

École Secondaire Paul Kane High School
12 Cunningham Road, St. Albert, Alberta, T8N 2E9
School Council Meeting Minutes - February 20, 2025

1. Call to order at 7:00pm - Saeed Ahmad

Meeting Attendance: Saeed Ahmad (Co-Chair), Tara Kwasney (Co-Chair), Suzanne Morton (Secretary), Erin Steele (Principal), John Allen (SPS Trustee), Denise Watson, Corinne Jewell, Christina Shoults, Christine Maloney, Marwa Elmorshady
Regrets: Michael Ng (teacher), Paul Shamchuk (teacher), Traci Bishop (Vice Chair), Sawyer Bishop (Student Representative)

2.0 Land Acknowledgement - Erin Steele

3.0 Approval of Agenda, as amended:

Approved by: Suzanne Morton

Seconded by: Tara Kwasney

4.0 Approval of the January 23, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended:

Approved by: Tara Kwasney

Seconded by: Suzanne Morton

5.0 Chairperson Report

Tara reports that the School Resource Officer (SRO) will be presenting on substance abuse this spring to PK, Bellerose and grade 8 and 9 feeder schools. This is separate from the ASCE grant. Details forthcoming.

Saeed attended the SPS Stakeholders Workshop on February 13th. The topics focused on the principles of inclusion and diversity. Feedback from parents, students, and SPS staff will help guide the Board with policy development.

S.A.: Does our division study how it compares to other public schools (ie. in Edmonton) when it comes to diversity and inclusion?

J.A.: I will take this question forward to the Board/Superintendent.

5.1 ASCE Grant - Tara Kwasney

PK will combine with Bellerose for presentations by Saffron Centre. Date will be in May.

Tara will also speak with Mrs. Reed about adding to the parent resource library. We may also use \$100 toward the ASCA Annual Conference. (see item 5.2 on the Agenda)

Parent Question: Where is the Parent Resource Library? Is there a list of the items available?

T.K.: It's located in the Student Services Office. We have the available books listed on the parent Facebook page. Maybe we could include the list on the PK website?

E.S.: We will add it to the Blues Newsletter and also to the PK website. Parents have been accessing the resources.

5.2 ASCA Update - Tara Kwasney

ASCA Annual Conference and AGM will be completely virtual this year and School Councils can register as a group for a half-day event on April 26th, with the link being available to any parent who wishes to attend! The fee is approximately \$100 and this is a welcome change as the conference is now more accessible to all interested parents. Deadline for registration is April 14, 2025. PK Executive will obtain the ASCA Advocacy Resolutions to circulate to parents in advance of discussion at our April Regular Meeting, so that our representative (TBD) at the AGM on April 27th can vote accordingly. Parents can access the conference brochure on the ASCA website:

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/annual-conference>

6.0 Student Representative

Sawyer sends her regrets as unable to attend this evening, but has submitted the following report:

I gathered some opinions from Paul Kane students about how the Blues Block will be moved to first block next year. The opinions I received were practically all the same:

"It has to be the last block" - Grade 10 student

"I would just sleep in, plus it doesn't make sense for it to be first" - Grade 10 student

"It makes more sense to keep it to the last block since you're caught up in your classes and know what confuses you in that lesson and can get help" - Grade 11 student

"Heck yeah! I will get more sleep!" - Grade 11 student

That is just some of the few replies I received to the question of "What do you think about having Blue's Block moved to the first block of the day next year?"

Having Blue' Block in the first period won't be as productive, as stated in this article by The Baltimore Sun: "Simply put, a teenager's brain is not ready to learn at 6 a.m. That's why it is typical for teenagers to sleep late on the weekends. Their brains' development time does not start until 10 or 11 in the morning." So, having students who are already tired in the morning do work before classes even start and then having them go to classes straight after isn't the greatest idea. Such as, what happens to the students who work the night before who are more tired than most?

It's understandable that you don't like having to police students who linger in the hallways waiting for pick-up or waiting for the buses but that problem will stay no matter what time you place Blue's Block. Possibly even get worse as students will find ways to skip if they have no work or don't want to go at that given time. Though, if you force lingering students into classrooms who either have no work to do or just don't want to work, it'll distract and disrupt the atmosphere of the students and teacher(s) who want to work and help within the classrooms.

Reference link:

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/2013/03/15/teenage-brains-dont-work-before-10-am-2/>

Most parents agreed with Sawyer's submitted report and Mr. Steele appreciated this feedback, which he will take forward to the next administrator/staff meetings.

7.0 Clubs/Activities/Student Union - Erin Steele

Mr. Shamchuk submitted the following report:

PKSU students are learning to set up events. Hearts on the Wall took place on Valentine's Day. Iftar event being held March 12. More events to come in April!

Mr. Ng submitted the following report and invitation to School Council regarding the Iftar event:

As part of our school's values of Relationships, Engagement, and Equity, I have been formally involved with our Muslim student-led Ramadan Committee this year to bring further awareness to educate and celebrate Ramadan, which will take place next month. We have a number of student-led activities each week. Our annual Iftar Dinner Event will take place on March 12th, 7-9pm. This event has been so wonderful every year at our school. We would like this event to grow even more in our school community. We would like to invite you, colleagues, administrators, District office, Trustees, and our City Mayor and councilors to attend. The students and their families would appreciate it if you are able to join them for dinner and to know them more!

7.1 Sports Report - Erin Steele

Basketball is ending soon and our Juniors are doing well! Soccer season is done. Curling teams finished with a silver medal. Badminton, Running Room Games training have started. Lots coming in spring including outdoor soccer and rugby!

8.0 Administrator Report - Erin Steele

PK Wellness Centre:

Open every morning and all kids are using it. Activities include beading, quilting, smudging.

D.E.L.F. Exam:

French Immersion parent meeting February 18th at 6:30pm. Successfully completing this exam affords students an internationally recognized certificate of French language proficiency. PK subsidises the in-house cost of the exam (\$100/student versus \$300 cost of writing elsewhere in Edmonton). There will be 4 study/preparation sessions for these students held during Blue's Block. The exam takes place on April 7th.

Activities next week:

Hockey, golf and soccer academies will have Open Houses and grade 9 parent night takes place on February 26th.

Stakeholders Workshop:

February 13th. 4 parents and 3 students from PK attended. Change takes time. SPS starting the conversation about inclusion and diversity. PK is taking positive steps such as supporting the African Students Association, the Iftar event on March 12th, and events like Taste of Kane.

Blue's Block Next Year:

Moving it to first block on Wednesdays. There will no longer be early dismissal on Wednesdays. The Calendar is now posted on the SPS website.

Parent/Teacher Interviews:

March 19th from 5-8pm

March 20th 3-6pm

Details will be in the end of February newsletter. We are trying 2 different times based on parent feedback.

PK Open House:

March 6. School Council will have a table.

Diploma Rewrites:

Take place in April and June. Students must register with Mrs. Lajoie.

Amphitheatre:

An amphitheatre is being constructed in the park out front of PK this summer!

9.0 Trustee Report - John Allen

John Allen wrote a letter to the Gazette and to the City advocating for a new high school and middle schools in St. Albert. Meeting planned with next City Council meeting for discussion about a new K-9 school. There is no alternative for a site-ready high school at present. Minister Nally supports SPS and has connected with the City about this predicament. MLA Renaud also supports SPS in this endeavor. Minister of Education Nicolaidis has also written to the City in support of a high school site being readied ASAP. SPS has been granted a seven million dollar exception to add to its' reserve for upgrades to Bellerose and to account for incidentals.

(Please also see Board Highlights from January 22, 2025 attached to these Minutes)

10.0 Ongoing/Unfinished Business

10.1 Grad 2025

Grad student assembly was held February 19th, and the next grad parents meeting will be on March 11th at 6pm. The grad garage sale will be held on May 9 and 10th.

11.0 New Business

11.1 The Registration Lottery - Suzanne Morton

S.M.: How do AP and French Immersion fit into the registration lottery, as these programs are not offered at Bellerose?

E.S.: Group 1 is SPS feeder schools. They do offer IB at Bellerose so that could be a comparable program. PK is the only site for high school FI and we want to keep this program so will look at numbers coming from SPS FI programs first, then groups 2 and 3. While there are technically no catchment areas in St. Albert, those living in neighbourhoods in close proximity to PK will be a consideration. There will be an increase in limits re: those from outside of St. Albert (ie. Edmonton and Sturgeon County) but allowances for students in feeder schools.

11.2 Student Parking

Parent Question: The parking lot often seems like there is lots of space available. Can new drivers park there?

E.S.: No. Not without a parking pass. There is overflow parking available at the Outreach School. Kids can ask in the office if any passes are available but they may not park in the

parking lot without a pass and this has sometimes become a problem - so much so that we are considering ticketing (\$85 fine). Parking priority is first to grade 12s as they are more likely to require a vehicle for RAP, work, sports and alternative schedules.

12.0 Open Forum

Parent Question DW: Re: Diversity and Inclusion: The Black African and African Descendent's Club of St. Albert is aware of the Black Students Association at PK, and would like to offer their assistance with presentations and events, but haven't received replies to their inquiry from the school.

ES: I will look into it.

Parent Question SA: Does PK have a prayer room?

M.E/E.S.: Yes! It is in the yoga studio and it is complete with prayer mats!

13.0 Next Regular Meeting: April 17, 2025 at 7pm

14.0 Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

January 27, 2025

**Public Board Meeting Highlights – for Trustee Use
from the Public Board meeting of
January 22, 2025**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board received as information the Quarterly Financial Report for the three months ended November 30, 2024.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board received as information the 2023-2024 Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) Funding Final Cost Report.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board provided direction to circulate the draft Board Policy E-140, Field Trips and the accompanying regulations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board provided direction to circulate the draft Administration Regulations E-610-AR, Class Sizes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board provided direction to circulate the draft Board Policy G-100, School Councils and the accompanying regulations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board approved the minutes of the regular meeting held December 18, 2024 be approved as circulated.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board received as information the status report for policies/regulations/procedures currently in development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board approved Joseph M. Demko School's fee request.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board adopted Board Policy F-160, Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools and the accompanying regulations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board adopted Board Policy A-180, Anti-Racism and the accompanying regulations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board adopted Board Policy A-110, Welcoming, Caring, Respectful, Inclusive and Safe Learning and Working Environments and the accompanying regulations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board provided direction to administration for the preparation of the final draft of Board Policy D-120, Administrative Staff Appointments and Transfers and the accompanying regulations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board provided direction to administration for the preparation of the final draft of Board Policy D-170, Board Recognition Programs and the accompanying regulations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board provided direction to administration for the preparation of the final draft of Administration Regulation C-700-AR, Video Surveillance.