

École Secondaire Paul Kane High School
12 Cunningham Road, St. Albert, Alberta, T8N 2E9

School Council Meeting Minutes - October 17, 2024

1. Call to order at 7:12pm - 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), John allen (SPS Trustee), Denise Watson, Threasa Godin, Christine Maloney, Jodie Young, Graeme Aaserud, Allison Overton, Traci Bishop, Fareen Valji, Aida Mustapic, Heather Hansen, Tanya Boutin

2.0 Land Acknowledgement - Erin Steele

We acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 territory—the ancestral and traditional territory of the Cree, Dene, Blackfoot, Saulteaux, Nakota Sioux, as well as the Métis. We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for generations. We are grateful for the traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders who are still with us today and those who have gone before us. We recognize the land as an act of reconciliation and gratitude to those whose territory we reside on or are visiting.

3.0 Approval of Agenda, as amended:

Approved by: Fareen Valji

Seconded by: Traci bishop

4.0 Approval of the September 5, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended:

Approved by: Denise Watson

Seconded by: Heather Hansen

5.0 Chairperson Report

5.1 Tara brought books purchased with last year's ASCE grant money for the new PK Parent Resource Library (located in PK Student Services Office). Any PK parent/guardian may access these resources by connecting with the Student Services Office/Counsellors. A list of available resources is forthcoming.

5.2 SPS Council of School Councils meets next week on October 24th. This is a meeting of all school council Chairs in the district with the SPS Superintendent and trustees. Tara and/or Saeed to attend on behalf of PK School Council.

5.3 Alberta Education School Council (ASCE) Grant - Tara

Remains at \$500. Can be used for ASCA Workshops, for parents to attend conferences approved by ASCE criteria/School Council, presentations for parents. Anyone with suggestions or ideas can e-mail sc-chair.pk@spschools.org

The Executive will consider sending out a parent survey again this year.

5.4 ASCA Update - none at this time.

6.0 Trustee Report - John Allen

Alberta School Board Association meeting: There is no guidance around AI at this time and a new committee will be formed to study the effects of AI on schools. SPS was the first to discuss AI in a September 2024 report focusing on AI innovation and how AI can positively influence schools.

The first SPS Board meeting took place on September 18, 2024. Approval of finances; policy review (ongoing throughout the year). SPS and other school boards met with Minister of Education Demetrios Nicolaides to learn about the increased funding for schools announced by Alberta Education. SPS will not know until March 2025 if receiving any funding for new schools in St. Albert. PK is 96% full. Bellerose nearing capacity after modernization complete. SPS is working with the City of St. Albert and sister Boards to determine where new schools might be built. SPS is hoping for a new school in Cherot. SPS as a whole grew by 13%. Engagement with stakeholders will occur re: cell phone/personal devices/Safe and Welcoming Schools policies.

Evaluation of the SPS Superintendent by Trustees will take place at the end of this month (occurs annually).

There is a general meeting of public school boards in Calgary today to discuss possibilities for new school sites in the province.

The next public SPS Board meeting will be October 23, 2024. 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

Discussion:

Erin Steele mentioned that PK is also developing a staff committee on AI.

Parent question: Are there no current policies on AI?

JA: Yes, there are many policies circulating within North America, but SPS was the first to develop guidelines (ahead of both the provincial and federal governments).

Parent question: What is the criteria for new government funding distribution?

JA: It will be based on occupancy and growth.

Parent question: So there is 8.3 billion dollars for approximately 90 new schools?

ES: PK cost about \$42 million, now with inflation would cost closer to \$70million.

Parent question: What does the city supply for funding?

JA: The city is responsible for servicing up to the school property line.

ES: Allocation of PPP (public/private/partnerships) may play a role.

JA: This is something that will be discussed at CoSC.

TK: Call for anyone interested in organizing letter-writing campaigns for advocacy issues.

Remember to visit SPS website for more information and Board meeting Minutes.

7.0 Clubs/Activities/Student Union/Sports - Erin Steele

PK Student Union Activities So Far:

August 28: Welcome/orientation assistance and Sundae Bar for incoming grade 10s

August 29: Prizes for grade 11/12's @ assemblies

September 6: Welcome Back BBQ

September 19: Clubs Day – a chance for students to learn about and join clubs in the school

September 27: PKSU kids assisted with the annual Orange Shirt Day walk
October 10: Staff Appreciation – pie and apple cider served in the staff room

PKSU Planning and Upcoming Events

Hallowe'en Activities: Wednesday, October 30 (games and activities) and Thursday, October 31 (costume contest)

Other Club Activities (not a comprehensive list)

Change for the Planet - Food Drive October 21-31st: block 1 class competition

Grad Bake Sale Oct 21-25th - cash only at lunch for all students

Rock Climbing - first climb is this Thursday 17th

Grad Committee did Senior Sunrise Sept. 19th

Sports

PK has about 225 kids in athletics: Curling, Football, Flag football, Volleyball and indoor soccer are some of the things in progress/starting soon! PK Athletics Instagram page is the best source of information about sports activities.

8.0 Student Representative Report - no report/representative not present.

9.0 Administrator Report - Erin Steele

1. Surplus

- a. Last year we had a surplus of \$532 000
- b. Due to provincial rules we were allowed to carry forward \$367 000. This will be changing for next year.
- c. This has been used on staffing, and resources for a growing population
- d. Also used to start up new programs such as esthetics, ceramics and golf.
- e. We have kept our class sizes at reasonable levels. Largest class in the school as per our September 30th count is 35 which is French Chem 30.
- f. We are at the point that every classroom is used every period of the day
- g. We have also started to put money away for a landscaping project for the front of the school

Comment, JA: Schools are mandated to eliminate surpluses (decreasing them to just 3%).

This has now been increased to 6% which is better, but SPS continues to advocate for 8% to account for emergencies.

2. Enrollment

- a. 1540
- b. Which puts us at 96% capacity (full is considered to be 85%)
- c. 230 students on ILP/IPP (15%)
- d. 514 more students than Bellerose
- e. 585 grade 10 students

3. Surveys

- a. Very positive feedback
- b. We have a committee looking at the results
- c. Will be working as a staff on the following:
 - i. Caring/Wellness
 - ii. How do we ensure feedback is considered and valued

4. Diploma Results

- a. Again positive
- b. Keeps up within the top 25% of all high schools in Alberta

- c. There has been lots of discussion at the department meetings
 - d. Need to be data aware over a longitudinal period
 - e. Focus this year is the Social Studies department
 - f. 89% of our students qualified for the Rutherford scholarship
 - g. 85% of our students write 3(+) Dips compared to the Province at 65%
 - h. Drop out rate is 1.2% which is half the Provincial Average
5. Continue to work on assessment
 - a. Aligning school assessment with district policy
 6. Cell Phone Policy
 - a. District will need to have one in place by January 1st
 - b. School will need to develop their own policy
 - c. Work on this will begin on the November 1st PD day
 7. Parent Teacher interviews
 - a. October 22nd and 23rd
 - b. Information is available on our website at pkhs.spschools.org.
Appointment bookings for the October evenings will open on October 14th and will remain open until October 22nd. Follow the link to our Parent/Teacher Bookings page on our website to book your 10 minute appointment.
 8. PK Haunted House Presented by PK CTS department
 - a. We have invited elementary 'feeder' schools
 - b. Building community
 - c. Oct. 30th and 31st in the afternoon
 9. Celebration of Excellence
 - a. Thursday November 14th 7:00 pm for 2024 PK Grads
 - b. Over \$40K in school based scholarships are awarded
 - c. Friday November 15th Block 1 for current grade 11 and 12
 10. Grad Meeting
 - a. Was held last week.
 - b. Theatre was full
 - c. Mr. Horb did a great job discussing all the details
 11. Japan Trip - 24 students, 3 staff November 4-13.
 12. Remembrance Day Ceremony Nov 8th - 9:45 - 10:45 am
 - a. Grades 10 and 12 in the gym. Grade 11's in their classroom. Found that live-streaming to all grades last year did not "feel right". We are unable to have all grades in the gym safely and so will be live-streamed to grade 11s.
 13. Diploma Exams - November 2024
 - a. Offering diploma exam writing for ELA 30-1/30-2, Math 30-1/30-2 and Social 30-1/30-2 for Paul Kane and Outreach students
 - b. October 28-November 5
 14. Final Exams - January 2025
 - a. Schedule is posted on the website
 15. Food Drive October 21-31

10.0 Ongoing/Unfinished Business

10.1 PK fundraising Society Update - no report.

10.2 Parent engagement/Advocacy - Erin Steele

We will be looking at parent mini-conferences supported by PK School Counsellors again this year.

10.3 School Trips - Suzanne Morton

Question: Have the ski trip dates been adjusted to accommodate grade 12 diploma exams?

ES: Unfortunately we were unable to schedule around the Science 30 diploma exam.

Question: Follow up from last year: Have the French Immersion teachers been consulted about the possibility of a trip for FI kids this year?

ES: It has been brought up to FI staff and I will see if there is any updated information.

11.0 New Business

11.1 Traffic Flow - Saeed Ahmad

Question: I am wondering what if anything is being considered regarding the traffic congestion at the front entrance and on Cunningham Road?

ES: Traffic safety is always being monitored and looked at. Please email any specific issues to me so we have parent concerns in writing to use in follow-up.

12.0 Open Forum

Parent Question: There is no direction from the government re: cell phones?

JA: We have been given approximately 70% of the information needed to incorporate a final policy. This is due January 2025.

ES: PK will examine the definition of "instructional time". For example, some schools (eg. Bellerose) forbid ALL personal devices in schools, including chrome books, meaning students must use only school-provided devices. This is very strict and may be cost-prohibitive as we simply cannot afford to outfit every student with a school supplied device.

Parent Question: Will PK be ordering more textbooks in a timely manner? Especially for Math 30-1 as there are not enough for all students.

ES: More have been ordered for math, physics and science. These books used to be available online, but, with the cellphone and personal device policy dropped by the government, this is no longer an option.

JA: SPS actually sent textbook bills to the government after the cell phone policy dropped as ANY personal devices, including chrome books/ipads are no longer permitted in schools. Many parents are confused about what is/is not permitted. Each school will determine what level of personal devices are permitted.

Parent Question: Will PK ever have standardized teacher assessments?

ES: No. Teaching staples differ. Every test has extra time built in. Some departments can never achieve standardized assessment by virtue of the subject matter.

Parent Question: Will PK School Council consider having hybrid meetings? Some other schools do it. Makes it easier to attend, especially in winter.

ES: We can try it using Google Meet.

13.0 Next Regular Meeting: November 21, 2024 at 7pm

14.0 Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm