

RI Baker School Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 9th, 2021

Virtual

1. Call to Order at 6:34
 - a. Welcome/Introductions/Attendance – Jason Prebushewski, Brett Clifton, Deanna Smith, Sharon Rutledge, Debbie Laturus, Carley Campbell, Amy Morice, Tammy Bolstad, and Suzi Neufeld

2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Motion to approve as presented – Carley Campbell
 - b. 2nd by – Suzi Neufeld

3. Approval of Minutes from September 14, 2021
 - a. Motion to approve as distributed – Carley Campbell
 - b. 2nd by – Amy Morice

4. Reports
 - a. Trustee Reports
 - i) Debbie Laturus (See attached)
 - ii) Sharon Rutledge (See attached)

 - b) Chairperson Report
 - i) Carley Campbell
 1. Jody Pilling from the Learning Commons had approached Parent Council asking if they could provide a letter of support regarding a learning grant she will be applying for. Carley has done this.
 2. Walk-A-Thon went very well.
 3. Carley attended the Alberta School Council Association Meeting yesterday. They have a meeting every month to share ideas and information. Anyone who is interested in learning more can contact Carley for more info.

 - c) Principal Report
 - i) Jason Prebushewski
 1. The school received a Blackfoot name: “Swift Running Bear”. Each student has been asked to create a logo based on the information they received. Afterwards the logos will be reviewed by Elder Bruisedhead, as well as RIBMS staff to choose a design that will then be used to create signage and be used as part of other forthcoming celebrations.

2. A letter to some families was sent out regarding routine vaccines that are normally done in school. For clarification, there are no COVID vaccinations happening in our school.
3. School Goals are as follows:
 - 1) RI Baker will place a strong focus on maintain or improving mental wellness.
 - 2) AT RIBMS we will align our assessment practices and language to those of best practices and research.
4. The school has partnered with U of C to do survey at the begging and end of the year and measure growth in the school.
5. The last PD Day was self-guided with teacher leads. They worked on assessment and recognising our beliefs and how that affects our practice. There was positive feedback from teachers.
6. We have looked at the Assurance Framework Accountability Pillar. It was less informative than it has been in the past. They left some questions the same, but changed others, so it's not as straight forward to compare data. Some areas of the school did go down. A summary report will be provided at next meeting.
7. The Walk-A-Thon raised just shy of \$20 000, which was down slightly. Donations were done completely online. Overall it went very well.
8. Multi-sport academy is running. Jason takes the students to the activities. The coaches have been great. The students have finished golf and now curling has started; hockey and football will be next.
9. A Football Club will go ahead this year. A coach will be coming and the program will be open to the whole school.
10. The girls' volleyball team placed 3rd in Zones. The boys are still playing. Mr. Bergmann has been a great asset to the teams.
11. We are hoping to have spectators for basketball. People will need to wear a mask the entire time, only two family members per household over the age of 16 can attend, and the visiting team and home team will be separated on the bleachers, with social distancing measures in place on the bleachers.

12. The Annual Turkey Dinner for students. Things are still not able to go ahead as usual due to COVID restrictions, so hopefully we can look at a way of doing a version of it at a later date.
13. The Outdoor Classroom. The school has ordered metal picnic tables and a garbage can that will be cemented into the ground so an entire class can go outside on a nice day for a class outdoors. We are waiting for the arrival of the garbage can before proceeding with the cement work.
14. A survey will be sent out about Parent Council.
15. Remembrance Day Ceremony will take place November 10th. No extra people are being invited into the school. There will be a link on the school website to the gym portion of the service. Only two classes will be in the gym for this and the rest of the school will take part in the ceremony outdoors at the cenotaph.

5. Business Arising

- a. Council meetings are scheduled to be in person but will be re-evaluated each month. This month we are using a virtual format to adhere to guidelines. The January meeting will be online, and then we will reassess the situation. The link for the agenda and minutes will be posted to RI Baker website.

6. New Business

- a. Discussion about the possibility of a crosswalk on 14 Street. There are a lot of students crossing here and it is a safety concern.

7. Bouquets

- a. Brett Clifton: Mr. Bergmann the PE teacher doing a great job with the kids.
- b. Jason Prebushewski: Looking forward to the Remembrance Day Ceremony.
- c. Deanna Smith: The EAs are doing a great job. They have been really on top of things and are very supportive.

8. Next Meetings:

- a. Tuesday, January 11, 2022
- b. Tuesday, March 8, 2022
- c. May 10, 2022

9. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn – 7:28 pm

September Board Meeting 2021

Truth and Reconciliation Day

Palliser School Division schools engaged in awareness activities related to nature, empathy, relationships, and Blackfoot language with Orange Shirt Day, landing on different days throughout the week. During the week of September 27, students in Huntsville School for example, will engage in a variety of school-wide activities, including a Medicine Wheel Feather Art Project where students will collect twigs and sticks to make a multi-media medicine wheel. As well, students will participate in a nature walk, where they will record observations from an Indigenous perspective. Divisional school, RI Baker, in consultation with Elder Bruisedhead, will be honouring National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on October 1, by giving the school a secondary Blackfoot name. Following the ceremony, students will be given the opportunity to take the information and what the name stands for, and create a Blackfoot school logo. This secondary Blackfoot name and logo will be displayed throughout the school for students to reflect on throughout the year. In addition to observing the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, schools across the Division will continue to participate in Orange Shirt Day, as a way to honour residential school survivors who did not survive and their descendants. This day will be used as an opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation as a way to come together and recognize past transgressions towards Indigenous people.

COVID-19 Update

The Palliser School Division continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation across our schools. As AHS is no longer identifying nor following up with individual close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases, and quarantine for close contacts is no longer mandatory, the Division has started notifying families and school communities of reported cases of COVID-19 in our schools. We are monitoring school attendance and reporting instances to AHS where absenteeism due to illness on any given school day exceeds 10% or greater. Where absenteeism of 10% or greater has been identified by AHS due to illness, AHS is investigating and may declare an outbreak and recommend additional voluntary measures. The Palliser Guidance document was updated on September 22nd outlining specific requirements for cohorts, physical distancing, drop-off and pick-up procedures, masking, field trips, and performance activities.

Farewell to Two Trustees

At the end of Tuesday's meeting - the last one of the term before the October 18 election, the school division paid tribute to Robert Strauss and Kristine Cassie, both of whom did not seek re-election. The Board and administration thanked both trustees for their guidance, hardwork and insight that they have provided to our division over the years. The next meeting of the Palliser Board of Trustees is October 26, 2021, where the new board will meet for the first time.

November Board Meeting

Capital Plan

Now that plans for the new Coaldale High School are underway, Dexter Durfey, Secretary-Treasurer indicated that Palliser School Division will be moving forward on the next project on their Capital Plan which is Coalhurst Central High School. This plan is fairly high level and the Palliser Administration will be working with the architects to make a business case to move forward. Some considerations are that given Coalhurst's proximity to west Lethbridge several Coalhurst high school students leave to attend Chinook High School because of a newer facility that provides more learning options to students. Palliser Regional Schools would like to modernize or replace the Coalhurst High School to keep students within their community. Further, to help mitigate the overcrowding concerns of the Coalhurst Elementary School, Palliser

Regional Schools proposes to reconfigure grades from 7-12 to 6-12. This will increase the immediate utilization by increasing it from 58% to 71%.

COVID-19 Update

The Palliser School Division continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation across our schools. As of November 5, we have 124 reported cases of COVID-19 amongst students and staff. Alberta Health is currently providing rapid tests for students in K-6 who are in outbreak status. Palliser has also applied for rapid testing at one school that was in Outbreak status which has since been removed. The rapid tests can be administered by students and staff at home and participation in the program is optional. Alberta Education has confirmed that Palliser will receive funding, as part of the learning disruption grant, to support students in Grade 2 and 3 for this school year in need of numeracy and literacy support. Palliser is planning with the school administrators that participated in the program, how to utilize funds to support students and provide between 12 and 16 weeks of targeted programming.

Coaldale School Virtual Walk-Through

Ferrari Westwood Architects provided trustees with a presentation of the new Coaldale School. The goal of the exercise was to showcase the features of the school and ensure Trustees felt it would meet the needs of Palliser students and the community for years to come. Dan Westwood walked Trustees through the design of the school as well as the recreation centre that students will have direct access to. The joint use of the facilities will allow Coaldale students to access many dual credit opportunities. The new school has now moved to the construction phase, final completion date has not been declared. . The new school will serve as the replacement for Kate Andrews High School and will be able to accommodate up to 855 students in grades 7-12.

The next regular board meeting will be December 14/2021.

**RIBMS Parent Council Meeting
Nov 09, 2021
Trustee Report Sharon Rutledge**

New Board take Oath of Office

The new Palliser Board were sworn into office at the October 26th Organizational Meeting. Elected Lorelei Bexte to serve as Board Chair, Debbie Laturus as Vice Chair and Tony Montana as Alternate Vice Chair.

Board Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month.

International Students Exchange Program

We have seen an increase in the number of students wanting to come to Alberta. Our approach has been to focus our work with our long standing agencies and to cautiously enter into new agreements. All students entering Alberta must be fully vaccinated and require a negative COVID test. Palliser has been involved with the International Program for 7 years.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

As Orange Shirt Day on September 30th coincided with the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, events were planned across the division with the support of Palliser's Indigenous Education Team. Palliser has supported staff with ongoing professional learning opportunities to learn more foundational knowledge about Indigenous peoples.

Curriculum Update

Palliser initiated a curriculum advisory group in May with teachers from our system to provide an in-depth review on the Draft K-6 Curriculum. The advisory group is currently looking at strengths and areas for improvement for subject levels and outcomes. We expect the review to be completed by January 2022.

COVID-19 New Procedure

On October 27, 2021 Palliser released, to all Palliser employees, its' Administrative Procedure 133 : Workplace Health and Safety, Hazard Control Employee COVID-19 Vaccine Status. The pandemic presents a health risk for staff and students, puts a strain on the health care system as well as the entire community. A letter from the Ministers of Health and Education encourages a mandatory proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test be implemented by all school divisions.