



Monthly Menno Simons School Council Meeting

Date: Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022
Time: 7:04pm to 7.52 pm
Meeting Room: Virtual
Facilitator: Lori Kruger (Chair)
Timekeeper: Lori Kruger (Chair)
Minute Taker: Grant Fong (Vice Chair)
Attendees: Lori Kruger, Ann Pan, George Graffunder, Grant Fong, Lorelei Bexte, Lara Montgomery, Katelyn South... additional parent attendees

AGENDA ITEM	NOTES	SPEAKER
1. Welcome, Call to order, absence for apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:04 pm – Greetings from Lori. Call to order. • Thank you for coming • 7:04 pm – Lori K opened in prayer 	Lori K
2. Roll call.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfortunately roll call was not complete for this meeting 	
3. Open Orders of Business: Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to approve the minutes for May 30, 2022 meeting: Lori K • Second: Grant F, 10 in favour • Passed Minutes for May 30, 2022 	Lori K

4. New Business: Principals Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principals Report posted below, see Appendix 1 	
5. New Business: Update from Palliser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palliser Report posted below, see Appendix 2 	
6. New Business: Greeting from Lara Montgomery, Executive Board Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission to integrate Christian faith. • 6 members • Work with Administration and Palliser board to provide leadership and financial assistance. • AGM Nov 29 	
7. New Business: Update from School Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaga Ball Update - Gaga ball pit stones are too large. These will be removed and a surface will be put down Questions? • Ice Rink – Will be organized this year and volunteer coordinated • Screenagers (Katelyn South) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ About Katelyn - Councillor at Menno, Short term counseling and support for the students. ○ If you are interested teacher/parent can complete a referral form ○ Connect with parents during and intake meeting. ○ Work days are Monday and Tuesday and Friday. ○ Katelyn & Leah will be hosting the Screenagers documentary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ About screen time and mental development. ▪ Open conversation 6-9 grade • New families ELL, Is Menno getting additional help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ELL - new demographic some funding with ELL Katherine (EA) Is a resource. ○ Funding for coded kids ○ 4/216 who have coding for EAA support. ○ Erin Folkerts oversees all the support in the building. ○ Society chips in funding. 	<p>Question emailed</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shane Cranston from Palliser has come in to assess and then provide funding. ○ The board has provided extra funding where needed. ● Are we going to start meeting in person? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decisions we had and zoom would be more accessible, especially with younger kids. ○ Meetings used to be Mondays in the afternoon. Family's could talk with Council if they have issues. 	Lisa Kuehn
8. Outstanding tabled actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No outstanding tabled actions 	
9. New tabled actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No new tabled actions. 	
10. Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting closed at 7:52 pm ● Next Meeting Thursday, December 8, 2022 	

Admin Report for PSC Oct 27, 2022

Highlights so far

- Junior High Retreat
 - Tracy Jul Hansen was the speaker
 - Excellent time of community building
 - Thanks to all the parent volunteers who made it work
- SALTS
 - Grade 9's had a fantastic week week on SALTS
 - Weather was great
 - Excellent way to include new students and build community
 - Next year we have scheduled SALTS for October 2-6
- Meet the Teacher Food Trucks went over very well. Nice to see more community building events happening this year!
- Mobile Escape room was a hit. Will try to adjust some scheduling for next year.

- Athletics
 - Cross Country ran three meets this fall.
 - We are running four volleyball teams in the ISAA league
- Terry Fox Run was great again this year. Fabulous weather, and it is great to see the older students support and cheer on the young students.
- Field trips - It has been great to see so many field trips already this year.
 - Weaselhead for Grade 5 & 6
 - River Watch for Grade 9
 - TeddyBear Picnic for Kindergarten
 - Calgary Farmyard for Grade 1
 - Glenbow In-School presentation for Grade 2
 - More to come!
- Truth and Reconciliation week and Orange Shirt Day
- Spirit Days
 - Anything but a backpack
 - "Under the Sea"
- Book Fair

- Chapels have been running on Fridays

Upcoming Events

- Penny Carnival (Oct 28)
- Peace Festival (Nov 3 Chapel)
- Parent Teacher Interviews (Nov 3 & 4)
- Fall Break (November 4-14)
- Volleyball playoffs and Basketball starting
- "[Screenagers](#)" (November 22) - Movie with follow-up dialog
- Serve Day (December 7)
- Christmas Concert (December 15)
- Christmas service projects are being planned in many

Other topics

- Curriculum update
 - Math and Language Art (K-3)
 - Wellness (PE and Health) (K-6)
 - Some government funding to implement new curriculum
 - Society has provided additional funding as well
- Half-Day Friday
 - Time to develop curriculum as a team
 - Staff Meetings
 - Divisional meetings
 - Professional Development
 - Divisional meetings allow us to connect regarding specific student needs

As you can see, we are a busy, active community

Appendix 2 Board Trustee Report

Menno Simons School Council Meeting October 27, 2022

Board Organizational Meeting August 23, 2022, for the 2022-2023 School Year:

The Board of Trustees held their Organizational Meeting on August 23, 2022. Trustee Lorelei Bexte will remain as Chair for the upcoming school year. Trustee Tony Montana was acclaimed Vice-Chair and Trustee Debbie Laturnus will assume the role of Alternate Vice-Chair. The Board set their meeting dates for the upcoming year as follows:

September 13, 2022, October 11, 2022, November 29, 2022, December 13, 2022, January 10, 2023, February 14, 2023, March 14, 2023, April 11, 2023, May 9, 2023, June 13, 2023, and August 22, 2023.

Highlights from the August 23, 2022 Regular Board Meeting:

New Area Directors begin at Palliser, two new Area Directors began their roles with the division in August:

Jackie Kark is the Area Director for the Lethbridge Region. As a life-long learner, Jackie has a strong passion for student-centered learning, inclusivity, collaboration, and academic success with all learners. She believes that every student can and wants to learn and be successful and she looks forward to building connections with staff and school communities in the division.

Mike Thiesen has been appointed Area Director, Calgary Region. Mike joined the Palliser School Division in 2016 when he began as the principal at Calgary Christian Elementary School. Mike has been involved in school initiatives in the areas of literacy, numeracy, technology, parenting programs, report cards, social-emotional learning, school-wide behaviour programs, ELL, and others. Mike looks forward to building continued trust with stakeholders and school leaders from across the division while supporting the unique needs of students.

The Board of Trustees was pleased to welcome Jackie and Mike to the division in person at the August 23, 2022, meeting.

Board Approves Salary Increase for Non-Certificated Staff:

Based on historical practices of The Palliser School Division, when a settlement occurs with one pay group, consideration of equitable salary increases occurs for all other pay groups in the division. At the August Regular Meeting, The Board of Trustees passed a motion directing Administration to implement a 1.75% salary increase as of September 1, 2022, to employees not covered by a collective agreement. With this motion, the Board reiterated their budget position stated in May 2022.

Highlights from the September 20, 2022 Board Meeting

Board of Trustees Meets with Minister of Education: The Board of Trustees was pleased to accept an invitation to meet face to face with the Minister of Education, Adriana LaGrange, on September 1, 2022, in Taber, AB. The Board brought forward two topics, mental health services and supports in rural Alberta followed by financial matters pertaining to funding and grants. The Minister addressed the Board's concern about the lack of mental health supports available for rural schools and assured that she has been working with other ministries for collaboration and support. The Minister spoke about the grant opportunities available for mental health supports and suggested that grant money will be available for new initiatives and pilot projects. The Board requested clarification and advance notice on any pending changes to the bridging grant and was assured by the Minister that the ministry is aware of the complexities and is making plans to address them. The Board thanks the Minister for the opportunity to meet to discuss these topics.

School Calendar and Professional Development for Staff: Professional Development (PD) Days are designated in the school-year calendar and are aligned with the school scheduling parameters set by Alberta Education which considers the number of mandated teacher working days, instructional hours, and assignable time. Final calendars for each site may look different as schools add PD days based on their own bell schedule. The division has seven site-based days, three of which are scheduled in August and the other four throughout the year, two of which are Teacher Directed Days. Sites set the content of these days to align with their school goals or to work with topics they are passionate about. There are three Divisional PD Days in a school year; Opening Day, Summit Day, and a third district-wide day in the late winter/early spring. Division days are days of staff collaboration for professional and personal development with content set by the Senior Leadership Team in consultation with administrative and teaching staff.

Parents may reference the school calendar on each school's website. The divisional calendars for the 2022-2023 school year are available on the division's website through the following links: [South Schools Calendar](#) and [North Schools Calendar](#).

Board Highlights from the October 11, 2022 Meeting:

Council of School Councils: Palliser School Division is gearing up to introduce a council of School Councils. Chairs and representatives from school councils across our division will be invited to meet with Senior Administration and members of the Board of Trustees for discussion, training, and development. This opportunity will help our division's school councils understand their legislated role, hold more effective leadership, and enhance parent engagement in the school community. The meetings will also highlight special topics of importance. Three meetings will take place throughout the 2022-2023 school year. Invitees will attend in person at convenient central locations throughout the Palliser region and will join together virtually. Training sessions from the Alberta School Councils' Association will be a key part of these meetings. The first will be held in November with a proposed date of November 15, 2022, at 6:30pm. The meeting will be held in person in three central locations. Calgary, Vulcan & Lethbridge. The three sites will connect with one another virtually.

Occupational Health and Safety: The Palliser Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator provided a presentation on the Palliser Occupational Health and Safety process. The presentation highlighted the pillars of workplace health and safety and highlighted individualised training

modules for new staff, as well as a yearly refresher for all employees. The Board also watched a demonstration of the training portal. One of the areas highlighted in the presentation was the module on workplace bullying and harassment and the processes the division uses to deal with these incidents.

Any questions or concerns please contact Lorelei Bexte 403-485-0823

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