

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

1. Call to Order at 6:34 pm
2. Introductions/Attendance - Shannon Kasko, Josh Martens, Sharon Rutledge, Debbie Laturnus, Natasha Richards, Krista Gaskell, Jason Prebushewski, and Shauna Pauls.
3. Review of Approval of Agenda
 - Motion to approve – Shannon Kasko
 - 2nd – Natasha Richards
4. Approval of Minutes from January 22, 2018
 - Motion to approve – Natasha Richards
 - 2nd – Shauna Pauls
5. Reports - Trustee report

R.I. BAKER SCHOOL COUNCIL MARCH 19, 2019

SHARON RUTLEDGE TRUSTEE REPORT

Coaldale School Update

Two information sessions were hosted by the Town of Coaldale on Feb 5 & 12 for the proposed joint recreation center/high school project. The sessions were well attended, and generally positive, however, concerns were raised about the location of the proposed site. It was emphasized that it is the Town of Coaldale's responsibility to set aside property for future school construction. A geo-tech survey is underway to determine the suitability of the chosen site to be a good building site.

The public will have the opportunity for input on the school itself, if and when, the project is approved by the provincial government in April 2019.

School Calendars

The Board approved the 2019-2020 school calendars (north & south versions) after consultation with staff, school councils and the ATA. The 2 versions differ in spring or Easter breaks to coincide with surrounding school divisions.

Teachers are officially back on Monday Aug 26, 2019, the Opening Day celebration for staff on Thursday Aug 29 in Vulcan and first day of school for students on Tuesday Sept 3. The last day of class for students is Friday June 26, 2020.

Principals can now make requests for any changes based upon their community requirements.

Huntsville School Update

An initial meeting was held recently with reps from Alberta Infrastructure, the contractor, architects, central office and the school principal to discuss construction timelines.

Financial Update

The Board heard financial projections through the end of August and new reporting procedures which have been implemented in an effort to increase accuracy and transparency.

Dexter Durfey, Sec. Treas. noted measures have been taken to reduce expenditures in board and system administration, with those costs projected to be lower than originally anticipated.

Next Board Meeting is March 19/19 at the Palliser Centre

Debbie Laturnus' Report

Annual technology Report: Tom Hamer and Jason Kwasny presented their report to the board showing comparisons between where we were last year and where things are now. One of their goals is to have a 2 to 1 ratio for students to devices and by the fall this should be achieved. They are also working on integrating powerschool data with google classroom. The full report is now on the website.

We had a presentation from two of our students who went on a Chile exchange last year. It was really encouraging to see the positive experience they had and also to hear how we can make these trips better.

The board passed a motion for their 2020-2023 capital plan.

1. Coaldale solution
2. County central
3. Coalhurst school's solution
4. Sunnyside

Seclusion rooms: Palliser has not had seclusion rooms for quite some time. We do have sensory or break out rooms where students and staff can go if there is a need.

Starting next month, the board discussed beginning reviewing one policy per month at their regular board meetings.

Chairperson Report – Shannon Kasko

- Nothing to report

Principal's Report – Jason Prebushewski

- Baker is working on getting a sensory or a “Snoozlin” room. Once the storage unit is finished and in use the school will have a room that can be converted to a sensory room. Currently there are approximately three students that require or would benefit from the use of a sensory room on a consistent basis. Setting up a sensory room can cost up to \$10,000 per room.
- International update –
 - On Saturday March 16th the Ukrainian students flew in. There are five in total visiting the school and Southern Alberta. So far feedback from the parents and students hosting the group is positive; they are enjoying having them here. The students are very outgoing, and their English skills are excellent. They will be here for a month. Baker will be sending a small group to the Ukraine for two weeks. The group may be able to see two countries as the area they will be visiting is close to Poland. However, if there is a travel advisory for the area at the time the trip is scheduled Palliser will not allow the students to go.
 - Chinese students arrive on Wednesday, March 20th. There are eight students spread out across all the grade levels. They are visiting for two months.
 - Kate Andrews has forty students from Japan who have just arrived. They will be setting up a Japanese cultural fair at Baker on Thursday. The students are staying for a week.
 - Baker is participating in a small exchange with Quebec. Baker has seventeen students who went and stayed with host families in Quebec last week. Ms. Leusink and Mr. Prebushewski went on the trip which included students who are in French at Baker. Everything was conducted in French. The students developed good bonds with their host families. The Quebec students will come the first week of April and stay with the families of the kids that they hosted. The Baker students spent one day at the school and the rest of the time sight-seeing. They stayed in Sherbrooke, QC which is two hours from Quebec City and visited old Quebec City, staying overnight in a hostel.
- New calendar presented:
 - Mr. Prebushewski and Kristi Schooten will be having a meeting to go over the calendar, bell times and bussing. This calendar does not provide PD days at the end of the year to clean up classrooms. There are also fewer PD days on Fridays next year.
- Grade 6 band trip:
 - Leaves on Thursday to go to SABC overnight. The band students are very excited.

- Staffing:
 - Mrs. Gagne: Grade 5 teacher is taking a leave to teach in Cambodia for a year.
 - Miss Friesen has been on a bereavement leave, for the loss of her father, and it has been extended. Mr. Olsen is covering until mid-April.

6. Old Business

- Storage shed is completed. Waiting for temperatures to warm up to paint and seal the interior and floor. Once that is complete Mr. Prebushewski will discuss shelving requirements. By the end of the school year should be able to move stuff in (extra desks, props, stacked chairs, second high jump matt) and start on Snoozlin' (sensory) room.

7. New Business

- No new business.

8. Bouquets

- Meagan Leusink for organizing the Quebec trip – put in lots of work to plan and showed tremendous patience with the kids' language barrier.

9. Next Meeting Date is May 28th – Jason providing dinner for this meeting – Sharon will not be able to attend as she will be celebrating her birthday with family in Vegas.

10. Adjournment at 7:03 pm.