



Coaldale Prairie Winds Secondary

School Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 14th, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

CPWS Conference Room

1. **Call to Order 7:04** Carley called to order
2. **Welcome and Introductions** Carley Campbell, Amy Morice, Chelsie Pitcher, Debbie Laturus, Sharron Rutledge, Kandis Santangelo, Megan Leusink, Kim Alexander, Jackie Kark, Shannon Fraser, Chad Jensen, Taylor Hill and Shayla-Closer to Home.
3. **Approval of the Agenda** Carley Moves to approve and second Amy
4. **Approval of the March 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes** Chelsea approves them
5. **Reports**

Trustee Report

CPWS Parent Council Meeting

May 14, 2025

April and May Board Highlights

Southern Alberta Collegiate Institute, through partnerships with Lethbridge Polytechnic and other regional organizations, offers exciting career programs in Trades, Agriculture and Health Care for students from grades 7-12 For younger students from grades 7-9, the E3 program builds confidence and practical skills through projects such as patching bike tires, plant splicing, first aid, and constructing small electrical items. Older students (grades 9-12) can participate in dual credit programs that include college-level courses, work experience, certifications, and other career-focused activities.

The **Palliser Numeracy Professional Learning Community** is a dedicated group of teachers and administrators who support growth of math teaching and learning. The Division hosted a successful Numeracy Symposium offering learning opportunities such as Building Thinking Classrooms, additional whiteboard spaces, digital platforms, and fluency kits.

Palliser continues to prioritize strong **Literacy Foundations**, especially in the early years. This year, more than 1,000 students from K-Gr.3 received support in reading and language development.

The **Palliser School Facilities Team** has experienced significant changes this year. The unexpected passing of long-time Facilities Supervisor Rod Swatzenberger was deeply felt by all who knew him. Rod oversaw the planning, construction and completion of Coaldale Prairie Winds Secondary, a facility that stands as a testament to his dedication and passion for the students of Palliser.

The team is now led by Rick Aos, Facilities Manager, and supported by Stephen O'Connor, Maintenance Supervisor who oversees Palliser's caretaking staff.

The Board reviewed progress on its' multi-year strategy to strengthen **Inclusive Education** by implementing a new Individual Program Plan system (IPP). Feedback from teachers and learning support teachers has been positive, noting the new IPP's are more efficient and offers staff to meet a wide range of student needs with more engaged family involvement.

The Board received an important update on **Indigenous Education**. Students who have been enrolled in the division tend to achieve higher results on provincial tests and literacy assessments. Trends in high school completion, drop-out and transition to post-secondary education is continuing to strengthen in a positive direction.

The **Division's Financial Update** shows a positive shift, with the projected deficit for 2024-2025 from \$1.36 million to approximately \$1.09 million, thanks to additional funding. These funds, supporting dual credit programming, enrollment growth and subsidized fuel costs, have helped to offset some key expenses.

The Board received an update on the **Career and Technology Studies (CTS)** trailers currently rotating among Coalhurst High School, Brant Christian School and Noble Central School. These mobile shops are a vital way for students to gain hands-on skills in areas such as woodworking and welding in schools without permanent shop areas. While there are some maintenance and staffing challenges, short and long term recommendations are being developed to improve heating and air quality, with possibility of partnerships with local trades.

Palliser's current **Three-Year Education Plan** was reviewed by the Board as it enters its' second year. The Division will discontinue the use of "Our School" surveys as they overlap Alberta Ed.s surveys. Instead, schools will begin developing local surveys to gain more meaningful information. The Mission, Vision and Values statements will change after the Board completes their strategic planning process.

Next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday June 17, 2025

“The new IPP system. Old IPP’s were not working. It looks at the child. More personalized than it was before. Ed Forms. Focus on the child beyond their academics. Kids have a say into it. It is now digital.”

Jackie Clark – the concerns are about the school day. Clarity of the questions. Longer Fridays. Is that on the radar. Would it be possible to put breaks into play. They did the survey to gather feedback about what is and is not working. Proportion of people said they are problematic. Why do 20 % of parents say it doesn’t work. Do significant changes to our school days here. It is not a mandate more exploring to see what makes sense. It is community specific. Busing will play a role. Each school proposes their schedules. Not blowing up Fridays.

Right now, Friday changes are school local context. A school has to ensure 960 hours of instruction. That is Alberta Education. Extensive consultation. To know what is working and what is not working. Some communities are exploring different approaches.

Administrators Report

Leadership Update

Curtis is currently on leave. Megan and Kim are now leading operations and progressing steadily.

Timetable and Bell Times

- The timetable remains a primary focus.
- Calendar planning for next year is well underway.
- Data has shown that the current 3-minute transition time between classes is insufficient. As a result:
 - Transition time will increase to 5 minutes next year.
 - Junior High will also have a 10-minute break added.
 - Adjustments to overall bell times are being finalized, with the end of day shifting to 3:30 PM.
 - Fridays will have a different schedule; the previously trialed rotating schedule is being revised.
 - The Day 1/Day 2 format will remain in place.
 - Feedback has been gathered and considered.
 - Final bell times will be posted soon.
 - School will begin at 8:25 AM, with classes starting at 8:30 AM.

School Tours and Transition Days

- May 28: St. Joe’s visit
- June 4: All students transition day
- June 9: Sunnyside and Baker visits

Staffing and Exams

- Three new teachers are being hired to fill open positions.
- Junior and Senior High exam schedules are currently being developed.

Graduation

- The Grad Committee is finalizing two key events:
 - **Banquet**
 - **Convocation** – scheduled as a community event at 3:00 PM in Kinsmen Park.
 - Cap and gown ceremony will be held at the end of the school year.

Athletics

- Junior High Track Meet was a major success, bringing home **10 banners** this year.

Upcoming Events

- **May 22** – Junior High Dance
- **June 20** – Golf Fundraiser

General Update

Chad, Kim, and Megan are collaborating effectively and already working on planning for the next school year.

May 14, 2025 School Council Meeting - CPWS TEACHER REPORT

ATHLETICS

- Spring sports are well underway
- Our Senior High Badminton team finished strong, with 3 of our grade twelves going to Provincials in Red Deer for their final year of high school: Sirrah Harris, Olivia Hudey and Tanner Clarke.
- Slo-Pitch tournament concluded this past weekend with the girls winning the consolation championship.
- Track and Field is in full steam, with over 90+ student athletes competing in counties on Wednesday May 14th, and 12 high school athletes looking to compete in Districts May 21st, many with provincial hopes and aspirations.
- Our athletics golf fundraiser is planned for June 20th. I've attached an image here with information. Looking for sponsors and players still. Can register to play at the following link: <https://forms.gle/S55U6ne6y5z1aYvQ7>
- Awards night for high school is June 11th at 7pm. All High school student athletes are invited to join!

FINE ARTS & DRAMA

- June 4-7 are the performance dates to produce “Murder is in the Heir”. Ticket sales information will be coming out soon.

BAND/MUSIC PROGRAM

- The High School trip to Seattle and Spokane was last week, and the kids had an incredible time. We did a workshop at the University of Washington, played concerts at the Pacific Science Center and an Elementary school in Spokane, and the rest of the time was packed with incredible experiences including the great wheel, the space needle, the Museum of Pop culture, pike place market, the monorail, the pacific science center, and Dave and Busters!
- There will be a jazz band night in the theatre on Tuesday May 27th, where the kids will perform a bunch of their favourite jazz music from the year.
- The High School Spring Concert is scheduled for Tuesday June 10th in the gym, and will include performances by the concert band, jazz band, drumline, and choir (wind ensemble tbd). As usual, we will be accepting donations for the Coaldale Food bank!

IN THE CLASSROOM

- On May 21st our High School craft club will be making DIY tote bags during lunch.
- Miss Gurski will be running an after school ELA diploma tutorial on June 6th for any grade twelve students needing any help. The tutorial will be from 12:30-1:30pm.
- Students can pick up a Book Bingo card in the Learning commons to encourage reading! These will be available from May 15-the end of the school year.
- There will be a Marine Bio field trip this weekend! We leave on Thursday and will be back on Saturday. We'll be going to Edmonton. The trip will include: West Edmonton Mall - we have an aquarium tour/programming, the Royal Alberta Museum (Orca Exhibit), and the Science Centre (IMAX show on dolphins).
- There will also be a Paleontology field trip to Drumheller at the end of the month (May 28th).
- The Grad Banquet is coming up quick as well (May 30th)! We are looking forward to seeing our graduates all dolled up!

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

- We hosted a fun Easter Egg Hunt in April before the break! Students enjoyed solving the clues to find the hidden Easter Eggs!

- We have a Junior High Dance planned for May 22nd from 7-9pm. The theme is Beach Bash! We have a DJ and plans for games and food as well. Currently, we have not made very many ticket sales, so may have to cancel the dance if there is not enough interest :(
- We are planning a Summer Party for all students on June 6th! There will be "beach volleyball", 8 ball and spike ball, as well as a sand castle building competition. Student Council will cook up and serve hot dogs to students. Students can purchase hot dogs, chips, and a pop for \$5. We also plan to continue the Kate Andrews tradition of free freezies for all students which we will hand out at the summer party! We are looking forward to a fun end to PW's first year!

New Business

a. Closer to Home – Presentation by Shayla (Taylor Hill)

Shayla, representing *Closer to Home*, shared information about their organization and current needs in the community. Based in Calgary for over 30 years, Closer to Home offers 45 distinct services and, as of January, holds the contract for the entire South Zone—a vast geographic region. They currently operate two group homes: one in Medicine Hat and another in Coaldale.

Key Points:

- **Foster Care Focus:**
Closer to Home's mission is to keep children as close to their home communities as possible, minimizing disruption in their lives. Their efforts are now focused on our local area, and they are seeking community support.
- **Understanding Foster Care:**
Foster care is full-time, temporary care where caregivers take on parental roles. The ultimate goal is family reunification whenever possible. The Ministry of Children's Services holds the license, while Closer to Home provides support and advocacy for foster families, helping them navigate the system.
- **Current Challenges:**
Many children entering care are impacted by housing insecurity and addiction within their families. The ongoing housing crisis is contributing to the increase in children needing safe placements.

Currently, there are 10 children entering care per week in the region. While there are 11 available beds, the actual need is closer to 50.

- **Who Can Foster:**

There are many misconceptions around fostering. Closer to Home emphasized:

- You do not need to be married.
- You do not need prior experience.
- A traditional family home is not required.
- Age is not a barrier.
- What matters most is your ability to love and support a child.
- Foster parents have input into the type of placements they are comfortable accepting.

- **Support Structure:**

Children in care come with a team of professionals to support both the child and the foster family. This is not just a job—it's about making a meaningful difference.

- **Cultural Context:**

Approximately 80% of children in care are Indigenous. Closer to Home is committed to culturally sensitive and community-rooted care.

- **Final Message:**

"If it's not you—then who?"

This marks the first time the government has outsourced this kind of service delivery, and Closer to Home is here to help. Community involvement is crucial.

Off-Campus Programming Options – Presentation by Shannon

Shannon provided an update on off-campus learning opportunities, highlighting the ongoing efforts to engage students in meaningful, hands-on experiences beyond the classroom.

Key Highlights:

- a. **Off-Campus Team Focus:**

The team is actively working to connect students with real-world experiences through programs such as RAP (Registered Apprenticeship Program) and other career exploration initiatives.

- b. **Work Experience Program Enhancements:**

Changes are coming to the work experience program to ensure it is more meaningful and relevant. Key additions will include:

- a. Resume preparation
- b. More frequent check-ins with students
- c. Structured debriefs and reflection on learning

- d. Emphasis on connecting experiences to lifelong skills
- c. **Certification and Assessment Opportunities:**
 - a. Green Certification Programs are available.
 - b. Farm-based students are gaining credit through recognition of prior knowledge via provincial assessments.
 - c. Dual credit programs are expanding, allowing students to earn both high school and post-secondary credits.
- d. **Mentorship Programs:**
 - a. An online mentorship school (with connections to Jenny Emmory and St. Joe's) is available.
 - b. Programs focus on areas aligned with CTS (Career and Technology Studies) credits.
 - c. Students are supported by mentorship, with resume development and progress check-ins.
- e. **Post-Secondary and Trades Training:**
 - a. Palliser has strong connections with local trades programs.
 - b. Students can attend college-based training one day a week (typically Fridays).
 - c. Healthcare-related programs are growing, with more opportunities launching next year.
 - d. Seats in college-level dual credit programs are limited and not based solely on grades—programs aim to ensure a good student-program match.
- f. **PW Fire Academy:**
 - a. This year, 15 students participated in the program.
 - b. The academy continues to gain momentum and credibility—students recently competed alongside nine other academies and stood out as highly skilled.
 - c. Students graduate with FDA 10 01 certification.
 - d. Five local students have been exceptional participants, and the community should be proud.
 - e. The program runs every Friday afternoon.
- g. **Medical First Responder Program:**
 - a. Launching next year.
 - b. Built in collaboration with Careers, this program includes both coursework and local internships in healthcare and trades-related roles.
- h. **Student Engagement and Exploration:**
 - a. The goal is to help students discover their passions through hands-on learning.

- b. STEM kits and E3 programming (Grades 7–9) have been successful, offering full-day experiences including farm tours, greenhouse visits, and healthcare exploration.
- c. Schools are actively reaching out to offer and promote these programs.
- i. **Credit Structure:**
 - a. Off-campus credits are split into two components:
 - i. Time in the program
 - ii. Connection to curriculum and reflection
 - b. Principal check-ins and teacher oversight are expected components of the credit process.

Transportation Follow-up

Bus Transportation Summary:

Kim looked into busing options and confirmed that we *can* drive a bus if we obtain the proper bus license designation. The course is **free through Palliser** as long as the individual either joins the substitute driver list or takes on a regular route. However, the licensing process takes some time.

Purchasing a separate bus for the school is **not ideal** due to additional costs and logistical complications. The best option is to **use an existing Palliser bus**, but coordinating this without overlapping with regular route times is the main challenge.

7. Business Arising

Council of School Councils Meeting #2 Summary

- A small but engaged group attended.
- Discussion focused on the roles of School Council vs. Society and emphasized the importance of Council's involvement in the school's foundational statements and AERR (Annual Education Results Report).
- It was suggested that budget discussions be included in future meetings.
- Junior High report cards are changing next year as part of a pilot. Math and Social Studies will shift to a new format using a letter-based scale. English and Science will follow in subsequent years.
- PEW (Personal Empowerment and Wellness) is a new curriculum area, with financial literacy beginning as early as Kindergarten.

ASCE (Alberta School Council Engagement Grant)

- Kris was discussed as a possible speaker; Jackie will confirm availability.
- Rick was noted as a great, engaging speaker in the past.
- Ideas to engage parents included:
 - "Welcome Back" swag bags

- School year calendar magnets (seen as a useful, long-lasting item)
 - Providing childcare by hiring older students during events to support parent attendance
- **Motion:**
Carley motioned to allocate funds toward the calendar magnet and booking a potential speaker for the “Meet the Teacher” event in September.
Seconded by: Chelsea

a. Society/Fundraising
Going to hold off.

8. CPWS ‘Toasts’

Kim – organizers at the track at the U of L.

The band and deserts

CMAS - support our students

Great relationship with the Kennets

9. Adjournment 8:34

Next Meeting & AGM Date: Sept 17, 2025