

RIBMS School Council Meeting #3
Monday March 17, 2014 6:30pm, Staffroom

Call to order: 7:10pm

Attendance: Krista Gaskell (RIBMS Staff), Jason Prebushewski (RIBMS VP), Debbie Laturus (Palliser School Trustee), Jennifer Stephen, Shannon Kasko, Dave Fender (RIBMS Principal), Megan Curtis (RIBMS Staff/parent), Heather Lee, Dale Backlin (Associate Superintendent/Interim Corporate Treasurer)

1. Welcome & Introductions:

Mr. Fender welcomed all those in attendance and asked all attendees to introduce themselves around the table. Attendance sheet was passed around.

2. School Board Representatives

Dale Backlin and Debbie Laturus were both in attendance. Mr. Backlin introduced himself and explained his new role at Central Office. He became the Interim Corporate Treasurer in November of 2013 and they are currently pursuing a permanent replacement for that role.

Another staffing announcement discussed was the role of Associate Superintendent of Human Resources. Mr. Kevin Garinger will be leaving Palliser at the end of the 2013/14 school year. Palliser is actively looking to fill his role.

Mr. Backlin spoke to several financial and budgetary questions that arose from the January school council meeting, clarifying these as well as any new questions that arose around the table. (See below)

- Approx. \$6.9 million surplus is broken down accordingly
 - \$4.76 million is investment in capital assets (buildings, busses)
 - \$85,000 is Endowments/Scholarships
 - \$1.05 million is Unrestricted Surplus
 - \$1.04 million is Site Surpluses (all schools are to have a plan due by April 1, 2014 as to how to spend their surpluses over the next 4 years)
- Glenmore Academy does not take their surplus with them
- Site surpluses are built up with unused money allocated for Substitute Teachers.
- School Generated Funds (SGFs) are not part of the \$6.9 million surplus and schools must have a plan in place as to how to spend these funds.

Mr. Backlin also addressed the recent review that Palliser Central Office went through. This review was conducted by Dr. Leroy Sloan, and Palliser's results were excellent. Out of 62 boards province wide, Palliser ranked #1. Palliser's current focus is Literacy based. K-3 are noted as the critical years and the focus here has intensified. The goal is to have every grade 3 student reading at a grade 3 level. Literacy and fluency directly affects success in all school subjects. Mr. Backlin left the meeting after all monetary/budgetary questions had been addressed and answered.

Heather Lee voiced several questions/concerns towards Trustee Debbie Laturnus. Heather would like to see more input and responsibility from the Board in regards to hiring administration positions. She is also concerned over the number of policy changes over the years and that the previous board relinquished several responsibilities to the Superintendent. She emphasized that since the Board has to approve policy changes, they should be sure that they fully understand them first. Heather said that the number of staffing changes to Palliser's financial department should be setting off "Bells and Whistles" for anyone concerned. Trustee Deb Laturnus suggested that she have Collen Deitz, Palliser Board Chairperson give Heather a call to further address/answer her questions and concerns.

3. Happenings at Baker

A) Ski Trip – More kids than ever attended. We had over 200 kids participate in the field trip to Castle Mountain Resort, which was a school record. Unfortunately, one child fell and received a small fracture to his arm.

B) Band Trip – just under 60 grade 7 and 8 students are currently on the River's Edge and Edmonton band trip. (Post Trip/Post Meeting Update: the group received a mark of Superior at the AIBF in Edmonton)

C) Baker Cup – March 27 at 9:50 (Post Trip/Post Meeting Update: The game ended with a tie between the students and the teachers)

D) What, first no water, now the powers is out too? – Mr. Fender addressed the situation at the school last week, when we were under the Boil Water order from the City of Lethbridge. Palliser delivered large jugs of water from Culligan for the students and staff to safely consume. On Thursday however, the power went out for approx. 45 minutes as well! Classes continued to run as per usual (minus any lights or electronic equipment) Mr. Fender and Mr. Prebushewski were off campus at an Administrators meeting that day, however, Krista Gaskell Acting Admin, kept her cool and "weathered the storm" with ease!

E) Fountas and Pinell Assessments – Mr. Fender explained about this literacy program and how these assessments have been done twice this year with all RIBMS students. These assessments look at: fluency, comprehension, accuracy, reading level and reading rate.

4. 2014-2015 School Calendar - Mr. Fender handed out copies of the proposed calendar draft. All attendees reviewed the calendar with few concerns. Megan Curtis asked why there never seems to be a PD day in March? Shannon Kasko wondered this as well? Mr. Fender explained that they try to allocate these days through the year to best suit the needs of the teachers in order for them to then apply what they have learned effectively to their classrooms.

5. Canteen – Healthier choices cont. – March 24 visit from Margaret Banmann, Alberta Health Services

Mr. Fender said the purpose of Margaret's visit is to observe what our current options are and give us some suggestions for the future. Mr. Fender will share these suggestions at our next mtg.

In regards to the canteen, currently Mrs. Buekert, Mrs. Kurtz, as well as other RIBMS staff, have been the ones responsible for shopping and stocking the canteen. In the past there have been parent volunteers who have taken this task on. The school is hoping that a few parents would be willing to take this task on again, what it entails is as follows:

- shopping list would be supplied
- shopping is done at Costco and Real Canadian Wholesale club
- staff and students would help unload supplies
- reimbursement would be immediate for your costs

Heather Lee suggested possibly using FunScript gifts cards to purchase these groceries, that way the Band program would benefit from some fundraising as well. Mr. Prebushewski mentioned that at one of his previous schools they were able to phone ahead and “preorder” their groceries at the Wholesale Club. That could possibly make the shopping trip less time consuming, if that is an issue.

6. Next Meeting: May 26, 2014 7:00pm RIBMS Staffroom

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm

Minutes taken by Megan Curtis