

RI Baker Middle School Council  
Meeting Minutes for  
Tuesday, January 22, 2019 - 6:30pm

1. Call to Order at 6:36
2. Introductions/Attendance - Shannon Kasko, Shannon Little, Tanya Johnson, Josh Martens, Sharon Rutledge, Debbie Laturus, Natasha Richards, Krista Gaskell, Maegan Peacock, Jason Prebushewski, Corey Davis, and Melissa Honess
3. Review of Approval of Agenda
  - Motion to approve - Natasha Richards
  - 2nd - Shannon Little
4. Approval of Minutes from November 5, 2018
  - Motion to approve - Shannon Little
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Natasha Richards
5. Reports - Trustee report

**SCHOOL COUNCIL TRUSTEE REPORT  
JANUARY 2019**

**1. International Student Program**

Associate Superintendent Tom Hamer reported:

- a) Significant growth over the last year from 176 students to 207
- b) Schools hosting international students has increased from 11 to 15
- c) Number of participating countries expanded to 10
- d) Home stay families now number about 150
- e) Dec 20/18 email sent by Tom Hamer to all staff & student: travels have been suspended until further notice due to current state of China/Canada diplomatic relations & a travel advisory

**2. Facilities Services Report**

*Rod Swartzenberger, Facilities Services Supervisor reported major improvements completed at schools from boiler replacements, LED lighting upgrades and installations of security cameras.*

**3. Huntsville School Update**

*Contract was awarded to Lear Contracting (did Noble Central School modernization.)*

*The govt. will manage the project, with Palliser's Facilities Supervisor Rod Swartzenberger providing administration and the Board with updates on the project's progress. Site preparation could start in March or April once the ground is thawed.*

#### **4. Palliser Education Centre Improvements**

*The Board approved a motion to proceed for tenders on the mechanical and electrical upgrade, including some improvements to meeting places. Prior to a contract being awarded, the Board will review and approve the budget. Funding will come from the sale of surplus land on the PEC site and other sources and **will not** impact students.*

#### **5. Playground Grant Application**

*Secretary-Treasurer, Dexter Durfey, has submitted grant applications to the province on behalf of three schools: Huntsville, Milo and Arrowwood Community Schools. These schools were the only ones in the division that qualified under the govt. requirements. The province has not funded playgrounds in the past, but recently announced grants were available, but only up to three applications. The total number of playgrounds to be funded by the govt. is unclear.*

#### **6. Transportation Services**

*Transporting of students in Palliser continues to grow, with about 100 new passengers this year.*

*One upcoming challenge is a new requirement that all school bus drivers, full time, part-time or volunteers who are driving students to and from sporting events or field trips, must have a safety endorsement certificate starting next year. Some drivers will be exempt, but many will require additional training. Palliser does have qualified staff to offer the training and hopes to get drivers updated prior to the summer break.*

#### **7. Digital Student Records**

*Sec. Treasurer Dexter Durfey informed the Board, **mandated provincial legislation** will require student records in digital, rather than paper form, by the **fall of 2020**. Schools have been urged to start the process now by having teachers enter daily attendance in digital form, and encourage new student registrations, done by parents, online. Schools will offer parents assistance to those requiring help with registrations.*

#### **8. Occupational Health and Safety**

*Scott McLarty, OHS consultant, hired in August 2018, has toured all Palliser schools to determine high-risk situations which need immediate action. He is reviewing the online training service and will be looking to implement a divisional Health and Safety Committee to meet new provincial requirements.*

#### **9. Cultural Lesson**

*Dan Doerksen provided the Board with a cultural and historical overview of the Low German speaking Mennonite (LGM) community. Now in his 14<sup>th</sup> year as LGM liaison for Palliser Schools, he said the more you know about the people you work with, the more you are able to meet their educational needs. There is diversity among the LGM community, but generally, they are conservative in nature, shy people, very private in health and sex discussions, hands-on learners, and have strong family bonds with fathers as head of the family. It was noted that the success of the LGM program in Palliser is due to Mr. Doerksen's efforts and initiatives.*

**Next Board Meeting Feb. 19/19**

**Report submitted by Sharon Rutledge Trustee**

- Debbie Laturnus reported that they have not received confirmation of the proposed school in Coaldale from the provincial government, but they have met with the town to help them with submission of documents to the provincial government. The Board may receive an announcement regarding the school in April.

Chairperson Report – Shannon Kasko

- Nothing to report

Principal's Report – Jason Prebushewski

- Construction has begun on the storage unit.
- Parent/Teacher interviews are scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup>. The school will be using the online booking system again; which should be available for parents to access on February 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Small group of students from the Ukraine arriving at R.I. Baker in March for a possible one month stay. There may be the option of sending a small group of 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade students abroad as part of this exchange. Palliser is looking for families to host the group while they are here.
- The students selected to go on the Quebec trip leave on March 8<sup>th</sup> and return on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- March 20<sup>th</sup> International students from China arrive at the school for a two week visit.

6. Old Business

- Review of Turkey Dinner – Report provided by Natasha Richards.
  - The dinner went really smooth this year and we feel it was a success.
  - Natasha gave a big thanks to Bonnie Dyck for her help with the lunch as well as all the others who volunteered to cook, clean, and serve.
  - A big thanks to Perry Potato farm for donating the potatoes again this year.

- Plenty of volunteers for the day of the dinner but could will ask for more volunteers to help with deboning the turkeys next year. We will also have fewer volunteers come for the early morning shift on the day of the dinner.
- All the groceries for the event were once again bought locally.
- Stephen Klassen was unable to cook the turkeys this year as the Lethbridge College had another event taking place.
- Natasha purchased utensils to be used for the turkey dinner this year and ongoing. They are currently being stored at her house.
- The volunteers fed closer to 500 people and sent home 10 food trays to families from the school.
- Cost of the dinner was \$1,988.82.
- Davis Auto group has been secured as a donor of the turkeys for next year's dinner to help offset the cost of putting on the dinner.

7. New Business

- No new business.

8. Bouquets

- To Natasha Richards from Shannon Kasko for her work on the turkey dinner.
- To Corey Davis from Natasha Richards for offering to donate the turkeys for next year's dinner.

9. Next Meeting Dates are Mar. 19<sup>th</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

10. Adjournment at 7:38 pm.