



Monthly Menno Simons School Council Meeting

Date: Monday, January 24, 2022
Time: 7:00pm to 7:44 pm
Meeting Room: Virtual
Facilitator: Lori Kruger (Chair)
Timekeeper: Lori Kruger (Chair)
Minute Taker: Janet Bates (Secretary)
Attendees: Dayle Vienneau, George Graffunder, Lori Kruger, Grant Fong, Janet Bates, Ann Pan, Lorelei Bexte, John Lucas, Randy-Lee M, Kelly T, Amanda T, Deanna W, Lisa K, Emma C, Aferdita B, Yin D

AGENDA ITEM	NOTES	SPEAKER
1. Welcome, Call to order, absence for apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:03 pm – Greetings from Lori. Call to order. • Thank you for coming • Gorge Graffunder is filling in for Dayle today • Lorelei is here from Palliser • The executive director for Menno Society John Lucas is attending tonight. • 7:05 pm - John Lucas opened in prayer 	Lori K
2. Roll call.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary conducted roll call. – tracked virtual attendees. 	Janet B

3. Open Orders of Business: Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to approve the minutes for November 29, 2021 meeting: Lori K • Second: Lisa K • Passed Minutes for November 29, 2021 	Lori K
4. New Business: Principals Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December events: projects leading up to Christmas. This was such an encouraging thing to see so many connecting with Care West, Brown Bag lunches, Samaritans Purse. This outreach is part of our school DNA. Neat to be a part of. • Very successful Christmas concert, would have been great live, but it was fun. • 80% of families attended the virtual concert. This speaks highly of Menno community building. • Covid reporting process: we list covid absences and general absences, not sending out specific notifications. • Seen increase in covid case particularly JR high, mostly in sports teams, seems to be the ones playing in the community more, rather than school transmission. • We want to look at the draft calendar for next year. We are looking for feedback on start date, end date, Christmas break. This is a draft copy, there will be changes. • January focus is the Bell: Lets Talk Day. Focusing on mental health. • February is pink shirt day. Anti-bullying programs, near the end of the month, We will do something following teacher convention week. • Mrs. Liyanage has put together some resources for Black History month. There will be an opportunity to display and research that. • The school draft calendar: Student first day is Aug 30. Sept 30 is national day for truth and reconciliation. November break is still there, this may change. Second semester starts Jan 31. Teacher convention in February is a week off. Spring break is last week in March and first week in April. May long weekend, looking for input to see if preference would be the Friday before or Tuesday after to make that weekend extra long. June 27, 2023 last day for students. • Questions: 	George G

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it safe to assume you would like feedback and Dayle and George will take back to Palliser in discussions? • The board shared the initial calendar, the feedback was to come back for the last board meeting. Not enough feedback was received, so they sent out a second calendar. There is another draft of the calendar that has changed from the one you have shared. • George will check in with Dayle before send out new draft calendar. • The random Fridays off, it is easier for lots of families if that can be a block. Do we have half days? Or is it staying at 1 per month the last day of the month? • Do not think the half days have been finalized yet. We are a long way from that kind of certainty. • For the covid reporting process changes. Are we listing covid and general absences separately? • Not sure, at this point, we have been informing the parents of the specific classes that have cases. But not sure this is necessary protocol any longer, it is just what we are doing for our families. • It is the new protocol that went out in the memo's. If parents want info, there was a link in the memo's that links to the attendance at Menno. That is the best place to go for understanding. • This link will allow you to see the MSCS attendance numbers. This link actually will allow you to see all Palliser schools: https://ep.pallisersd.ab.ca/attendancesum/index.html • This is easier for parents to see the situation at school. This does not tell us which grades. • If there is a situation in a particular grade, we will still let the parents know. • We want parents to be testing and keeping children at home if kids are sick. • We will follow up with Dayle on this. • For the draft schedule, are there particular dates? Any particular feedback you are looking for? 	<p>Lori K</p> <p>Lorelei B</p> <p>Lori K</p> <p>George G</p> <p>Lori K George G</p> <p>Anne P</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe this grant had to be applied for at the end of last year. We applied for that grant on behalf of all school councils. The money may be in, we will get back to you on that. • Where would it [the grant] be applied? • It can be applied to diversify communication tools between council and families, broaden the number of events that include parents. School council executive will get together and discuss to see what it would look like for our school • The grant is meant for engagement of parents. • Is this grant only for this school year, or for next year too? • Not sure if you have to use it this year or not. When talking parent engagement, I do not think it has to be utilized, but Dexter will put together packages that detail what goes along with it. Will get Dexter to reach out to you to clarify 	<p>Lorelei B</p> <p>Lisa K Lori K</p> <p>Lorelei B Lori K Lorelei B</p>
<p>7. New Business: Q&A with School Council & Mrs. Vieneau</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new business. 	
<p>8. Outstanding tabled actions: Curriculum update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were changes to draft curriculum that the province put out. There will be some of it rolled out and not others. • If those curriculum changes are something you want to see, keep contacting your MLA's on this. • We have not seen the changes. They have put together a group made up of teachers both piloting and not piloting the curriculum. They are still providing feedback. The feedback link is still open on the government of Alberta website. We strongly suggest you go and provide feed back on the link. We are in the dark on what the changes look like at this point. • Last year, Mr. Potvin, Meg looked at this for us and provided their professional opinions. Do we have someone who can look at this to say 'yay' or 'nay' that is more knowledgeable? Do we have someone like that that can interpret it for us parents? • We will consult Dayle to see. If we asked Bernie, since he is still involved, I'm sure he would be happy to give us opinion. 	<p>Lori K</p> <p>Lorelei B</p> <p>Lisa K</p> <p>Lori K</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have asked the staff teaching grades 1, 2 & 3 to take a look at it as well. We do not want this to be a big surprise, we are trying to build in some time to look at it. It is all online. We do have lots of resources to consult with. 	George G
9. New tabled actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new tabled actions. 	
10. Adjournment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing remarks: Please continue to pray for protection for our teachers, our students. Pray for the end of covid. We were juggling today. It is affecting the staff more at this time. We have not really had to deal with many absences due to cases up until this point. We have been fortunate. But this is all new territory now. We have had a lot of changes with staff. Do you get a sense that you are jelling well? How it is on your end [the teachers & staff]? It is really strong in the Jr. high end, which is where I have more visibility. The team is working well. Have had a chance to meet with the new gr 5 teacher. He asks lots of questions. Mr. Colgon helped lay it out. With Megan's upcoming mat leave, there is some trepidation, but support is around her. In regards to Div. 1, we have some pretty great people down there. It seems the staff is doing a great job in working together and supporting each other. It would be nice if we could spend a little more time together. It sure would be nice to have more in person contact as meetings are online at this time. Dayle and George as an admin team are hugely supportive and are stellar. I am thankful for your presence in our school. You have made chaotic times more smooth. Ann, John, Amanda, all are doing an amazing job. Good evening to all! Next meeting is Thursday, March 3, 2022 	Ann P George G Lisa K George G Deanna W Lori K

Menno Simons School Council Meeting January 24, 2022

Highlights from the Board of Trustees Meeting, January 11, 2022

Policy Update: Policies govern the way that the Division operates. The Board is committed to reviewing all the policies on an annual basis. This month the Board is looking at Policy 9 - Board Operations and welcomes any feedback from its stakeholders.

<https://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/board-of-trustees/policy-review>

Deputy Superintendent Appointment: Tom Hamer will continue as the Deputy Superintendent for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. He is responsible and accountable to the Superintendent and will assume all responsibilities of the Superintendent in the Superintendent's absence.

School Calendars: School Calendars have been shared with Principals to share with parents, teachers and staff to provide feedback for the February 8, 2022 board meeting.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2022

Any questions/concerns please contact Lorelei Bexte (403) 485-0823