

RI Baker School Council Minutes  
Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 @ 6:30pm

RI Baker Staff Room

1. Call to Order 6:32pm
  - a. Welcome/Introductions/Attendance  
Jason Prebushewski, Brett Clifton, Debbie Laturus, Holly McNair, Jessica Hoffman, Amy Morice, Carley Campbell
2. Approval of Agenda  
Amy motions to approve as presented. 2nd by Carley. Carried.
3. Approval of November 21st, 2023 Minutes  
Amy Motions to approve as distributed. 2nd by Carley with corrections. Carried.
4. Approval of September 11th, 2023 Minutes - carried forward from last meeting.  
Amy Motions to approve as distributed. 2nd by Carley. Carried.
5. Reports
  - a. Trustee

Rutledge Trustee Report

WELCOME TO 2024

Let us begin with the key factors contributing to the Financial Surplus in Palliser of \$3,958,000 for the 2022-2023 school year and a five year Cumulative Surplus of \$4,296,000.

- 1) Instructions show a surplus due to the new govt. funding and increase in student Numbers.
  - a) 88.6% of the instruction block goes to staffing costs, ( 72.25% for certified staff and 16.4% for non-certified staff)
  - b) Grid movement for teachers cost \$500-\$700K annually plus increases in ASEBP being announced about a \$500-800K increase in 2023-24.
  - c) Every year, without an increase in the base grant, Palliser has to find \$1-1.5 million to maintain existing staff.
  - d) Using the surplus for staffing would be a one-time use of the funds. This would not help the long-term need at any school site, as after one year, there would be a need to reduce positions.
- 2) Plant Operations and Maintenance continue to face a deficit due to rising utility and supply costs.
- 3) Transportation program has a surplus due to fuel price contingency funding and savings in supplies.
- 4) Capital Reserves will be used to purchase 5 new buses, vehicle purchases and maintenance and allow investment of 900 new student Chromebooks.
- 5) Operational Reserves (about 4 million), school sites have about \$600,000 in reserves, and the Division has about \$3.2 M to support future technology and modernizing

learning spaces. The reserves will be used to offset the 2023-24 budgeted deficit as well as help with the grade reconfiguration and retrofit Coaldale schools for the 2024-25 school year. Hence, Palliser has a limited capacity to cover operational days.

The International Program continues to expand with the addition of an Activities, Homestay Coordinators and a Primary Student Transporter to assist the Program Coordinator. Five Spanish students have completed their 5-week visit. In March, five students from RI Baker and Kate Andrews will travel to Spain for their part of the exchange.

Palliser's Board of Trustees has officially chosen "Coaldale Prairie Winds Secondary" as the name for the new school ready to open its' door in the 2024-25 school year. The name elements were proposed by the community through submissions on the website. A panel of members from the Coaldale school community helped refine the submitted names.

All schools in Palliser have had new camera and doorbell systems installed. This will provide better school safety by allowing office staff to identify individuals requesting access. The Facilities Team will conduct assessments, in case future work needs to be done.

b. Chair

Nothing to report.

c. Principal

Cold Weather and school closure. Doors to open at 8:15am no matter what and any student no matter what grade level can utilize front doors. Indoor Recesses were mandated. Make sure to have parents check the buses and actually click on the link to see each individual bus. Check both Palliser and School Websites. Dave Shaw has asked bus drivers to contact families individually if bus is canceled

Ski Trip is Feb 8, 2024. Permission forms need to be in by January 31, 2024 through school cash. Drive to Castle Mountain via coach buses.

9:00am Lesson on the hill - based on evaluations from Castle Staff is where students will be permitted to ski on the hill for the 2nd half of the day.

Invited John Davidson to participate with them as well, invite will be sent out to Sunnyside as well.

Information night with Dr. Chris Mattatal is January 25th at 6:30pm at Jennie Emery. Information session on how your child's brain learns. Free for all parents to attend.

Boosting School Belonging is a book that RIBMS staff will be reviewing and studying, to promote belonging for students at RIBMS. Survey results show that students feel they belong 20% more than last school year.

SWAP- Grade 5 piloted this year. Students are working on letter sounds, reading comprehension, and other literacy things. Seems to be going really well. Students and Staff finding that it is successful and more students contributing during the lesson as they are grouped with like skilled students.

ESports - competitive video gaming. This is an after school club where you can play online and against other schools and communities. There is a PSIII Student who is going to spearhead this and create a RIBMS ESport Team to offer to students.

RIBMS 'new name is RIB Community School. After brainstorming and discussion with other colleagues the word community was brought up and seemed to be a good fit and idea. Name is not official and the Palliser board of Trustees will decide on the official school name.

#### d. Vice Principal

Turkey Dinner: Thank you to everyone who was involved in making Turkey Dinner day a success. Particular thanks go out to Natasha Richards, Jennifer Van Rijn, their team of volunteers. We were able to feed 360 students, 40 staff, one Palliser trustee, and many families in need.

Badminton: We are in major need of badminton coaches for this season. If anyone in the community is interested, please reach out to Mrs. Goertzen or Mrs. Kabi.

Council of Councils: On 10 January, I had the privilege of attending virtually Palliser's Council of School Council meeting. Jackie Kark led us through some great discussions and opportunities to share successes. Dr. Mattatal from the U of L gave a very interesting and thought-provoking presentation on the development of the brain in children. Jason Kupery shared some great information about Palliser's partnership with Alberta Health Services and contacts and resources that we can use at the site level to support the wellness of staff and students. The next Council of Council's meeting will be 19 March 2024.

#### 6. Business Arising

No Business Arising

#### 7. New Business

No New Business

#### 8. Bouquets

Glenda Kutz and Megan Curtis for doing such an Amazing job and adapting well to new programs. They are the first point of contact for students and families.

Mr. Ross for his efforts during the cold snap. Making sure sidewalks and parking lots are clear. Often seen here on the weekend shoveling

Mr. Smith and Mrs. Huff for putting extra hours in for putting the drama production on for students to participate in.

9. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 19th, 2024 @ 6:30pm

10. Adjournment 7:06pm