

MSCS School Council Minutes
April 15, 2019, 2:00 p.m.
Music Room

In attendance: Philip K. Lorelei B., Gina K., Lisa L. Amanda T., Maureen R.
Quorum not achieved.

1. **Welcome and Opening Prayer-** Lisa led us in prayer.

2. Palliser Report

March 15 & 16th – The Board was in Calgary, along with administrators from all schools as well as central office staff. The group was working on the 3 year education plan for Palliser.

Highlights of Board of Trustees Meeting Tuesday, March 19, 2019

Seclusion Rooms: Director of Learning Tom Hamer informed trustees that Palliser does not have any schools with seclusion rooms, as defined by Alberta Education. A ministerial order has prohibited the use of seclusion rooms, unless a specific application and reasoning is submitted and approved. He explained seclusion rooms, sometimes referred to as ‘cool-down’ rooms, were used by some schools for students who might cause harm to others and could be locked. That is different from breakout rooms, where students can work individually without distraction.

Student Exchange: Two Grade 11 students from Kate Andrews High School, Bailey Kasko and Kinzey Kerner, provided the Board with highlights from their two-month exchange to Chile earlier this school year. The two spoke about their host families, the difference between schools here and in Chile, a shared appreciation of ice cream and empanadas, and skiing on a snow-covered volcano. They told trustees they were surprised how family-orientated their hosts were, the lack of WIFI in some areas, and the overwhelming number of well kept, stray dogs on the streets. Both felt they gained a greater sense of independence during the trip, and recommended those who might follow their footsteps to enter with an open mind and willingness to try new things.

Technology Report: Director of Learning Tom Hamer and Technology Integration Specialist Jason Kwasny provided the Board with the annual technology report, explaining where the division is at this point, compared to last year. Much of the focus this year has been on replacing aging technology, working towards the ratio of two students to every one device, and providing staff with the support to be comfortable with the changes and

make best use of the technology. It was emphasized technology does not replace the need for strong instructional practice, but is used to support learning and allow the teacher more time to work individually with students.

Capital Plan: Secretary-Treasurer Dexter Durfey provided trustees with the 2010-2022 capital plan, which includes Palliser's priorities for school improvements and construction. He pointed out little has changed from the current plan, with a Coaldale solution remaining the priority. County Central High School in Vulcan is next in line, followed by the two Coalhurst schools and then Sunnyside School. Durfey hopes to have a complete inventory of every school, including history and structural analysis, ready sometime this spring to guide trustees in future discussions.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2019

3. Principal's Report

- a. Alberta elections tomorrow; Menno is a voting site. Safety protocols in use to prevent public from accessing school areas.
- b. International Students: former students spoke positively about their stay. Host parents spoke highly of the process; suggested taking 3-5 students for 1 month stays. International web page available for students to look at prior to arrival so they know what to expect when they come to Canada/Menno Simons. Christina Carpenter will be the staff liaison for our international students.
- c. Timetable for June 2020- student attendance in the building will be extended to June 26; October extra day off after Thanksgiving (5 day extended weekend). February break is one week and Spring Break is two weeks, as normal.
- d. Teaching and Learning Spaces- renovated Mrs. Carey 's and Mrs. Stephenson's rooms and are creating a flexible learning environment in each area.
- e. New curriculum is set for September 2020, K-9. Parent feedback regarding the impacts of the new curriculum and teacher implementation will be sought. TQS and Leadership standards will be implemented next September, 2019.
- f. Mr. Knafla is taking Room Representative job descriptions to the staff for discussion.

4. Old Business

- a. Parent Teacher Interviews and Teacher Appreciation Meal

- Division 2 provided the meal; Catherine Prins organized through Perfect Potluck again. Teachers were very thankful for food and for leftovers.
- Portal will work properly for the next set of interviews where all teachers will be in attendance (no field trips organized)
- Add Student Led Conferences for agenda item for September School Council meeting (look at different tools for Student Led Conferences)

5. New Business

- Year End gifts- if families would like to recognize/honor parents, please feel free!
- Job Descriptions for School Council
 - Laura Humphries would like to put her name forward for Communications
- Sweet Interlude. May 10-11- tickets are on sale. Still need donations for the Silent Auction. Please contact Ann for further information or to donate. Money is being used for our kitchen renovations which are desperately needed.
- Upcoming Events- September Meet the Teacher Food Trucks, Year End Pancake Breakfast, Sports Day