

RI Baker Middle School Council
Minutes for
Tuesday, November 19, 2019 - 6:30pm

1. Call to Order at 6:32
2. Introductions/Attendance – Shannon Little, Jason Prebushewski, Shauna Pauls, Diane Gallagher, Tanya Johnson, Natasha Richards, Susana Schmitt, and Alan Javeir Quintana. Sharon Rutledge and Debbie Laturnus send their regrets.
3. Review of Approval of Agenda
 - Motion to approve agenda – Diane Gallagher
 - 2nd – Tanya Johnson
4. Approval of Minutes from September 17, 2019
 - Motion to approve – Tanya Johnson
 - 2nd – Natasha Richards
5. Reports:
Trustee report – Sharon Rutledge

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

- The enrollment numbers are higher than projected with the official count on Sept. 30 of 8,662 students which is an increase of 251 students in Grades 1 – 12, and an increase of 21 in kindergarten. KAHS and RIB schools in Coaldale saw significant increases.

BUDGET PREPARATION

- Projections for the 2019-2020 operating budget call for a deficit of about \$400,000 with current enrollment numbers. This does not include a 217 per cent increase in property insurance costs for a number of school divisions, including Palliser. That increase – the result of damages to school properties due to floods and fires in the province the past few years—will mean an additional cost of about \$300,000 for Palliser.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

- As required by the Education Act, the Board appointed two external members from each of the business & adult learning community to sit on the Audit Committee, Michelle Lutz and Tony Montana.

MODULAR CLASSROOMS

- Palliser is requesting, from the provincial govt. at a cost of \$50,000 each, three modulars for the Huntsville School, presently under construction, which already exceeds its' capacity, and one modular classroom for Sunnyside School which needs additional space.

PALLISER EDUCATION CENTRE UPGRADES

- The Board authorized administration to arrange financing to complete Phase 1 of the upgrades needed at the Palliser Ed. Centre. The first phase includes mechanical & electrical upgrades, new washrooms, renovations to the existing washrooms and meeting and reception areas. With the money from the sale of the surplus property, and financing, there will be no funding impact on student instruction.

IMPACT OF GOVT. BUDGET

- Prior to the provincial budget just announced on October 24, Palliser had made a preliminary operating budget for 2019-20 with certain assumptions based on the best knowledge available at the time. With the new funding formulas, the province has put in place will allow us to better determine the exact impact of the budget of Palliser Regional Schools. Palliser will not be required to make any significant mid-year adjustments to operations and/or staffing. On Friday, Nov 1, the govt. made their capital announcements which did not include the building of the new high school in Coaldale. The 2020/21 budget will come late Feb or March so we will look forward to that round.

Chairperson Report – Shannon Little

- Alberta School Council Association Board of Directors is hosting an Online Engagement for school councils on November 23, 2019 to receive updates from and provide input to ASCA. Shauna Pauls will be representing our council. The Minister of Education will be involved in the engagement.
- ASCA has put out a survey regarding the proposed Choice in Education Act. Please let Shauna know if you are interested in completing the survey and she will forward you the link.

Principal's Report – Jason Prebushewski

- Ukraine trip went well. The students that went gave a lot of positive feedback. The private school in the Ukraine that the group visited would like to become a sister school and begin doing the trip yearly. In addition, there is an opportunity for students to go to France in the spring. We do not foresee our students ever visiting another county/school for a month unlike when exchange students come here. They come for a month and attend our school to improve their English language skills. Stay tuned for possible future experiences. Students are going to Quebec again this year for 5 days, this will be yearly trip that grade 7 & 8 French students will eligible to for. There are 24 students going on the trip this year.
- Draft policy to change student to adult ratios for travel to 1 to 6 in province and 1 to 5 out of province.
- Bus route changes have been communicated to those that were affected per Dave Shaw.
- Walk-a-thon raised just over \$30,000. The assembly awarding the winners is on Nov. 20, 2019. The amounts raised are divided into grade levels evenly and then some bonuses are given based on the amounts raised per grade. Any funds left over will go toward the year end trips and to purchase next year's prizes. Usually spend most of the funds by the end of the year.
- The only Pod trip this year will be the Grade 8 trip to Calaway Park. The Grade 5, 6, & 7 students will go to Raymond pool on the same day. Instruction time will go right up to exams.
- Curriculum based field trips for the Grade 5, 6, & 7 students will be an option at different times throughout the year.
- Exams for Grade 7 & 8's will be done differently this year. The Grade 8 will write the exams their home rooms and the teacher of the subject will float through the rooms to answer questions. The Grade 7 exams will be limited in time to one period and written when the student is scheduled for that subject.

- Accountability Pillar results are in. The highest ranking is blue, and the second highest is green. R.I. Baker scored high or very high in almost every category and beat the provincial averages.
6. Business Arising from Minutes
 - Canteen Volunteers – Canteen has a full complement of parent/community volunteers.
 - Turkey Dinner – Bonnie and Natasha have been in discussions. Davis Auto group will pay for the turkey's this year. December newsletter will have information on positions for volunteers. The Google document is on the website for parents to sign up to volunteer. Will start at 8:30 am on the day of the dinner. Natasha is planning for 423 students, 24 staff, 12 support staff and 3 additional staff members. The dinner will be on Dec. 19, 2019.
 7. New Business
 - No new business
 8. Bouquets
 - Everyone who came in the storm to the meeting. - Shauna Pauls
 - Ms. Leusink & Mrs. Kabi for the work they did on the cross country meets to make them a great experience for the participants – Shannon Little.
 9. Next Meeting Date is January 21, 2020
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10. Adjournment at 7:22 pm
 - Motion to approve – Shauna Pauls
 - 2nd - Natasha Richards