

**École Secondaire Paul Kane High School**  
**12 Cunningham Road, St. Albert, Alberta, T8N 2E9**  
**School Council Meeting Minutes - May 15, 2025**

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

**Meeting Attendance:** Saeed Ahmad (Co-Chair), Tara Kwasney (Co-Chair), Suzanne Morton (Secretary), Erin Steele (Principal), Paul Shamchuk (teacher), Jodie Young, Christina Shoults, Christine Maloney, Marwa Elmorshady, Corinne Jewell, Marion Johnson  
**Regrets:** John Allen

**2.0 Land Acknowledgement - Erin Steele**

I respectfully acknowledge that I live, work and play in Treaty 6 territory, and I am grateful for this opportunity. This is the traditional land for many Indigenous Peoples whose histories, languages, and cultures positively influence communities. These lands are home to the Cree, Dene, Saulteaux, Assiniboine, Nakoda Sioux, Niisitapi, Métis, Inuit and other Indigenous Peoples. I am grateful for the traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders who are with us today and to those who have gone before us. This acknowledgement of the land and the people of the land is an act of reconciliation, an expression of gratitude to those whose territory I reside on, and a symbol of my commitment to do my part in building more equitable and just communities

**3.0 Approval of Agenda, as presented:**

Approved by: Tara Kwasney

Seconded by: Marwa Elmorshady

**4.0 Approval of April 17, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented:**

Approved by: Christine Maloney

Seconded by: Christina Shoults

**5.0 Chairperson Report**

Tara reports that about 50 parents (from both PK and Bellerose) attended the Saffron presentation on May 5th. Saffron has a new office in St. Albert. Handouts were sent to attendees and anyone may see the Saffron website for multiple resources. We may not be able to schedule the 2nd Saffron presentation before the end of June as they are currently completely booked. We are still trying to arrange the School Resource Officer (SRO) presentation on substance abuse this spring to PK, Bellerose and grade 8 and 9 feeder schools.

**5.1 ASCE Grant - Tara Kwasney**

In addition to the Saffron presentation (cost shared with Bellerose), we also used \$100 for the ASCA Annual AGM and Conference. We still have some money remaining.

**VOTE:**

After group discussion, rather than forfeit remaining ASCE grant funds, the parents present unanimously voted to pass a motion proposed by Tara and seconded by Suzanne, to use the remaining ASCE grant bonus to purchase more resources for the Parent Resource Library.

## **5.2 ASCA Update - Suzanne Morton**

Please see Suzanne's submitted report at the end of these Minutes. PK Executive will obtain more information about the ASCA Professional Development Pass next year!

## **6.0 Student Representative - no report submitted.**

## **7.0 Clubs/Activities/Student Union - Paul Shamchuk**

While not a comprehensive list, here are some highlights of activities at PK!

### PKSU:

April 23: Support/Admin Staff Appreciation - plants, dinner and treats for staff!

April 25: Jersey Day (first Oilers home game/play-offs). We are convinced this initiative was the catalyst for the Oilers to start winning!

May 5: Bus Driver appreciation Day - PKSU assembles treat bags and gifts for our drivers!

### Upcoming:

May 23: Year end BBQ (Hosted by SAGA and PKSU)

May 28: Custodian Appreciation Dinner

June 6: Bring Your Own Banana Day - ice cream event!

Staff Appreciation

SU Room cleanup!

### CLUB/Grad Activities:

Pride Week May 20-23

Grad Theme Week June 3-6 - always great!

Cap/gown distribution June 3 - take the opportunity to take photos before the big day!

Rehearsal also June 3

Parent Question: Will they be supplying lawn signs to grads this year:

ES: I really don't know! I will ask Mr. Horb. That was started in Covid as there really was no other celebration. As we are trying to save costs, not sure this will continue.

## **7.1 Sports Report - Erin Steele**

Rugby, slo-pitch and soccer currently running! Track and Field: 40 athletes qualified for city finals next week! Golf team helped out a stranded family with a flat tire in Bowden on the way home from a tournament! Athletics is not about winning, it's about belonging and being involved!

## **8.0 Administrator Report - Erin Steele**

1. One of our 4 shows, written and composed by Hannah Adamson and Jorgia Sorenson, won the zone competition and advanced to the provincial festival. There, they won the award for Outstanding Achievement of a New Work, and Mackie Sutor won for best performance of an actor. The students were also acknowledged for their professionalism and theatre etiquette
2. Valedictorian is Kerris Johnson.
3. Taste of Kane was another great event to celebrate diversity
4. Feather and Sash teachings with a feast for Indigenous students and families was tonight with PK Culinary Arts students providing an amazing meal!
5. Fine Arts Night held last night - again PK Culinary catered.
6. Ceramics Show and Sale will be held May 22.
7. Rock and pop final performances next week!

8. June PD day we will start our strategic planning for next year as a staff. PK cell phone policy to be finalized.
9. A landscaping contract has been awarded and an amphitheatre in front of the school will be constructed this summer. It will have seating for 40 and can be used by classrooms!
10. Grad is Saturday June 7th! Diploma prep courses available through SPS website.
11. PK has stable staffing for the first time in 7 years so all teachers will continue next year.

**9.0 Trustee Report** - John Allen sends his regrets. SPS Board Highlights submitted and attached to these Minutes.

## **10.0 Ongoing/Unfinished Business**

### **10.1 Grad 2025**

Grad ticket sales had a bit of a glitch as our bank was not prepared for such a surge in purchasing so, they shut down ticket sales for a short time to verify no fraud was happening (due to the huge amount of transactions)! We know next year to alert the bank! Otherwise, the app has worked very well!

Parent Comment: There was talk about families wanting to sponsor grads who could not attend due to finances.

ES: Mr. Horb is managing this and may be contacted directly.

Parent Question: Do we know how much money was raised at the Grad Garage Sale?

ES: No numbers back yet! It was busier on Friday. The BBQ and Bake Sale were very successful!

**11.0 New Business** - no new business.

### **12.0 Open Forum**

Thank you all around the table! School Council Co-Chair Tara Kwasney thanked the PK Administration for its support of parents through the School Council and extended appreciation to the parents who attended meetings this year, as well as to Suzanne for her role as Secretary. Much appreciation to Co-Chair Saeed Ahmad who will no longer be at PK after this year's graduation. Thank you very much to teachers Mr. Shamchuk and Mr. Ng for frequently attending our meetings. Mr. Steele thanked the School Council for all they have done this year at PK to help maintain a transparent relationship between the school and parents.

**13.0 Next Regular Meeting**: Tentatively scheduled for September 11, 2025 at 7pm

**14.0 Adjournment**: Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm

## **ASCA Annual Conference and AGM April 26&27, 2025 - Report by Suzanne Morton**

Minister of Education Demetrios Nicolaides - Opening Remarks

1) Alberta will be moving from a 3 year to a 2 year WMA (weighted moving average) funding model based on significant stakeholder feedback to help fast growing districts and help maintain smaller rural districts.

New funding for auxiliary staff (to address classroom complexity), school maintenance and IT upgrades.

2) Role of School Councils: Research shows that S.C.s/parent engagement improves student outcomes in all areas.

D.N. wants to support parent voices through S.C. with an increase in opportunities for engagement coming (eg. surveys)

Q: about Alberta having the lowest per student funding in Canada.

D.N.: That data is roughly 5 years old and no longer relevant given new funding announcements. Budget 2025 demonstrates a strong commitment by Govt to strengthen education in Alberta. There will be a large deficit because of the trade war with the US but this will not take away from commitments to education.

Q: Return to reporting of class sizes?

D.N.: Govt recognizes complex/inclusion needs in schools. That initiative ran from 2017-2019 and was cancelled as not effective. It is up to schools to budget for individual student needs.

Q: Re: Parent Feedback - parent feedback did not seem to be included in curriculum development.

D.N.: First thing I did as Minister of Education was to survey parents. Feedback stated that critical thinking, history, govt & politics in social studies curriculum be rebuilt and we are doing this. Cell phone use survey - participation from parents/stakeholders: Govt very impressed by the level of parent engagement on the topic of curriculum redevelopment.

Q: Rolling out the new curriculum in chunks as resulted in gaps in knowledge.

D.N.: AbEd cognizant of these gaps in sequencing between JH and HS. JH math and SS is the current focus.

3) Teacher Hiring/Retention

Looking for ways to certify teachers in a faster way and move other non-certified staff into an education stream. Bridge funding for those not working in teaching to obtain their certification (eg. experts in specialty areas (eg. mechanics, other trades - moving those experts into teacher careers so as to increase access in their own communities.)

Mental Health - govt consulting with UofA to determine where to delegate supports.

Note that the Alberta Professional Learning Consortium ([APLC.ca](https://www.aplc.ca)) offers many parent education sessions/resources for free. Topics including mental health and wellness, curriculum on demand and live webinars for parents and teachers.

I attended Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe's presentation on Resilience and it was very good. We have one of her books in the parent resource library and she has a podcast for parents to check into.

I attended a breakout session by Jo Phillips and it provided an interesting take on the new cell phone policy: Parents like it but it has driven social media use issues further underground!

There is no longer time to talk about bullying and inappropriate cell phone use during the school day. IG use is up and this is concerning as there are few moderation tools (eg. not differentiation between reels for kids and adults). Kids feel parents use IG more inappropriately and kids feel like IG/devices continue to "steal time" from the parent-child relationship. Kids express concern over adult safety online. IG is the LEAST safe platform for kids to be on. Adults should NEVER be posting about our kids on IG in particular. IG identification should be "cryptic" and not be linked to other platforms.

TikTok continues to be one of the safer options for social media viewing as they have more integral safe viewing algorithms and safety settings.

Jo Phillips also gave a keynote on Resilience that was very good.

I attended a talk on AI which I found a little overwhelming and a little boring/over my head with my take away being: Jobs in computer programming and accounting will no longer be viable careers in the future as these (and other math-based) jobs are the easiest to automate with AI, with low-level programmers already being replaced by AI.

### **ASCA AGM**

Delegates present: 100 carrying an additional 15 proxy votes.

I hung in for 10h 45 mins! (8am-6:45pm) They were attempting to wrap things up when I left.

Results of resolutions may be found on the ASCA website.

ASCA continues to suffer financially due to lack of grant access from the Ab govt. Despite this, membership fees remain unchanged for next year. (most districts cover the \$125 fee). Membership grew last year despite raising fees from \$100 to \$125. ASCA members will continue to receive discounted services (ie. current workshops/support about School Council).

### **NEW!!! ASCA Pass for Professional Development**

Created based on feedback from school councils about use of the ASCE grant: how difficult it can be to find decent presenters for \$500; time consuming for school council volunteers for only a few parents attending workshops.

With the Pass, there is access to monthly presentations (online) that will continue to be available 24/7 if unable to attend live. First month is free to try and then we would get an invoice in October 2025 for the year. See the ASCA website for details!

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/school-councils/access-pass-faqs>

You Tube Summary of ASCA Pass:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeUaqaAF48w>

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

**April 22, 2025**  
**Public Board Meeting Highlights – for Trustee Use**  
**from the Public Board meeting of**  
**April 16, 2025**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board received as information a report outlining the key initiatives of the financial services team.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board received as information the quarterly financial report for the six months ended February 28, 2025.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board differed authorizing the Chair of the Board, together with the Superintendent of Schools, to sign the School Site Joint Use and Planning Agreement on behalf of the St. Albert Public Schools Board of Trustees to the May 28, 2025 Public Board meeting.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board receives as information documentation from Lora Pillipow, Deputy Minister of Education, on February 27, 2025, regarding the update to the Provincial Budget 2025-2026.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board received as information the new K - 9 school announcement for St. Albert Public Schools in Chérot.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board received as information the funding announcement for a modular study in St. Albert.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board directed the superintendent to suspend immediately and until further notice any and all student travel into the United States of America.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board directed administration to review and assess the current procurements with entities from, or related to, the United States of America, such as American subsidiaries. The board encourages administration to contract the board's goods and services with Canadian suppliers and other free trade partners, in concert with the procurement guidance from Alberta Education.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board received as information the announcement of additional literacy and numeracy support funding.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board approved the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held March 19, 2025.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board received as information the status report for policies/regulations/procedures currently in development.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board provided direction to administration for the preparation of the final draft of Administration Regulations D-650- AR, Alternate Part-time Teaching Agreements.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board adopted Board Policy E-140, Field Trips and the accompanying regulations.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board adopted Administration Regulations E-610-AR, Class Sizes.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board adopted Board Policy G-100, School Councils and the accompanying regulations.</li> </ul>