

Kate Andrews High School Parent Council Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2020, via Google Meets

7 pm

Present: Scott Godin, Sherrie Duda, Kris VanWieren, Daniel Grimes, Trisa Thompson, Debbie Laturnus, Diane Gallagher, Cindee Nyrose

Regrets: Sharon Rutledge

1. **Call to Order** - 7:10 by Sherrie Duda

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

3. **Additions/Adoption of Agenda** - Diane moved to adopt agenda. Carried

4. **Adoption of Minutes** - Trisa moved to adopt minutes. Carried

5. **Business Arising from Minutes** - None

6. **Reports**

6.1. **Trustee Report** - Debbie Laturnus - see attached

6.2. **Principal's Report** - Daniel Grimes -

- In August Mr. Grimes and Ms. VanWieren began working on adjusting processes and implementing school COVID reopening guidelines based on documents from Palliser. This included redoing all schedules to create 4 cohorts in each grade. This year students remain in their assigned cohort classroom for all classes while teachers move. There are exceptions for some options classes that require specific classrooms, where cohorts move there as a group. All students and staff wear masks throughout the day. Overall, students and the community have been cooperative and supportive.
- Changes have been very time and energy consuming for staff and communication has been challenging but Mr. Grimes comments that his staff is making every effort to provide an environment that provides learning and safety for all. Some students are requiring more support due to learning gaps from last year or adjusting to the environment.
- The transition for students from RI Baker was difficult this year. A staggered entry was used and normal school orientation gatherings and activities couldn't proceed.
- There have been no COVID cases reported at KA so far and there is some concern from admin how the school will proceed when this happens. Legally the school can't do anything until they are informed by AHS of cases. Then AHS would give the school guidelines and dictate how to proceed. KA is trying to learn from other schools' experiences as well, to be prepared.
- Jazz band has restarted afterschool on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They are hoping to get concert band running similarly soon.
- The school is tentatively looking at practice times for athletics. It is unlikely there will be organized athletics this year (this decision comes from Palliser) but practice times would give an opportunity for students to maintain skills.

6.3. **Teacher Rep Report** - Scott Godin - see attached

6.4. **Student Rep Report** - none - No student groups are meeting

7. **Old Business**

7.1. **New School Planning update**- no update at this point

8. **New Business** - none

9. **KA "Toasts"**

- To school admin from Scott Godin, for their commitment to staff and students, and acting and reacting so well to all the challenges faced everyday.

- To Ms. Meurs from Cindee Nyrose, for being an available, helpful and supportive resource for students.

10. Next Meeting Date - to be determined by Sherrie Duda and Daniel Grimes

11. Adjournment - at 7:45 by Sherrie Duda

Chairperson, Sherrie Duda

Secretary, Diane Gallagher

Trustee Report

School council meeting (August and September board meetings)

The Palliser Board of Trustees held their organizational meeting on August 25, 2020 with **Robert Strauss as Board Chair, Lorelei Bexte vice-chair and Debbie Laturnus alternate vice-chair**. Trustees were named to a variety of committees.

We welcomed **Audrey Kluin** as our new **Associate Superintendent of Human Resources** for the Palliser School Division as of August 26, 2020. She joins us from Foothills School Division and has many areas of expertise. Mike Nightingale has left Palliser and taken a position in the Lethbridge School Division.

At our Sept. 15 Board Meeting, **Superintendent Dave Driscoll appointed Tom Hamer as Deputy Superintendent for 2020-21 school year**. Mr. Hamer will assume all responsibilities of the Superintendent in the Superintendent's absence.

Finance Services Supervisor Cindy Rogers updated financial projections to the end of August. At the end of May 2020 a large deficit was expected, however, projections now call for a surplus. The closing balance for the 2019-2020 school year will be finalized in the fall audit.

Alberta Education announced the distribution of the **Federal Govt funds to Palliser of 3.17 million split in 2 payments, Sept & Jan** to support the expenses incurred as a result of COVID-19. The money will be spent on PPE supplies, facility upgrades (vents), bus cleaning twice a day with special ordered equipment, instructional supplies and technology supplies, additional teaching and custodial staff and enhanced mental health programming.

Rod Swartzenberger Facilities Services Supervisor provided a long list of work done from installation of over 70 interactive white boards, projects to create more learning spaces, drainage work on school fields, refinishing of floors, landscaping, and parking lot upgrades.

Associate Superintendents Audrey Kluin and Tom Hamer shared the number of requests for **on-line instruction and at-home learning**. (about 800 students, representing about 10% of the total Palliser student population.) Schools have supported in house opportunities for students where possible and also utilizing supports from Palliser Beyond Borders.

With **2021 being an election year** for Alberta School Boards, the **Palliser Board is satisfied with the current ward structure** for the division. (2 wards with 6 subdivisions) A copy of the existing bylaw will be sent to the Minister of Education.

Director Adam Browning is the lead for Palliser for all COVID related matters. A streamlined COVID Response Manual is being shared with staff & families clearly outlining the processes to be followed in all Palliser facilities.

Teacher Rep Report

School Council Virtual Meeting Wednesday 21 October 2020, 7 pm

1. KAHS held its annual Terry Fox Run/Walk on Friday, September 25th. In order to accommodate social distancing, individual cohorts walked at different times of day after watching a short video on the life and impact of Terry Fox. Students were also asked to donate money for the Terry Fox Foundation and a grand total of Amount raised \$1050. The top fundraising cohort received some KA swag.
2. Kate Andrews High School honoured ORANGE SHIRT DAY on September 30th, 2018. Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, and has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.
3. Students have had opportunities to attend Virtual Open Houses as well as a virtual Post Secondary Fair on October 8th. There is an upcoming virtual scholarship information session on November 3rd and November 5th @ 7pm.
4. Every Wednesday we are doing a spirit day, called Winning Wednesday. By dressing up with given theme and posting a photo, students are entered to win the weekly prize. The intention is to create a sense of community, fun, and belonging among students now that we cannot group together in person.
5. A Remembrance Day virtual ceremony is being planned for November 10.
6. The art 10a class is collaborating with the Town of Coaldale to create sculptures to be displayed at Coaldale's Winter Lights festival. They will be a feature in the lighting of the kin picnic shelter this year.