

Kate Andrews High School Parent Council Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2021

Following AGM, via Google Meets

Present: Sherrie Duda, Diane Gallagher, Scott Godin, Kim Alexander, Daniel Grimes, Sharon Rutledge, Shannon Little, Debbie Laturnus, Megan Curtis, Melody Garner-Skiba, Trisa Thompson, Shauna Pauls, Joanna Meurs

1. **Call to Order** - 7:19 by Sherrie Duda
2. **Welcome and Introductions**
3. **Additions/Adoption of Agenda** - Melody made motion to accept agenda. 2nd by Diane. Carried.
4. **Adoption of Minutes**
 - 4.1. Megan made motion to accept minutes from May 5, 2021. 2nd by Trisa.
5. **Business Arising from Minutes** - none
6. **Reports**
 - 6.1. **Trustee Report** - Sharon Rutledge - see attached
 - 6.2. **Principal's Report** - Daniel Grimes

This school year has started strong with high morale throughout staff and students. Almost 400 students at KA this year which shows good growth and retention. Staffing is lower this year so some classes are larger. 8 international students are here (or will be soon) from Germany, France, Spain and Chile.

Ms. VanWieren accepted principal position in Champion so new VP at KA - Kim Alexander, and new Learning Support teacher - Analee Hamilton.

New staff to KA this year: Layne Lenhart - grade 9 and 10 science, Serena Klassen - art, media, grade 9 social studies, Kennedy Gurski - LA.

Staff Goals this year: development of Professional Learning Communities (PLC), assessment consistency across teachers and departments, increase academic rigor (learning has suffered since COVID began due to restrictions, online learning, etc), improve mental wellbeing of students and staff.

Issues so far this year - theft (related to TikTok), littering outside of school and students are still struggling with mental health.

Extra-curricular athletics have returned though parents are not permitted to view in school, instead games are live-streamed. School is looking at upgrading video equipment to improve live stream quality.

Megan Curtis asked question re: whether students might be permitted to drive themselves to games this year. Mr. Grimes said he has forwarded this question to Palliser.

Melody inquired why there is lower staffing this year when student numbers have increased. Daniel replied it is due to reduced funding from the government across the province and he may ask Palliser to re-examine this issue.
 - 6.3. **Teacher Rep Report** - Scott Godin (see attached)
 - 6.4. **Student Rep Report** - Joanna Meurs, on behalf of student council

Joanna is reporting as both co-presidents (Kealani Wickend and Josh McNeil) are at volleyball games.

There is a large group for student council this year. So far several activities have been planned and/or have taken place, as outlined in the Teacher's report. Great to see so many interested and involved students from across the grades.

- 6.5. Associate Superintendent Learning Services** - Tom Hamer - Not in attendance and this item can be removed from upcoming agendas

7. Old Business

- 7.1. New School Planning Update** - See Trustee Report

8. New Business

- 8.1. Student Diversity and Culture** - Melody Garner-Skiba

Due to COVID restrictions required over past year and more, opportunities for students to see and engage in diversity have been largely lost. Melody would like to investigate how parents could potentially help admin and staff help students rebuild acceptance and support of student diversity and culture.

Mr Grimes added more information:

Palliser is looking to provide support (lead teacher training) for international students, to improve the experience for them and KA students.

PD priorities include reconciliation and better understanding indigenous youth LGBTQ2S+ - GSA (Gender Sexuality Alliance) is restarting with support from teachers Serena Klassen, Layne Lenhart, Colleen Davies. Seeking empathetic and inclusive staff has been a priority when hiring new teachers. One of the main goals for the GSA is to help educate and provide social support for the school community. Mr. Grimes described some of the other related school goals - continuing to educate students on "bystander effect", working through dialogue in classrooms to help students understand impact of language they use, having students see adults in the school as allies of everyone, instill critical thinking skills, use self-awareness and expect civility.

Melody asked for ideas of how parents/community can support the staff in these areas - ideas included collaboration, newsletter to parents, involving student council.

- 8.2 KA COVID Protocols**

Admin has made conscious decision to be on the lighter side of restrictions this year, when possible. Masks required in all common areas, hallways, moving to and from classes. Students can remove masks when sitting for instruction. Realistically there is no possibility of 2 m spacing in classrooms.

There was a bout of influenza already that affected some teachers and students.

Trying to read the school community to strike a balance of restrictions but still having a sense of normality.

Very few students chose online learning this year.

- 9. KAHS 'Toasts'** - Melody - thank you to Mr. Godin for restarting band and jazz band. Mr. Godin acknowledged a strong commitment from admin for recognizing the importance of offering these opportunities and making them feasible.

Megan - Kudos to Mr. Grimes for arranging live streaming of athletics

Diane - Kudos to all the staff for making a strong effort to make school a better experience for students this year.

Mr. Grimes - Thank you to the new faces at parent council

- 10. Next Meeting Date - Thursday, November 18, 7 pm - virtual**

- 11. Adjournment** - Diane moved to adjourn at 8:34 2nd by Megan. Carried
-

Chairperson, Sherrie Duda

Secretary, Diane Gallagher

KAHS Parent Council Meeting
Sept 23, 2021
Board Report: Trustee Sharon Rutledge

1. Opening Day celebrations (virtual gatherings at schools) were held on Monday Aug 30. Following the humorous and up- lifting presentation by the keynote speaker, Anthony McLean, the afternoon offered breakout sessions for teachers covering topics on numeracy, literacy, wellness, anti-racism, and assessments.

2. Palliser schools' s re-entry plans have changed over the past few weeks due to more AHS restrictions being announced. Parents can contact their childrens' school for the latest update concerning those restrictions.

Alberta has declared to be in a State of Public Health Emergency. As of Sept 21, 2021 Jason Copping was appointed the new Minister of Health replacing Tyler Shandro who is now the Minister of Labour and Immigration.

4. The Coaldale Project is currently underway with the joint school / recreation center groundbreaking event held on Friday Sept 10. Coaldale MLA Grant Hunter on behalf of the Alberta govt, dignitaries and representatives from the Town of Coaldale and the Palliser School Division, celebrated the start of construction on the brand-new joint school and recreational center in Coaldale. (total cost of about \$50 million) Students of the new school will have direct access to the recreation center which is jointly being built with the school.

The new school located on the Northwest side of Coaldale will accommodate 855 students in grades 7-12 and will replace the present KAHS building which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. Palliser has tendered piles as well as some of the foundation work and in October steel will be ordered and the rest of the sub-trades will be tendered. The project completion date is expected in the fall of 2023.

The Palliser School Division thanks MLA Grant Hunter, and Minister of Education Adriana LaGrange for moving this project forward.

Next Board Meeting scheduled for September 28, 2021

School Council Virtual Meeting Thursday 23 September 2021, 7 pm

1. Student Council

- Big group this year!
- We did first Friday Freezies on September 3rd
- Spirit Week September 20-23
- Terry Fox on September 23rd - collected toonies and sold pizza with 100% of profit going toward the Terry Fox Foundation.
- Student Council will continue doing pizza sales every Thursday to generate revenue
- Planning a virtual (live streamed) Remembrance Day Ceremony for November 10th (Thank you to Sherrie Duda and Sharon Rutledge for agreeing to attend).
- Orange Shirt Day will be observed on September 29th as there is no school on the 30th. Student council will be advertising and the Social Studies Department has put together resources for teachers to use.

2. Athletics

- Our grade 9 volleyball tournament is this weekend, kicking off at 1pm on Friday Sept 24, and running through until about 7pm on Saturday. No spectators are allowed, but a live stream will be available of the KA gym through our YouTube channel "Kate Andrews High School TV"
- Our Senior Varsity tournament will run Oct 1st and 2nd, and is a breast cancer awareness tournament. We will be wearing pink in support, with play beginning at noon on Oct 1st and wrapping up around 8pm Saturday. Once again no spectators are permitted, but a live stream will be available.
- Our ladies golf team won bronze at zones on Sept 14th at Taber Golf Club
- Our grade 9 cross country team finished in the top 15 in Lethbridge on Wednesday Sept 22.