

Paul Kane School Council Minutes – Jan 30, 2020

In attendance: Erin Steele, Principal
Paul Shamchuk, Teacher
Rosalba Politi, Teacher
Marwa El Morshedy, parent
Cathy Gagne, parent
Marcie Gray, parent
Michelle Neraasen, Council Chair

1. Meeting called to order at 7:09pm
2. Minutes approved with the addition of the Chair's Report
3. Approval of the last minutes will wait until the February meeting.
4. Business

a. CTS Presentation and tour of the Construction and Fabrication Area – Rosalba Politi

High School CTS is more skills orientated than Jr High CTF where students learned the basics.

Both academic and trades orientated students. Either 3 credits or 5 credits. Each module (1 credit) is a mini course with a learning booklet, quiz (mainly on technical knowledge), and project of choice that fits the criteria of the module. A module takes 18-25 hours to complete. Safety is its own module where each student is tested (with a machine) in a 3 part process: watch teacher's demo, give the teacher a demo, and write a quiz. The rubric is clearly posted for students to see: /60 project; /10 booklet; /10 quiz; /20 citizenship (attendance; safety; cleanup; and teamwork)

Brought more joinery into the class. Bellerose is working along the same lines. They are looking forward to collaborating. Has also been in contact with a NAIT instructor and has been invited to go there to observe the projects. This knowledge will allow for the alignment of 30 level courses with these post-secondary classes thereby increasing the relevance of the material taught.

Upcoming: May 7th - 15 female students to explore the GETT Conference for women in trades. There will be students participating in the Skills Canada Competition (considered a field trip).

Ms. Politi's PD: attended the Career Technology Education Council in Nov 2019; met and collaborate with Bellerose counterpart; awarded the ATA Trust award to attend a specialist conference of choice; and is enrolled in EDU 520 and 521 at the U of A to complete LQS Certification.

PK does not have a mechanics program due to the expense. This program is offered at Bellrose. This year due to the talent and experience of an incoming student, a section of the workshop will be used for welding.

Action: Request the next teacher presentation by the Foods & Fashion Teacher
Mr E. Steele

Question: What is happening with the revamp of the CALM course?

3 teachers at PK are tasked to look at how CALM is taught. They are teachers who have expressed great interest in teaching CALM. To see how PK can make CALM more appealing to students this there has been collaboration with an Edmonton School where the CALM program is very well attended.

Discussion: Most students take a CALM combination summer school course between Gr 9 and Gr 10. Many see it simply as a requirement for graduation and not as valuable preparation for their futures. The conversations in CALM need to go deeper and PK is hoping to make the course more relevant and encourage students to take it during the regular school year. Many students find it hard to fit the course into their schedules. All changes need align with the given curriculum. The recently released Curriculum Recommendation Panel Report mentioned dissolving the CALM course. The idea is to imbed the material throughout the curriculum of core courses. District Office would like to include a mental health in the CALM curriculum regardless of if it is taught as a course or integrated into other courses.

b. Clubs and Activities

PK held a Basketball Tournament in January. The top 3 elite teams from the province played and the PK Snr Girls won the tournament. During first weekend in Feb the Snr Girls will be in Calgary for another tournament. During the second weekend in Feb the Snr Boys team will be in Calgary for a tournament.

1st weekend of Feb students and 4 teachers will be skiing in BC.

Planning for the upcoming Rugby season is well underway.

There is a break in sports during the 2 week exam periods.

SU Activities:

Christmas activities – 12 Days of Christmas; Jersey Day; Charlie Brown Christmas Movie showing; Christmas Relay; PK Unplugged (18-20 performers, 120-140 attendees this year); Pancake Breakfast.

January - quiet due to exams. It is a time to clean up after, assess and evaluate events. The students became aware of the energy principle: the more effort in =more success. This was especially true with the multifaceted approach to promote PK Unplugged.

February - a second PK clothing sale. The on-line clothing store simplifies the organization thus the ability to do it twice per year. There will be the popular items and a few new ones too. Unlike the sale of Grad clothing this is cost neutral.

Feb 4th - Lunar New Year Celebration. Debut performance by PK Lion Dance and Drumming teams.

For other accomplishments by PK students and alumni check PK out on Twitter

Comment: PK is a AAA school : strong academics; strong athletics; strong arts. On top of all that we are lucky enough to have many active and engaging clubs.

c. Principal's Report

i. Second Semester Staffing: Karen Tubman, Office Assistant, and Irene Prazak, Educational Assistant will be retiring. Due to a hiring freeze these staff will not be replaced. Tamara O'Neil will be coming in to help teach in English and Social Studies. This decision was scheduled before the hiring freeze.

Liane Madsen will be retiring at the end of this school year. Her caring spirit, immense knowledge and problem solving will be greatly missed. Interviews were held and an announcement for her replacement will come out in early Feb.

ii. New School is still a go. The design process is complete and the estimate has been approved (including the need for a water reservoir and upgraded retaining wall). Procurement beginning in Feb and is held for 3 weeks ending in Mar. The construction schedule is still for a mid-May start with completion set for Sep 2022.

Action:

**Bring the updated design to the next meeting
Erin Steele**

iii. Budget: District was able to weather the 2019 cuts to grants with little impact upon staff and instruction; however, this will not be possible in the future and job cuts will occur. 80-93% of the district's budget is allocated to staffing. Nothing will be known for certain until Mar 2020 when the budget and funding manual are released. DO has provided an initial budget, but planning is based on the unknown. It looks as if CEU (per credit) funding will be replaced by a base funding rate much like current Elementary and Jr High funding. This rate will not be known until the government releases their Funding Manual. The projected shortfall from is around \$1.9 mil or about \$200/student and will impact staff levels (about 5-7 teachers and 3-4 education assistants); scheduling; options available; classes and fee increases. We will see upgrading and returning Gr 12's go through Outreach. Those with a plan to complete high school in more than 3 years will still attend PK until they graduate. Work Experience will be consolidated - one office will oversee the program for all 3 high schools. Onside may also be moved from PK to Outreach.

Discussion: AP and class size. The concern is that since AP has smaller class numbers certain AP classes will not be offered. The school is working to still be able to offer the AP courses. 27 students need to be enrolled to pay for staffing and admin associated with running a course. Due to scheduling and other factors there are some very popular classes that have more than this number of students and so can account for the classes where the numbers fall below 27 students. Traditionally this balance has worked well and we hope that it can continue to do so in the future. An increase in class size due to budget cuts may mean that there are fewer scheduling options for certain courses including core subject courses.

Discussion: The Panel on Curriculum Report speaks about doing away with different streams (-1; -2 etc) for core courses as a potential area for savings. Unfortunately, this is savings with a cultural and societal cost for both those who excel at school as well as those who struggle.

d. Trustee Report – the trustee was not present so there was no report

e. Chair's Report

Uncertainty around funding for education and the impacts of funding cuts. Two points from Minister of Education's speech at the ASCA Member's Engagement Webinar: holding districts and schools financially accountable, and engaging with local MLAs. Firstly, as parents the government intends us to hold our school district and schools fiscally accountable. In this district we are fortunate enough to have opportunities to educate ourselves about how funds are distributed and used. The principals at PK are always willing to speak to the school council about how funds are spent. As parents, please take the opportunities available to educate yourselves. Secondly, engaging with your local MLA. Advocate for what you feel is important to your child's education by writing to your local MLA, the Minister of Education and the Premier. ATA has a letter writing campaign regarding class size and parents' concerns. To access this document visit www.teachers.ab.ca under MLA Letter Campaign or stop by the school to get a copy.

5. The next meeting will take place on 20th February 2020 at 7pm in the PK staff room.

6. Meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm