

## January 22, 2025, School Council Meeting Minutes

### Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

### Attendees:

- Suzie Neufeld, Amy Morice, Carley Campbell, Sharon Rutledge, Candice Santangelo, Kim Alexander, Megan Leusink, Curtis, Amy Hauss, Debbie Laturus, Becky Gudmundson, Josh Martens (Teachers Rep), Janet Wakefield, Shannon Little.

### Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

- Carley Campbell moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Amy Morice.
- Carley Campbell moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Amy Morice.

### Reports:

#### Trustee Report:

#### CWPS School P/C Meeting January 22, 2025

1. **Board Highlights from Dec 2024- Jan 2025**
2. The Palliser School Division's **International Student Program** continues to thrive, welcoming students from diverse global backgrounds and allowing domestic students to experience new cultures within their classrooms with exciting opportunities for reciprocal exchanges. In spring 2024, a group of Coaldale students participated in an exchange to Spain. In 2025, local students will participate in reciprocal exchange programs in Italy, Spain and Sweden.
3. Palliser made progress in **Occupational and Safety** by implementing facility inspections including air quality assessments and playground safety checks across several schools. The Division is working with the counselling team to launch a **Pilot Behavioural Reporting System** in Calgary and Vulcan schools. Staff and students can report concerning and positive behaviors using a familiar software platform allowing for a quick response.
4. The Division's **Transportation Services** operates 85 buses, transports 2,400 students daily across 63 routes travelling over 1.9 million kilometres annually. The "Think of us on the Bus" continues to raise awareness for safety supported by law enforcement. Despite rising fuel costs and a shortage of spare drivers, the transportation dept. is closing the 2023-24 year with a small surplus due to subsidies and cost saving measures.

5. The Board approved draft **calendars** for the **2025-26 school year** for South, North and Islamic schools. School administrators will consult with their staff and community to determine a local calendar.
6. The Palliser School Division, like many others across the province, is facing a **Budget Deficit for the 2024-25 school year** due to funding challenges. A \$1.5 million funding loss from a grant clawback due to enrollment overestimations is responsible for much of the deficit. While initial projections indicated a \$4.4 million shortfall, cost saving measures such as unfilled positions, new hires at entry level salaries, and operational efficiencies have reduced the **deficit to \$2.6 million**.
7. Our priority is ensuring that the budget does not negatively impact students' learning or the support they receive in the classroom. We are carefully reviewing our expenditures and exploring every option to protect classroom resources and maintain high-quality education.
  - RI Baker funding changes next year. Dave Shaw will provide updates in February. The changes will affect 20 families, with distances changing from 1 km to 1.6 km for grades 7-12, and no changes for 2 km.

#### 8. **Administrators Report:**

- **Vending Machines:** Coke is experiencing delays. Palliser will move their machines from Kate Andrews. Consistency with the menu needed.
- **Concession:** A consistent menu is difficult to have as it depends on the culinary program.
- **Foods:** Is more day to day cook and nutrition which differs from the culinary program. There however is a crossover.
- **Culinary Program:** The program is growing and becoming popular. It focuses on nutrition and day-to-day cooking.
- **Technology:** Campus tech is responsible for the sound system. There is a new operator, and improvements are being made. Awards night still waiting on this development.
- **Retirement:** Curtis will retire at the end of the year due to health struggles. Palliser will find a replacement quickly.
- **Draft Handbook:** The draft handbook combines several other handbooks with similar 7-12 configurations and is now available for feedback (with us).

Staff leadership committee has gone over them as well. Kids will also give us feedback.

- **Dress Code:** Something we still need. The dress code will be available on the website for review. Can be a fluid process as it will be digital.
- **Attendance Officer:** Shane is the new attendance officer, focusing on making connections with students.

### **CPWS TEACHER REPORT:**

- High School exams are underway with the second semester starting on January 28

### **ATHLETICS**

- Basketball is well underway with 4 home tournaments hosted and completed this year.
- Spring sports will begin in late February/March with badminton, softball, baseball tryouts.
- Our basketball fan appreciation and senior's nights are just around the corner, the girls will be Monday January 27th at 6-10pm, and the boys will be February 3rd from 6-10pm.
- First basketball rankings were released for Senior Varsity, boys are 7th in the province.
- Major fundraiser for athletics, GOLF TOURNAMENT in June. Info to start being released soon.
- Athletic awards dates are chosen and in the Athletic Calendar, Junior High athletic awards June 10th during the day, High School athletic awards June 12th in the evening.

### **FINE ARTS & DRAMA**

- Alice in Wonderland JR runs February 10 - 13 in the CPWS Theatre! Tickets are \$10 each and will be sold in advance on school cash and in the office. It is rush seating, but there is not a bad seat in this theatre! There are over 25 students involved grades 7-12. Tech is slowly getting installed, and we are waiting on curtains being

finished, the screen being secured, and additional training on sound and light operations.

### **BAND/MUSIC PROGRAM**

- Grade 7/8 Band Trip to Southern Alberta Band Camp (SABC) and Edmonton is booked for March 9-12, 2025. The group consists of 73 students (12 chaperones) and will be performing at the Alberta International Band Festival in Edmonton on March 11th.
- Grade 9 Band Trip to Edmonton is booked for April 14-16, 2025. This group consists of 32 students. They will be performing at the Cantando Music Festival and will have the very rare opportunity to perform in the Winspear Centre on April 15th.
- The High School band trip is in the works but looking at a later date (May, I believe)
- The annual Dessert Concert and Silent Auction takes place on March 28, 2025. This tradition has been happening in Coaldale Schools for over 20 years, but this is the first opportunity for us to host the event here at Prairie Winds. Bands from the junior high and senior high levels will be performing. Tickets go on sale after the "Reading Week" break and are \$20.00 per seat. Attendees will not only receive an awesome night of entertainment, but also a fantastic dessert with coffee, tea and other beverages.

### **Business Arising:**

- **Awards night:** will be a formal evening event in the theatre.
- **Navigating Technology:** if you have any ideas email Carley.
- **Handbook:** Thank you, Kim, and Megan, for taking on the task.
- **Vending Machine and Canteen:** Curtis touched on it.

### **New Business:**

1. **Fundraising Society:** Discussion on the need for a fundraising society to support athletics and other programs.
  - We have short falls that could use extra support.
  - More grades now so we might want to start this process.
  - By forming a society all fund-raised money is separate from school division funds.
  - There are no funds that can be transferred from KA.

**Other Discussions:**

- **Funding:** Concerns about funding for new school projects and the need for transparency. There are shortcomings in the amount of \$50,000.00 in the budget that was thought to be covered in the F and E. Cindy is working on the clean up of the project.
- **Calendar Review:** Passed and waiting for PWS. Palliser has put a callout for feedback.
- **Scheduling:** Is there anyway we can streamline this process for involved.
- **Mandatory Breaks:** Discussion on the need for a 15-minute break in the afternoon for mental health.

**Toasts:**

- Curtis praised Kim and Megan for their incredible work.
- Carley appreciated the passion of the band teachers.

**Adjournment:**

- The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.
- Next meeting scheduled for March 19 at 7:00 PM.