the top three schools identified by the Board and Administration as needing a face-lift. Alberta Education approved the building of a new school in Coaldale and that construction will begin soon.

Policy development and review is a governance responsibility of the Palliser School Division. An effective policy development and review process assists the Board in governing the school division effectively. Over this school year, the trustees will have reviewed each of the policies. The Board is committed to reviewing the policies on an annual basis and invites the community to provide input.

The board and administration will be discussing the budget in the next couple of weeks which is due to the government by the end of May.

Teacher's Report for Parent Council Meeting Wednesday 5 May 2021, 7 pm

Scott Godin

1. Grad has been scheduled for Friday, June 25. No specific details to report yet as we are waiting for AHS restrictions and guidelines but know that planning is taking place and we can't wait to celebrate with students. The school has applied to the Town to get approval for the parade again. Grad hoodies have been sold and most have been picked up.
2. Mackenzie Curtis participated in Skills Alberta Competition in the category of **Hairstyling Intermediate** on Thursday, April 22, after placing first in regionals. Results from the provincial competition are to be announced on May 13th.
3. EPIC DAY was scheduled to occur on April 21st. But Palliser decided that we would not send students this year due to increased cases in COVID
4. Up until today, Badminton after school was running. Still hoping to get approval to run volleyball when school returns in person on May 25th. Have also inquired about running our outdoor programs, baseball, softball and track and field.
FINGERS CROSSED!