

# MINUTES

## *Paul Kane School Council*

*September 10, 2020 | Meeting called to order at 19:00*

- In Attendance

Paul Shamchuk, Michelle Neraasen, Erin Steele, Beth Elliott, Teena Duliba, Noella Paton, Mohammed Abu-Sharkh, Cathleen Clarke, Deb Vollrath, Marwa Elmorshedy, Marcie Gray, Saeed Ahmad, Sheri Wright, Susan Komlenic, Dalia Abu-Sharkh, Heather Jeffrey, Julie Mann-Johnson, Elaine Wong, Sherif Refaat, Judy Krajnak, Kim Williamson, Carol Poulin, Nadine Badry,

- Approval of previous month's minutes

May 2020 Minutes: Elaine Wong approved minutes and Marcie Gray seconded

- Business

Elections of Officers: Chair - Michelle Neraasen by acclamation

Vice Chair – Saeed Ahmad by acclamation

Secretary - Beth Elliott by acclamation

Principal Report – Erin Steele

1. Covid 19 Update: Students are back in the school this fall. The staff is looking at safety in layers for everyone: masks, hygiene, and extra support for cleaning staff. Next week the school is getting 3 victory guns for disinfecting rooms like the weight room etc. They are used to clean whole rooms. Desks are cleaned with disinfectant at the end of each class, there are directional arrows on floors, and staff at entry doors each morning. After school dismissal needs work on social distancing and also at lunch time. Staff goals for this school year are routines, relationships and safety, New Covid 19 form sent out this week for parents/kids to review each morning. Everyone coming to school is assumed they are healthy. Most staff have baseline Covid 19 tests done. If student is symptomatic, they are sent home. If a child tests positive, AHS will tell the school. Online learning will take place while in isolation. If an entire class needs to be isolated, teacher will be online with them. Current enrollment is 1105 students, 80 staff, of that, only 86 students are online only which is only 7% of the population. Lots of students have chosen a blended program - in school for some classes and home for others. Class sizes have gone down because of online learning. Drama class this quarter was dropped because they were only 2 students enrolled. AP is not offered online for core classes. No new funding from the Provincial UCP. Any new funding is coming from the Federal Liberal Party, that funding was used for online school for students. The online school is combined with Bellerose High School. It is being run by the district and has its own Principle. 200 high school kids are enrolled there.

2. Parent teacher interviews will occur once per quarter. This quarter's interviews will take place Wed, Sept 30 via google meet or by phone. Format and booking process will be available up next week.
3. Grad Update: 2020 May and October Grad ceremonies had to be cancelled because the venue is not open. The embossed certificate as well as caps/gowns are being worked on. The hope is that the 2021 Grad ceremonies will take place at Edmonton Convention Centre. However, if it can't take place there then they will do something else, TBD. They will plan for both an A plan and a B plan. They believe that grad at the Convention Centre probably won't happen so Plan B will be what is expected to happen. Miss Lockhart and Miss Solomon will meet with grade 12 tomorrow, Sept 11th to talk about grad presidents etc.
4. Exam dates for grad 10/11 courses will be sent out the first week in October. Oct 30 - Nov 6 window
5. If a student is taking a core ADLC (Distance Learning) class, then they are registered at Outreach High School, not at PK. ADLC ends at the end of this school year because all funding has been cut.
6. Each teacher has 30 min at the end of each day to do a google classroom with notes and/or assignments for students to follow along. On Wednesday, teachers have 90 min of student support time - either in school or via google meet. This was added in because extra help for kids who are out sick.
7. Currently the government has the diploma exam set at 30% of the final grade and classroom work set as 70% of the final grade. Non-diploma exams are 20% of the final grade and classroom work is 80 % of the final grade. The time for instruction for a course has decreased to 85 hours from 125 hours per course. Letters advocating for a lower weighting of the diploma exams or their removal from the final grade for a 30 level course during the 2020/2021 school year can be sent to the following:

Minister of Education, Honourable Adriana LaGrange  
Office of the Minister of Education  
228 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Ave, Edmonton, AB, T5K 2B6  
[education.minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:education.minister@gov.ab.ca)

Deputy Minister of Education, Andre Corbould  
Office of the Deputy Minister of Education  
7th Floor Commerce Place  
10155 - 102 St, Edmonton, AB, T5J 5E6  
[andre.corbould@gov.ab.ca](mailto:andre.corbould@gov.ab.ca)

MLA for Morinville - St. Albert, Minister Dale Nally  
Constituency Office  
9805 - 100 St, Morinville, AB, T8R 1R3

MLA for St. Albert, Ms Marie Renaud  
Constituency Office  
109B, 50 St. Thomas St, St. Albert, AB, T8N 6Z8

8. Change to quarter system - some kids really like it and others not so much. Instruction has changed from 125 hr of instruction to 85 hr of instruction for each class. 2.5 hr classes are really long for both kids and teachers. We can't let the whole class have a break at the same time so they don't all group together in the hallways etc. This is still a work in progress for both teachers and students.
9. Construction for the new high school is in full swing. Today was the official sod turning.

#### Clubs/Activities/Sports – Paul Shamchuk

- All Athletics, Clubs and Activities are reduced or eliminated due to Covid.19 this year. What is normally done each year can't occur due to restrictions on gatherings/food. Student Union will still function in some form, very reduced and looks very different than previous years. It will be largely an online Student Union this year.
- School clothing will still occur this year - one new item is a pride T-shirt for the school. PK Pride Shirts is being worked on with Elite Marketing. Store will be up and running next week. A suggestion to include PK masks was made but Paul let us know a decision to not do that was made as a minimum of 50 items would have to be sold.
- All athletics will be revisited on Sept 25 to see if they can offer anything.

#### Trustee Report – Sheri Wright

- Welcome to our new trustee this year, Sheri Wright.
- The School District feels If we had more money, we feel we could do a better job. Social distancing in schools doesn't apply in the same way as it does in the community.
- We have a school-based system, we look at all of our problems based on the students and teachers needs first. Up to principal to decide how to spend the money within each school as best to support the students/school.
- This is a very stressful time for all school staff - not just teachers. All work is done on best practices and working at their best.
- Long class times are difficult for the students as well as not being able to connect with their classmates/friends in the halls. It is a difficult balance for them.
- District has written to Minister of Education to ask to suspend the diploma exams. If not possible, then to reduce it to just 10%. The request was made to please try not to add to the stress to the students and teachers in this unprecedented time.
- There was an official plan A, B and C for the kids to go back to school. District planned for back to school normal, combo some back in school and some online and the last one was to do all schoolwork at home. This is a decision made by the Minister, not something that the District can decide.

## Other Business

Next Meeting: **October 8, 2020 19:00 PM**

Meeting adjourned 20:50 p.m.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### SEPTEMBER 2020

- 01 First day of classes – staggered entry M-Z
- 04 Photos & ID card distribution
- 07 Labour Day – No School
- 10 School Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- 16 Staff PLC Meeting
- 16 Parent Communication Emailed
- 30 Orange Shirt Day
- 30 PST Conferences

### OCTOBER 2020

- 02 Grad 2020 CANCELLED
- 07 Staff Meeting
- 08 Parent Communication Emailed
- 08 School Council Meeting– 7:00 p.m.**
- 12 Thanksgiving Day
- 13 PD Day (site based)
- 15 Awards Night
- 16 Photo Retakes
- 21 Staff PLC Meeting
- 28 Exams – FLA 30-1: Part A – a.m.
- 29 Last day of classes for Quarter 1
- 30 Exams – FLA 30-1: Part B – a.m.

The following speaking notes are from the principals meeting:

## **St. Albert Public Schools**

### **Speaking notes**

**September 14, 2020**

### ***Excerpt from August 2020 Alberta Education publication:***

*“...School authority funding*

*School authorities have returned to full funding levels as of July 1, and every school authority in Alberta is receiving a funding increase for the 2020-21 school year – roughly \$120 million across the province. A list of funding for every school authority is available [here](#).*

*In addition, the Minister of Education has approved the use of school board reserves, if needed, to help cover local COVID-19-related costs. The total amount of money sitting in school board reserves is \$363 million.*

*Accelerated capital school funding*

*The province has also provided school boards an additional \$250 million to support accelerated capital maintenance and renewal projects, as part of the more than \$10 billion infrastructure spending announced in the Alberta Recovery Plan.*

*This funding supports infrastructure enhancements that will help in a COVID-19 learning environment. Seventy-nine school projects totalling \$15 million are moving forward with this primary purpose, including upgrades for enhanced hygiene such as hands-free sinks, automatic flush toilets, touchless soap and*

*paper towel dispensers, automatic doors and water bottle filling stations to replace water fountains...”.*

## **Information**

The information above is provided on the government website. It is a matter of perspective.

For example, did every jurisdiction receive an increase for 2020-2021 from the funding they received in 2019-2020.? Yes.

But the September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020 funding provided to school jurisdictions in the October 2019 provincial budget was notably less than the funding prior years.

In addition, during the 2019-2020 year there was a mid year funding reduction due to Covid 19 and a subsequent reduction of certain staff. For St. Albert Public Schools the Covid 19 March adjustment was a \$1,196,086 reduction to base instruction and \$218,904 reduction to transportation.

Therefore the 2019-2020 funding that the 2020-2021 funding is being compared to is arguably not that large or at least not as large as it typically would have been based on the pre 2019 funding level years.

Was other additional new money provided? Technically yes. Let me explain. Government has received applications and allowed jurisdictions to access capital school funding in an accelerated fashion. Ab Ed has labelled this accelerated funding Capital Maintenance and Renewal (CMR) funding. Its original intent was to keep the province working with shovel ready projects. We understand some jurisdictions asked to use some of these dollars to buy Covid items and that request was approved.

Finally, school jurisdictions have been permitted access to their reserves to help to fund 2020-2021 Covid expenses. Obtaining Ab Ed approval to access reserves is a new Bill 5 requirement. Under Bill 5 school jurisdictions/schools no longer have autonomy over their surpluses

## **Federal Funding**

### Background

Please find enclosed two documents. A copy of the federal funding announcement and a copy of projected partial Covid 19 cost analysis that was shared with the deputy minister. The Covid 19 analysis does not include everything. For example, it does not contain the unrealized Covid 19 revenue in terms of lost transportation fees and for other uncollected fees.

### What does this mean for schools?

No additional federal money is coming directly to schools. However, because school's budgets will not be reduced to set up the online school that approximately 900 of their students are accessing the federal funds have the impact of reducing class size at the in person schools.

Stated a different way ...With out federal funding the dollars for the online school would have needed to come from schools (to provide the delivery of education for their students that have chosen the online option). If that had happened, then in school class sizes would have increased.

The federal money helps but does not eliminate all our Covid 19 problems. It will however eliminate the need for the division to negatively financially impact schools' fall 2020-2021 MyBudgetfile budgets. Schools will not face a surprise fall 2020 cash call (revenue reduction) for their students that are attending online learning. Schools will not have to fund online teachers out of school budgets. Schools can also backfill the staff positions for the "donated to online learning teachers" at their schools because their fall 2020 budget should not change (unless a school's combined in person and online enrollment has crashed.)

The cost of personal protective equipment (PPE) has larger been insulated from the schools due to the federal grant and the provincial government supplying materials to school jurisdictions. The impact of the human resource cost in terms of sick leave has yet to be realized.

### **Surplus and Deficits**

August 31, 2020 has passed. Financial Services is waiting for all the expenditures made to be processed and various accounts to be reconciled. Once that occurs, we will have a final August 31, 2020 surplus/deficit number for each school.

Schools have in their workbooks the amount of surplus they projected in the spring and the division received ministerial approval to carry forward. That projected surplus is already on each school's Fall 2020-2021 MyBudgetfile surplus/deficit line for their use.

Any surplus amounts realized by a school in excess of their spring surplus estimate WILL NOT be available for a school's use. Under Bill 5 school jurisdictions/schools no longer have autonomy over their surpluses. For 2020-2021 a Covid 19 exception has been made and school jurisdictions can apply to Alberta Education to use more of their August 31, 2020 surplus if it is larger than originally anticipated. The division will do that to help with the Covid 19 costs it will be confronting.

The human resources cost of Covid 19 is estimated to be significant.