

École Secondaire Paul Kane High School
12 Cunningham Road, St. Albert, Alberta, T8N 2E9
School Council Meeting Minutes - November 21, 2024

1. Call to order at 7:02pm - Chair Saeed Ahmad

Meeting Attendance: Saeed Ahmad (Co-Chair), Tara Kwasney (Co-Chair), Traci Bishop (Vice Chair), Suzanne Morton (Secretary), Erin Steele (Principal), Michael Ng (Teacher), Paul Shamchuk (Teacher), John Allen (SPS Trustee), Sawyer Bishop (Student Representative), Denise Watson (online), Marian Johnson (online) , Jodie Young, Fareen Valji, Lisette Maassen, Corinne Jewell, Christina Shoults, Idy Agbonison, Marwa Elmorshedy, Tania Kebernik

2.0 Land Acknowledgement - Erin Steele

3.0 Approval of Agenda, as amended:

Approved by: Jodie Young

Seconded by: Idy Agbonison

4.0 Approval of the October 17, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended:

Approved by: Tania Kebernik

Seconded by: Traci Bishop

5.0 Chairperson Report

5.1 ASCE Grant - Tara Kwasney

Call for suggestions/proposals for use of \$500 grant money. Tara provided an explanation of the Alberta School Council Engagement grant. There have been some events already with host schools extending invitations to all SPS parents to attend. These events have been posted on PK website and have included ICE/Alert workshop, and an addictions presentation. Please continue to email sc-chair.pk@spschools.org with your ideas and remember to include contact information re: proposed workshop presenters etc. Tara is hoping to come back to our January 2025 meeting with a summary of proposals.

5.2 ASCA Update - Tara Kwasney

ASCA is hosting their annual Fall virtual event on November 23, 2024 from 1-4pm. The topic is emotional regulation. Registration is required and the event is free. See the ASCA website for details at www.albertaschoolcouncil.ca

Paul Kane has signed up to provide feedback to ASCA when asked, throughout the school year on a variety of topics. Items will be brought to our group for feedback as they become available.

5.3 CoSC - Tara Kwasney

Tara attended the Council of School Councils on October 24, 2024. Topics of discussion included:

Stressors identified by SPS Superintendent such as;

- SPS has roughly 8900 students

- New high school is SPS first priority. SPS School Councils and all parents encouraged to advocate for SPS needs.

District Calendar - deadline for submitting stakeholder feedback was November 12, 2024.

ASCE Grant - SPS to develop a Google Drive so schools can share information.

Cell Phone Policy - Please see SPS website to provide feedback.

Next CoSC meeting in January 2025. Please submit Agenda items to

sc-chair.pk@spschools.org

5.4 SPS Policy Review - Saeed Ahmad

SPS Board solicits feedback from School Councils on a continuous basis.

September: Minor grammatical edits were made to the following policies:

1 - Staff Development

2 - Advertising by External Agencies

For the policy on Campaigning and Division Sites, “school events are not to be used a political platforms” was added. This was in response to ongoing conflicts/wars currently occurring around the world.

October: Policies under review include:

1- Cell Phones - a detailed draft policy is under review and parents can look on the SOS web stie to provide feedback by December 5, 2024.

2- Welcoming School Environments - grammatical edits.

3- Anti-Racism - grammatical edits.

4- Trustee Reimbursement - no change to existing policy.

Policies can be viewed on the SPS website

<https://www.spschools.org/board-governance/policy-manual> and parents can feedback provided through PK School Council Chairs at: sc-chair.pk@spschools.org or via any Trustee or the Superintendent’s office.

6.0 Trustee Report - John Allen

In addition to the policies under review (as mentioned) the SPS Mission Vision is also under review.

4-Year Education Plan - Board to determine any need to adjust our focus.

SPS Bid for new schools: 300+ additional students yearly means that new schools are needed on a consistent basis every 3 years. SPS has been advocating to the city and province for years about its plight, but historically priorities have not aligned. The northeast is the most desirable location for a new high school. SPS is growing faster than the city itself. St. Albert does not currently have shovel-ready sites large enough for a high school and this is a requirement of the Alberta government to qualify for the rapid-build funding announced. Parents are encouraged to advocate to the city and province for new schools in St. Albert. Most schools will go to Edmonton and Calgary. Trustee Kristi Rouse will be managing media communications for new school advocacy and you will notice her presence in the Gazette on a regular basis.

Friends of SPS: New fundraising trust established so it will be easier for supporters to make donations. Prior, donors were referred to individual schools and this hindered follow-through with contributions. This is wonderful news that was 3 years in the making!

Vandalism/Insurance: Though vandalism has decreased since the end of the pandemic, it exists on a small-scale throughout the division in every school. SPS has to pay from its budget to remedy acts of vandalism. Insurance deductibles are enormous so unless large scale damages, SPS must budget for this. Eg. PK insurance deductible is approximately

\$7500! SPS insurance is combined with other districts to afford better rates. There will be a report coming in the new year about our insurance costs.

AI Committee: focus on “deep fakes” and cyber-security.

Student Advocacy: 3 students from each highschool and middle school were invited to speak candidly with Trustees about policies such as cell phones and anti-racism.

Fall AGM: Focus on communication with various levels of government about SPS needs.

Alberta School Board Association: Topics discussed were the sex-ed opt in (SPS opposed to this change); vaping. Dale Nally is the minister responsible if parents want to connect about these, or any topic affecting St. Albert and SPS.

The next public SPS Board meetings will be November 27 and December 18, 2024 and January 22, 2025. Please see the SPS website for more information about public Board meetings and how to attend/participate:

https://www.spschools.org/board-governance/meetings?search_request=meetings&keywords=board%20highlights&page=1

Parent question: What is SPS doing to create awareness about AI/deep fakes?

JA: Currently developing policy.

ES: AI is changing so fast. Focus on teaching critical thinking/how to discern real vs AI generated information. High school is a hot bed for inappropriate sharing online and it is an ongoing concern.

IA: This could be a topic for the ASCE grant!

TK: Yes. How to help kids regulate online activity and how to help a child who has shared inappropriately, or is the victim of inappropriate sharing/deep fake/AI.

JA: I will forward contact information to PK administration re: Ethical AI for possible ASCE grant presentation for families/parents.

(Board Highlights attached)

7.0 Clubs/Activities/Student Union - Paul Shamchuk

While not a comprehensive list, here are some highlights!

PK Student Union (PKSU) Activities October 17-November 20:

Oct.30: “Micro-station” Hallowe’en activities around the school (crafts, trivia, picture matching game, candy in a jar guessing game, spin the prize wheel, animated film viewing). This was very well received by our students!

Oct 31: Candy giveaway to all students in Block 2; costume contest!

Event review with PKSU students, PKSU room clean-up!

Upcoming Events:

Nov.22nd - Concert/rock star T-Shirt Day, lunch concert in the music room!

December - 12 Days of Christmas Trivia, gingerbread house making competition, PK

Dec.19th - PK Unplugged Concert 6:30-10pm! Will be a come and go format with 2 teacher bands also performing - will be the 20th Anniversary of the teacher band!

Other Club/Grad Activities (not a comprehensive list)

Change for the Planet - Food Drive October 21-31st: Block 1 class competition - **765 lbs** of food and **\$150** collected for the St. Albert Food Bank!

Grad Bake Sale was held Oct 21-25th

Grad Senior Theme Day Nov 15 - Canadian Tuxedo! Photo taken for the yearbook!

GAMES NIGHT FUNDRAISER NOV 29th from 5:30-10pm! ALL families and ALL grades are invited to attend. Admission \$5 (\$3 with PK Student ID), cash only. There will be a cash-only concession, including pizza! This was a huge success last year that included some surprisingly competitive Bingo!

8.0 Student Representative Report - Sawyer Bishop

School Council welcomed Sawyer as PK Student Representative. She will plan to provide a report at our January meeting!

9.0 Administrator Report - Erin Steele

1. Remembrance Day - went well with grades 10 and 12 in the gym.
2. Celebration of Excellence - wonderful evening Nov 14 for 2024 grade 12 grad recipients. Grades 10 and 11 received acknowledgments during the day on Nov 15.
3. Cell Phone Policy - being discussed by staff and tailored to PK needs.
4. ELAA
 - a. 15 post secondary visited
 - b. was in the newsletter and parents were welcome to attend.
5. Grad Photos
 - a. sittings are now open online
 - b. Grad ticket sales will be online this year for the first time (information will be sent out) and should improve convenience with this process.
6. Ed Plan commentary will be provided to SPS.
7. Blues block next year... moving it to block 1 as kids find it hard to focus at the end of the day. Discipline issues occur primarily during Blues Block.
8. Traffic study - forthcoming and thank you to Saeed Ahmad and PK School Council for submitting concerns! We will summarize and share the study results.
9. Vape sensors - They are coming to PK. Federal stats now estimate around 60% of kids from every background vape! For perspective, when parents were in high school, roughly 20% of students smoked. These stats are alarming. PK will continue to fight for kids health. Parent education plays a role as many don't believe vaping is a health hazard.
10. Pd days - moving to full day vs. ½ day worked extremely well and was well-received by staff and administration.
 - a. Next PD day is Dec1
 - b. January- topic will be assessment.

10.0 Ongoing/Unfinished Business

10.1 School Trips - Suzanne Morton

Question: Any updates about possible school trip for French Immersion?

ES: It has been brought up to FI staff. It is still a topic they are discussing. The Japan trip went very well. Ski Trip to Panorama at end of January. Planning another trip to New York City next year.

10.2 Grad 2025 - Erin Steele

Mr. Horb will continue to release details as they become available. Booking now open for Grad photos/cap&gown fittings. Students can book through Google Classroom.

10.3 PK fundraising Society Update - no report.

10.4 PK Website/PK Athletics Website/social media communication - Suzanne Morton
Question/comment: PK Athletics info on Instagram was great at the beginning of the year but last month or so, not keeping up with activities: Has something happened? The dedicated website for athletics is now pretty much obsolete.

ES: There was a change in who was managing the Instagram page - it used to be me but the Athletics department has tried to take it over. I will follow up and provide this feedback.

10.5 Traffic/safety Concerns

ES: A traffic study is being conducted by SPS with some data provided by the city. This was initiated because of PK School Council's advocacy - congratulations to our School Council for pushing forward these concerns! SPS will summarize the data and present findings. Special thank you to Saeed Ahmad for advocating for student safety.

11.0 New Business

No new business.

12.0 Open Forum

Parent Question: Will Diploma Prep courses be offered for January diploma exams?

ES: Yes! Registration is now open for Diploma Prep. Course location will be at PK this year. See the SPS website for more information (dates/times/course offerings). Payment is available now in Power School under "District Items".

13.0 Next Regular Meeting: January 23, 2025 at 7pm

14.0 Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

John Allen, Chair
Kim Armstrong
Stanley Haroun
Sheyanne Levall-Crouse
Kristi Rouse

October 24, 2024

**Public Board Meeting Highlights – for Trustee Use
from the Public Board meeting of
October 23, 2024**

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The board received as information the St. Albert RCMP Community Policing Program - Year End Report 2023- 2024.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The board received as information a presentation on Camp Unity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The board received as information a report on student enrollment as of September 30, 2024.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The board provided direction to circulate the draft Board Policy X-XX: Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools and the accompanying regulations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The board provided direction to circulate the draft Board Policy A-180, Anti-Racism and the accompanying regulations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The board provided direction to circulate the draft Board Policy B-160, Trustee Honouraria and Expense Reimbursement and the accompanying regulations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The board provided direction to circulate the draft Board Policy A-110, Welcoming, Caring, Respectful, Inclusive and Safe Learning and Working Environments and the accompanying regulations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• That the board received as information the 8.6-billion-dollar capital funding announcement in Alberta schools.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The board approved the division signing authorities to enter into an agreement with the Edmonton Foundation for the establishment of a foundation for St. Albert Public Schools.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The board received as information the 2023-2024 Division Vandalism Report.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The board approved the regular meeting minutes of the September 18, 2024 public board meeting.

• The board received as information the status report for policies/regulations/procedures currently in development.

• The board approved the transfer of \$93,743 from the division office amortization reserve to the division office capital reserve. The amount is to be reflected in the year ended August 31, 2024 financial statements.

• The board received as information a report on the division facilities 2024 summer projects.

• The board approved Trustee Armstrong replacing Trustee Levall-Crouse as the board representative for Lois E. Hole Elementary School for the 2024-2025 school year and Trustee Levall-Crouse replacing Trustee Armstrong as the board representative for Sir Alexander Mackenzie Elementary School for the 2024-2025 school year.

• The board approved additional division student fees for the 2024-2025 school year.

• The board approved the transfer of \$86,949 for Hillgrove School from operating reserves to capital reserves. The amount is to be reflected in the year ended August 31, 2024 financial statements.

• The board approved the transfer of \$82,254 for Paul Kane High School from operating reserves to capital reserves. The amount is to be reflected in the year ended August 31, 2024 financial statements.