

Woodhaven Middle School Parent Council

March 19, 2025 6:00 PM

MINUTES

Attendance: Nealle Dickson, Kayla Joy, Michelle Kincheloe, Jennifer Cossy, Kira Mulindwa, Philip Bull, Lei Gryshik, Amanda Power, Jennifer Pahl, Nadine Horner, Amber Ballerman, Chelsy Fleming

Call to order: 7:03pm

Approval of Minutes & Agenda

- Lee motioned to approve the agenda, Amanda seconded, all approved.
- Amanda motion to approve the February minutes Lee seconded, all approved.

Grade 5 Presentation: Kara Farris, Deanne Peet, Alicia Phalen

- Grade 5 teachers presented an overview of their work on piloting the new Grade 5 Social Studies curriculum, and provided examples of the hands-on projects that students have been engaged in. Teachers will be able to give feedback on the curriculum before its full implementation.

Trustee Report - Submitted by Trustee Eric Cameron (not in attendance):

Trustees Foster Quality Learning and Wellness: Please refer to the PSD website for highlights of the February 18, 2025 Board Meeting. Please note that the Board approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to conduct an in-depth study into the most appropriate local and provincial advocacy strategies to address student conduct and behavior. More details to be provided at a later date on the committee's work.

Also of note for your reading is the approval of a revised Board Policy on Learning and Working in a Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Environment.

Trustees Engage, Listen and Advocate

- The Student Advisory Engagement planned for March 2025 has been cancelled, and we are discussing whether it will be rescheduled later in the year.
- Labour Dispute:
 - Trustees have made the conscious and collective decision to send a written report for School Council meetings instead of attending remotely or in person during the labour dispute. Thank you for reading these reports.
 - The Board has received, through Ministerial Order #016/2025, an exemption from Section 2 of the In-Person Learning Regulation. Although this exemption is in place, PSD's goal is to have as many students learning in-person as soon as possible and continues to examine staffing complements and operational capacity to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all students and staff.
 - Trustees are on the Parkland School Division Board of Trustees Canadian Union of Public Employees Labour Relations Committee along with members of the CUPE Local 5543 and the CUPE Alberta Relations Office. The Bargaining Committee is

scheduled to meet this week. Trustees are committed to working towards a resolution that is fair and reasonable and meets the provincial bargaining directives.

Trustees Demonstrate Responsibility:

- On February 27, 2025, the government announced that Education's operating expense budget will be \$9.88 billion in 2025-2026 which represents an increase of \$426 million or 4.5% from the previous year. And that over the next three years, Education's operating expense budget will grow by \$1.25 billion to more than \$10.71 billion by 2027-2028. It will take time to unpack what this means for Parkland School Division, and we will know more details when Alberta Education's Funding Manual for School Authorities is released later in spring 2025.

Board Chair Report:

- Trustees have received many e-mails on the current labor dispute, but the Chair will be responding to all on behalf of the trustees.
- The provincial funding format (Weighted Moving Average) for basic per student funding has changed from a 3 year formula to a 2 year formula which will be positive for our division.

Superintendent Report:

- The new budget is still to be determined for PSD as the Funding Manual is not slated for release before April; initial reaction is mixed at this time.
- We will have 143 students from a number of schools travelling out of country during Spring Break (places like Italy, Greece, Phoenix, New York, France).

Edwin Parr Nomination:

- Each year the Alberta School Boards Association honors 6 outstanding first year teachers with the Edwin Parr Teacher Award. The Board had a committee of three trustees to select our candidate to move forward. We had two outstanding candidates to consider: Jennifer Jones (Ecole Meridian Heights) and Joshua Weins (Memorial Composite High School). Joshua Weins was chosen as our candidate to move on in the process.

Special Contribution to Public Education Award Nomination:

- Board of trustees passed a recommendation to nominate the Spruce Grove Community Partners Society for the Special Contribution to Public Education Award sponsored by the Public School Boards' Association in recognition of their wonderful efforts to ensure that our students have access to nutritious food while at school (by providing bagged lunches for the Community Pantry twice per week).

Student Conduct Ad Hoc Committee Terms of Reference:

- Board passed a motion to accept the Ad Hoc Terms of Reference as presented from which a committee of three trustees will operate to get a better handle on the increase in student conduct concerns not only in PSD but also in other divisions in the province.

Three Year Capital Plan:

- The Board approved the Three Year Capital Plan recommendation as presented which included:

Year One:

1. New K-9 School in Tonewood Spruce Grove
2. Modernization and expansion of Brookwood School

Year Two:

1. Modernization and expansion of Forest Green School
2. New K-9 school on the west side of Spruce Grove

Year Three:

1. Replacement of Parkland Village School
2. Modernization and preservation of Ecole Broxton Park School

** these are our wish list and none have been granted yet

2024-2025 Infrastructure/Capital Maintenance Renewal

- This report highlighted the infrastructure maintenance renewal and capital maintenance renewal projects completed, in progress or to consider for this year. The focus is to have our schools operate in an efficient and safe manner and to anticipate future needs (proactive planning: eg. Regular roof/boiler replacements).

French Immersion Report:

- This report provided an overview of the successes and challenges yet to be met that contribute to our current student performance in French Immersion. We are seeing some major positive changes in our performance results in our three schools: Ecole Broxton Park, Ecole Meridian Heights and Spruce Grove Composite High School.

Principal Report

- Admin have been covering office duties for the last 3 ½ weeks during the strike and are excited to welcome support staff back tomorrow.
- Staff have stepped up to ensure that learning could continue for all students, in a safe and caring environment.
- The strike did provide us an opportunity to tighten some things up and gain insight and learning in certain areas.

Chair Report

- Staff Appreciation Breakfast will be moved to May 16. Michelle will be seeking volunteers to help.

COSC

- Decentralized budget. 74% of funding goes to staffing. Schools have a say in the breakdown of the budget but there is also targeted funding, where the government decides how funds are to be used.
- New funding budget is averaged over two years.
- The cost for insurance in the division is \$1.3 million.
- Transportation is used by over 8000 students, 90% funded by grants, 10% by user fees.
- Fundraising insurance not required but recommended. Parent Council should have event insurance for the events that Parent Council runs. This is important for when staff are not present. Council can talk to Nadine Morrison to inquire about this further.

ASCA Resolutions

Parent Council discussed the resolutions submitted and then voted on whether would put them forward. Decisions noted below.

1. P25-01: Pilot Program for Electric School Buses - NO

2. P25-02: Mandatory Funding for Specialist Teachers in Elementary Schools - NO
3. P25-03: Sunlight is the best Disinfectant - Mandatory Public Reporting on the State of Public Schools - YES
 - Council would like to note that the reporting should be for all schools
 - Commissioning of a Third Party may not be necessary - the division should be able to report on this.
4. P25-04: Discontinue Mandatory Timed Testing of Kindergarteners to Grade 3 - YES
5. P25-05: Online Safety - Section 1: NO, Section 2: YES, Section 3: YES
6. A25-01: Revise ASCA Advocacy Policy 24-05 Preserving Safe and Inclusive Spaces for
7. 2SLGBTQIA+ Students - 1: YES, 2: YES, 3: YES

Adjournment: 8:19

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 16, 2025