

RI Baker Middle School Council
Minutes for
Tuesday, September 17, 2019 - 6:30pm

1. Call to Order at 6:45 pm
2. Introductions/Attendance – Shannon Little, Tanya Johnson, Diane Gallagher, Sharon Rutledge, Josh Martens, Krista Gaskell, Jason Prebushewski, Shauna Pauls, Debbie Laturus, Suzanna Neufeld, Amy Morice. Natasha Richards sends her regrets.
3. Review of Approval of Agenda – Title & date of prior minutes amended.
 - Motion to approve amended agenda – Shauna Pauls
 - 2nd – Suzanna Neufeld
4. Approval of Minutes from May 14, 2019
 - Motion to approve – Diane Gallagher
 - 2nd – Suzanna Neufeld
5. Reports:

Trustee report – Sharon Rutledge

- 1) At the Board’s Organizational Meeting that was held on August 26, 2019 the following were elected for the 2019-2020 school year:
 - a. Robert Strauss----- Chairman of the Board
 - b. Debbie Laturus--- Vice-Chairman of the Board
 - c. Lorelei Bexte----- Alternate Vice-Chair of the Board
- 2) Mike Nightingale has been designated Deputy Superintendent for the 2019-2020 school year upon the recommendation of the Superintendent Dave Driscoll. Each year the Board is asked to designate one of the associate superintendents as the acting superintendent for those occasions where the superintendent is unavailable. There is no financial compensation for this designation.
- 3) Mark Stolte was introduced as Palliser’s Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator. He has a background as an electrician and has worked with school divisions for over 12 years. He mentioned one of the challenges of the role is the wide diversity of school buildings in Palliser.

- 4) Rod Swartzenberger, Facilities Services Supervisor, provided a long list of work done in the schools this summer, such as concrete work, lighting and plumbing repairs, refinishing of floors, painting, new irrigation lines, kitchens and lunch room remodeled, storage sheds built, playground clean up, as well as the installation of more than 100 interactive white boards, projectors and large-screen televisions. He was very pleased with the local contractors from the communities offering their services as a sign of community pride for their schools.

- 5) The Board addressed recent concerns raised over busing in Palliser and a Draft Policy on Transportation has been developed. The draft of Policy 19: Student Transportation can be found on the Palliser website under the Trustees section and heading 'Policy Review'.

- 6) Dexter Durfey, Secretary Treasurer, provided financial projections as of Aug. 31 of just over \$203,000. A few months ago, it looked like the deficit might be as high as \$800,000. Surplus funds were found in the areas of early childhood services, plants and operation, transportation, and board administration.

- 7) The sale of the surplus land on the Palliser Education Centre property has been finalized with the purchase price of approximately \$730,000. With the sale of the land, Dexter Durfey said tenders will be put out for necessary mechanical and electrical upgrades to the PEC.

Next Board Meeting scheduled for Oct. 15, 2019 at the Board Office.

Trustee Report - Debbie Laturnus – Board meeting today

Policy 19: Student Transportation Secretary-Treasurer Dexter Durfey reviewed the wording of the policy and clarified the intent. A standard for busing must be set that supports schools of choice for parents and yet ensures that small, rural schools are viable. Administration is recommending that the policy be accepted as presented but that the fee schedule be reviewed and that it be implemented for the 2020-2021 school year. They also recommend that the changes to the existing bus routes be implemented on January 1, 2020. This will give parents the opportunity to plan and to provide input to the fees. The fee schedule will be reviewed in the spring and communities will have the opportunity to have input before they are implemented. The draft fee schedule will be brought to the Board for discussion in November. Input will be gathered from school administrators, parents and the communities. The transportation department will have the official stops identified and will share them with the affected families. The transportation supervisor will make arrangements with the families of the existing stops

to ensure that they are aware that additional students will be getting the bus as of January 1, 2020.

Presentations: The Board heard from Director Adam Browning about increased professional learning opportunities for staff in the area of literacy and new partnerships to promote literacy, including the addition of Summer Reading Tents. He also spoke about the work of Palliser's literacy team and a change of focus to a more holistic vision of literacy.

Director Shane Cranston shared with trustees Palliser's Wellness Goal, one of three priorities that were identified by school administrators at last year's planning session. The goal states: "Palliser students will become literate in mental health, gaining knowledge and understanding that will provide them confidence and support in their pursuit of living a healthy life."

Audit committee: government has stipulated that boards now need to have 2 community members on our audit committee, one from the adult learning community and one from the business community. If anyone is interested or knows of anyone that would be a good fit for the committee, contact Palliser.

Meeting with Minister Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education: the board and senior administration met with her on September 17th and had a very positive meeting. We shared all the highlights of our division and some of the challenges that we face. They were very interested in how diverse our division is and how well our students are doing.

Chairperson Report – Shannon Little

- Nothing to report
- Thanks everyone for coming and attending the meeting and being involved.

Principal's Report – Jason Prebushewski

- Projected student enrolment – 408, Actual student enrolment – 426
- Staff – Ms. Gagne – on leave teaching in Cambodia; Mr. Barfuss has left; Mrs. Bueckert has cut back her time to half time, the other half of her time in the library will be covered by Megan Curtis; and Mrs. Conrad has left and been replaced by Mr. Conrad. Additionally, Mrs. Rice is covering Mrs. Smarts' maternity leave; Mrs. Netzel has returned but at half time; Mrs. MacDougal has returned from maternity leave

early to be cover the other half of Mrs. Netzel's position. This has allowed Ms. Cleland to stay on for the year.

- Three U of L students are at the school doing their P3's; one in Ms. Berry's class, one in Mrs. Smith's class, and finally one in Mrs. Wickham's class.
- Students from Cambodia arrive at the school for a month on Sept. 16th.
- A group from China is coming in late October for a month.
- Ukrainian exchange is the first time the school has done a trip out of the country. Six students are going for 2 weeks from Oct. 10th to the 25th. The students that are participating were from last year's grade 8 class; they were supposed to go during the summer, but the trip was rescheduled due to renovations at the host school.
- The school has had many students from Mexico, and they have expressed interest in doing an exchange. However, there are travel advisories issued for Mexico which means that the school cannot take students there. Other opportunities are being investigated.
- A draft of the School Goals was passed out (see attached) for parents to go over and give feedback on. The goals are in listed in order with mental wellness being number one. Literacy is no longer the number one focus of the school, but they will still strive to maintain the levels that have been achieved.
 - #1 - Mental wellness; needs to focus on both staff and students as a healthy staff will take care of the students.
 - #2 Basic math facts.
 - #3 Develop writers, while maintaining reading growth. Staff will focus more on writing as the students are not writing at grade level. Most students know what they want to stay but can't put it on paper.
 - Council questioned how the parents are involved. Recommended that parents work on reading, writing, and basic math at home and that they strive to provide a healthy role model regarding mental health. Showing positive stress management techniques and talking openly about mental health with their children. There is a possibility of a presentation in the atrium that would be open to parents.

6. Old Business

- Storage unit is finally complete and full! This has made room for a Snoozlin' room in the school. Planning has started, as has fund raising and items are being gathered to get this room set up.

7. New Business

- Canteen opened on Thursday, Sept 19th. This year the canteen has removed all candy. The canteen is run by Mr. Cahoon & Mrs. Bueckert, but they require help on Thursdays due to Mrs. Bueckert's reduction in hours and are looking for parent volunteers to help fill this gap. Shannon Little suggested posting it on the school website. It should be noted that Mr. Cahoon gives up half his lunch break to run the canteen.
- The school's one and only fundraiser the Walk-a-thon is scheduled to happen October 11th and information will go home with students shortly. The students walk

8 km around Coaldale to raise money. They receive prizes based on the amount they can raise. The big prizes this year are a Go Pro and a scooter. A Get Air membership is being considered but the business recently changed hands and the new owners are not doing memberships as of right now.

- Turkey dinner will be coordinated by Natasha Richards again and is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 19th.

8. Bouquets

- Shannon Little; to all the attendees of the meeting tonight. She is looking forward to another good year.
- Jason Prebushewski to Ms. Peacock and Ms. Cleland. They started a committee called Baker Energy to create a positive environment. They send out inspirational videos at beginning of every week to the staff.
- Diane Gallagher to Shannon Kasko for her work as chair for parent council last year and her family's contributions to the school.
- Tanya Johnson to Shannon Little for taking on the position of chair for parent council this year.

9. Next Meeting Date is Nov. 19th at 6:30. The School Trustee's will not be able to attend as they will be in Edmonton. They will send in a report to be read at the meeting.

10. Adjournment at 7:34 pm.