

RI Baker Middle School Council
Minutes for
Tuesday, January 21, 2020 - 6:30pm

1. Call to Order at 6:33 pm.
2. Introductions/Attendance – Shannon Little, Jason Prebushewski, Shauna Pauls, Sharon Rutledge, Debbie Laturnus, Kristi Darby, Amy Kerr, and Josh Martins. Natasha Richards sends her regrets.
3. Review of Approval of Agenda
 - Motion to approve agenda – Kristi Darby
 - 2nd – Amy Kerr
4. Approval of Minutes from November 19, 2019 – Tabled to next meeting, no one available to approve.
 - Motion to approve –
 - 2nd –
5. Reports:
 - Trustee report – Sharon Rutledge
 - **International Student Program**

Associate Superintendent Tom Hamer provided trustees with Palliser’s International Student Program. Hosted International Students to date of 186 is down slightly from 2018-2019 school year of 207 students. The program has seen students from Colombia, Japan, Chile, Brazil, and Ukraine.

Palliser will continue to focus on recruitment in Germany, Austria, Spain, and Italy as there are very low numbers of students from Europe and this is a region with significant growth potential.
 - **Facilities Report**

The Board approved the updated Infrastructure, Maintenance Report from 2019-2020 presented by Facilities Services Supervisor Rod Swartzenberger. Rod and his staff have had a proactive approach in getting on top of a long list of service requests from schools, 1,490 in total. The initiation of a summer mowing crew has paid dividends, as well as improvements to schoolyards and installing technology at schools. The replacement school for Huntsville has been slowed due to the weather but are working hard to get it back on schedule.
 - **Annual Education Results Report**

Trustees voted to accept the 2018-2019 Annual Education Results Report and the Three-Year Educational Plan for 2019-2022 which is posted on the Palliser website.

Associate Superintendent Tom Hamer said Palliser continues to do extremely well on the standardized tests but there are still areas which need to be addressed such as results from First Nations, Metis and Inuit students. Each school has its own ‘report card’ and should be sharing that information with parents.
 - **Early Learning Report**

Co-ordinating Principal of Early Learning, Nathan Sillito, provided an overview of Palliser's Early Learning Program and Program Unit Funding (PUF) He emphasized the investment made in those students pays off in the long run, especially dealing with English Language Learners.

He noted a new Early Childhood Framework --- similar to curriculum, although not mandatory--- has been released and continued professional development for those educators will be key. They have already received instruction in the importance of outdoor play, and Hanen Teacher Talk training, which shows them how to speak and play with young children in ways that support their language development.

- **Next Board Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Jan 21, 2020**

Chairperson Report – Shannon Little

- Nothing to report

Principal's Report – Jason Prebushewski

- Mental wellness
 - School is participating in a U of C study. They surveyed students at beginning of the school year and will survey them again at the end of the year. Preliminary results have been received but the report is not complete.
 - Jody Carrington will be at R I Baker or in Vulcan in May to do a book study, a presentation, and a luncheon on the subject.
- Concussion presentation
 - Marty Palenchuk presented because the school has had a couple of staff and a student who have suffered concussions recently. Currently there is no protocol in place to address this situation. A new protocol is being develop is currently being reviewed by a specialist in Chicago to ensure that nothing has been missed.
- Writing
 - Adam Browning has been doing some PD work after school with R I Baker teachers around writing and writing assessment. He is providing some best practices so the school can align with the provincial standards.
- Math
 - January 27th Dr. Marenskowski is coming out to help teachers with new research regarding building basic math skills with the students.
- 2020 – 2021 School Calendar Draft and Instructional Minute Review
 - Given to staff and now looking for parent feedback.
 - Some alignment has been made with the other schools in Coaldale. Oct. 2 and April 30th are PD days in common with the other schools in the community. These days were chosen because Oct. 2 was at the beginning of the year and April 30th allows for school-based issues.
 - School will start before the long weekend in September.
 - School day length: proposing to end the day at 3:30 because 3:35 was too long regarding bussing and teachers. The 5 minutes being lost will come out of lunch time. On Friday's there will be a change in that the 40-minute class will go to the end of the day instead of the first period.
 - This year the school went to a 3-minute transition which helped to resolve the number of late students coming into class.
- Baker Food Drive

- Raised a lot of food for the food bank.
 - Bonnie Dyck created a competition within the school to increase donations.
 - School received a private donation but even without that donation the school still provided biggest single donation the food bank has ever had.
 - Wildlife Pouches
 - The sewing class and any other students who wanted to participate have made pouches for Australia.
 - Ski Trip
 - Scheduled for January 23rd.
 - Two teachers per grade level will be staying at the school. Historically, many of the students who don't go on the trip tend to be absent that day.
 - ATA Writing Campaign
 - ATA reps feel that their voices need to be heard regarding; class sizes, teacher wages, and student advocacy. Teachers sent letters expressing their concerns into the government. They are now requesting that parents get involved and send letters expressing their concerns as they feel that parent concerns will be taken more seriously than their own.
 - International Front
 - For the first time the school is sending a child abroad for 3 months in an exchange. A child will be coming here from France and next year Sam Smith will be going over there. There will be additional opportunities to go to France and Dusseldorf.
6. Business Arising from Minutes
- Turkey review being tabled to the next meeting.
7. New Business
- No new business
8. Bouquets
- Mr. & Mrs. Conrad for the time and effort for the Christmas Concert. Natasha Richards and Bonnie Dyck for the turkey dinner, from Shannon Little.
 - Megan Leusink for coordinating the Quebec trip from Amy Kerr.
 - Megan Leusink for her work with the senior girls' basketball team who won their home tournament from Mr. Prebushewski.
9. Next Meeting Date is March 17th.
10. Adjournment at 7:14 pm.