

Paul Kane High School

Council meeting minutes for February 15, 2018

1. In attendance: Elaine Wong, Rhonda Brown, Michelle Neraasen, Cheryl Dumont, Duncan Knoll, Paul Shamchuk

2. Approval of the agenda - Changes to agenda: move the school tour to the end of the evening so those who need to leave early can do so.

3. Approval of minutes - Michelle accepted and Rhonda seconded

4. Business:

Principal's Report – Duncan Knoll

Student Teachers - four student teachers are at the school to complete their advanced placement practicum that spans about 9 weeks. This began on Feb 12th and will run through to late Apr. It brings new energy into the classes while providing teachers with a mentoring role and affirmation of their practices.

Open House - hosted on March 1st from 5:30-8pm. Close to 1000 Gr 9 students and parents are expected to visit. There will be presentations for both French Immersion and Advanced Placement while many other facets of the school showcase themselves around the building. Council will set up a booth with an informative poster board. Any council members who wish to and are available to help man the booth are welcome.

2018-2019 Guide Books – now available. Each year a student designs the cover and this year's features work by Ethan Vollmer, Gr 12, who incorporated the school's new mascot – the polar bear. This guidebook is put together by Assistant Principal, Liane Madsen in consultation with Heads of Department and teachers for the sections related to their subject.

Athletics – February is a busy month for athletics. Basketball teams are approaching playoff time. Our senior girls' team is ranked in the top 5 in the province. There are many players who will be returning so next year's team should be strong as well. Our Cheer and Dance teams won 1st, 2nd and 3rd in recent competitions. They also won the most sportsmanlike team in the PC Cheerfest competition. Our boys and girlsCurling teams are in the "B" finals of the Edmonton Metro Athletics Playdowns. Our girls team, coached by Mr Knoll, has a berth in the upcoming Alberta Schools' Athletic Association Provincial Championship taking place in St Albert on Mar 1st-3rd. The boys team may

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win a spot as well. Badminton, headed by Mr Andrechuk, will be starting up soon. This is a participation sport so all who come will be part of a team.

Professional Learning Community Summit – 10 of our staff attended this 3 day conference. The school's focus is in three areas:

- Student Achievement
- Improving Instructional Practice
- Analyzing Assessments

All departments had representation at the conference. Those who attended will share what they learned and strategies to continue moving the school forward in terms of student learning will be implemented.

Upcoming Social Studies Speakers – unfortunately it is not feasible to have all students attend all the presentations so the grades where the presentation closely matches the curriculum are the ones chosen to attend the presentations.

- March 6th Charlene Bearhead will come to speak to students about Indigenous Citizenship as it relates to Truth and Reconciliation. At this time a smudge will be held as part of the official unveiling of the dreamcatcher made with the tiles from the 2016/2017 Project of Heart.
- April 13th Marie Renaud will be lecturing our classes on Truth and Reconciliation from a government perspective.
- April 20th Miriwad Zaiyee (a recent refugee from Afghanistan), Janice Eisenhauer and Irene McDonald will speak to Gr 12 students about Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan.

Trustee's Report – Cheryl Dumont

At the **Jan 24th Public Board Meeting** there was a presentation about Early Childhood Education Services. Gr 1 teachers said that many students come in not ready for school. The District runs the PUFF Program for children who are identified early on as needing extra assistance to prepare for school. The district Preschool Program includes the PUFF identified children with children from the greater community. It has grown to 12 classrooms. This means classroom space needs to be rented to accommodate all 12 classrooms.

Q. How are the children identified to enter the PUFF program?

Mostly a referral through Physician or Public Health Nurs, but parents can also self-refer. The district's Preschool Program is very popular and fills up quickly.

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The **2018-2019 Budget** has been approved. A simplified version of how the budget is broken down:

- Funds come in from the Province including per student (Elementary & Jr High), per CEU (High School) as well as other 'pots' of money allocated for specific costs e.g. Transportation, Facilities, Class Size Initiative, Infrastructure and Maintenance.
- Administration determines what comes off the top, approximately 70% goes to salaries and the remainder goes to district wide programs ie literacy
- What is left is allocated to the schools for site-based distribution

Note: Operations & Maintenance – there is a continual, even throughout the summer, assessment of needs by visiting each site to find deficiencies and listening to the requirements. Decisions are made on a triage basis. The truth is that the district is faced with an aging infrastructure – Joseph M Demko and Lois E. Hole aside the next youngest school is Muriel Martin at 26 years most other schools are over 50 yrs old.

Stakeholders Workshop was held on January 31st with the results being tabulated. Feedback about the mini presentations of topics before breaking up into discussion groups was that this format helped give participants some background knowledge and helped facilitate the discussion. Other feedback included: not having enough time for discussions; wondering if the topics were too broad for all three levels of school (elementary, jr high and high); having all 3 levels of school in the same discussion groups helped parents in the lower grades see what is done and available in the schools with higher grades (things a parent may not see at Open Houses). It was noted that the parents who attend are the same. How do we reach out to others to get more diversity so that the discussions extend to the needs of a broader group? Would a change in the timing (weekday vs weekend, daytime vs evening) make a difference in the audience attending? Is there a way to get disengaged students to engage in the Stakeholder's workshop?

MLA Horne will visit 4 elementary schools, WR, Gish, Keno, and RH and well as the Joseph M Demko site on March 2nd.

It looks like **Joseph M Demko** will not open until Sep 2019 due to delays in attaining the steel required for the structure. The district is working hard with the schools that are impacted by this.

Discussion on the new **Health and Wellness Policy** touched on a need for a sexual wellness portion; the difficulty of modeling of healthy behavior, including physical, mental and intellectual; and life balances and how to deal with imbalances. Sport are expensive, both within schools and extra curricularly, and heavily focused upon in

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elementary. Mr Shamchuk spoke of how high school level they try to engage students through clubs. Mandated fun is not a way for students to gain confidence, certain types of students are drawn to certain clubs by who they are. Mentoring may be a solution but it must be subtle. A study done stated that as you develop skill in something you are more likely to delve deeper. Further comments can be e-mailed to Trustee Dumont at Trustee Dumont recently had the opportunity to speak with the Minister of Education with regard to the Excellence in Teaching Award the government suspended. The answer is that the government is still working on a replacement. If as parents we feel this award is important then please write to the minister and voice your support.

Past Business –

Michelle Neraasen brought a draft of the letter to be sent to the provincial government regarding CEU capping. You may review the letter, attached, and recommend changes.

Student Union Report – Paul Shamchuk

Pk Unplugged at Christmas

Valentine's Day Hearts – a simple tradition a heart for every student and staff member is placed on a wall somewhere in the school. Some hearts win prizes. This year SU volunteers arrived at 6:30 am to put up about 1150 hearts

Winter Olympics held for 5 days in a row at lunch. Students made teams, picked a country (11 countries this year) and competed in activities like hockey shootout; speed skating on carpets in the gym; a snow shoe and nerf gun biathlon. Medal ceremonies were held and special awards were presented.

English Department Presentation – Paul Shamchuk

From K-Gr 9 English is spoken of as a Language Art yet less so in high school, but what is it academic or art? English is not an obvious subject to teach like Science or Math. Mr Shamchuk uses a Course outline not only to let students know the expectations and skill they need, but also as a guide for him as to what his approach will be. He sees it as a course where you teach skill development not just curriculum. These skills and habits that he fosters in his classes can be used throughout the student's lives. Believes that just looking up answers on line or using "cheat" sheets subverts the thinking process. Use a simple strategy to help comprehension and retention. Slow it down and

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work through it. The greatest barrier is TIME – a 5 credit course equals 125 hours or 5days and 5 hours- not a lot.

There is no textbook to work from when developing an English course. There are texts and these can now include visual materials – anything that portrays information. Work on analysis and critical thinking.

Grading – the government has scoring guides for marking diplomas and teachers can create their own. The government scoring guide allows the marker to choose the best sentence to describe the student's work and that then relates to a grade. There are two quotes that are included a reminder to meet the student where they are. When Mr Shamchuk marks a comment sheet is always included to help the student grow.

School Tour –

Began with the Student Lounge where the Project of Heart Dreamcatcher is on display. This space can also house a stage and has a recording studio for Rock and Pop.

Try to keep departments together e.g. English corridor, Science corridors, LA corridor etc. This is good for departmental work but leads to less crossover with other departments.

TV screens around the school are a helpful tool for communication e.g. school announcements.

Foods Labs are at industry level.

Work out Room in the gallery of the gym.

Had the opportunity to see the working room for the building of the master schedule from which students' timetables are built.

5. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, March 15, 2018

Possible topics:

- Update on Speakers who came into PK to present to the students
- Another Department Head come and discuss teaching in that department
- Wellness
- Fentanyl Presentation from the Addictions Counsellor

6. Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm