

## Kate Andrews School Parent Council Meeting Minutes

April 4th, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

KAHS Conference Room

**Present:** Sherrie Duda (Chairperson), Shannon Little (Vice-Chairperson), Diane Gallagher (Parent), Kim Alexander (Vice Principal), Sharron Rutledge (Palliser Trustee), Amy Morice (Parent), Abby Giacchetta (Student Rep), Scott Godin (Teacher Rep), Daniel Grimes (Principal), Darwin Giacchetta (Parent), Tom Hamer (Deputy Superintendent, Learning Services), Carley Campbell (Secretary).

**Regrets:** Debbie Laturus (Palliser Trustee), Amy Kerr (Parent)

1. **Call Meeting to Order** - at 7:01 p.m. by Sherrie Duda
2. **Welcome and Introductions**
3. **Additions/Adoption of the Agenda**

**Motion** to accept the Agenda as presented.  
1st Amy Morice. 2nd Diane Gallagher. **Carried**

4. **Additions/Adoption of January 24th, 2023 Minutes**

**Motion** to accept the Minutes as presented.  
1st Shannon Little. 2nd Amy Morice. **Carried**

5. **Business Arising from Minutes**

- a. None

6. **Reports**

- a. **Trustee Report** - Sharron Rutledge (see attached #1)
- b. **Principal's Report** - Daniel Grimes (see attached #2)
- c. **Teacher Rep Report** - Scott Godin (see attached #3)
- d. **Student Rep Report** - Abigail Giacchetta (see attached #4)

7. **Old Business**

- a. **New School Update** - Still on track for occupancy next spring. Sherrie will contact head office for a possible tour for the Parent Council at the end of May.
  - i. Will the new school have a new name? Yes. The current site is Kate Andrews and the new school will be renamed and rebranded through an AP process.
  - ii. What is the plan for the current KA school site? The current KA building has been deemed an end of life building. Once students have moved to the new school location, there is a process to determine how the building will be repurposed.
- b. **ASCE (Alberta School Council Engagement) Grant of \$500** - Kim is looking into speakers and will reach out to see if they are available and will coordinate with Sherrie if one is available.

**Motion** to use the ASCE Grant at KAs and Sherrie's discretion

## 8. **New Business**

- a. **Palliser Concerns** - Some concerns from the school community have been brought forward.
  - i. Naming of the new school - There were concerns about not being included in the naming of the new school. Discussions were had in the past that the community would be involved in the naming process - a possible contest or other input, but nothing has been communicated.
  - ii. Questions on why Kate Andrews will not be considered as the name. According to the Palliser AP, the name of a school stays with the building/site. When a school is built on a new location, there will be a renaming of that school.
  - iii. Will Grad pictures and sports banners be relocated to the new school? Unknown.
  - iv. School Colours - will there be input from the community regarding the school colours or will this decision be made without consultation? Unknown.
  - v. Staff changes - concerns that parents were excluded from the conversation of the Principal changes as they have been in the past.
- b. **AB School Council Conference and AGM (April 21-23, 2023)** - Held in Edmonton. Deadline to register is April 14th. Sherrie has details if interested.
- c. **Palliser Council of School Councils Meeting (May 4th, 2023)** - Being held at Palliser Head Office from 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. Sherrie has details if interested.

## 9. **KAHS "TOASTS"**

- a. Toasts to Mr. Grimes from Staff - See Attachment #5
- b. Mr. Godin and the KA band were amazing at the Dessert Concert. Thank you to CMAS for supporting the musical arts programs in Coaldale.
- c. Mrs. McDougall and the drama students for the amazing show! Congratulations on having 3 sold out nights!
- d. KAHS Sports Teams - thank you to the staff for their extra time and hard work this season.
- e. Mrs. Matattal for showing up on a Saturday for the Bio 30 Diploma students and her lovely letters of encouragement.
- f. All KA teachers who go above and beyond the school day to assist their students with essays, diploma prep and extra help.

10. **Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, May 23rd @ 7:00 p.m.

11. **Adjournment:** 8:27 p.m.

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting.

1st. Amy Morice. 2nd Carley Campbell. **Carried**

## **Attachment #1**

Presented by Sharon Rutledge

KAHS Parent Council Meeting

April 04, 2023

Board Highlights from February Meeting

Simon Sorensen, (Technology Services Supervisor), presented the Technology Accountability Report. The tech department is focused on utilizing technology to provide students and staff with tools to ensure high-quality learning.

There are 6,377 Chrome devices in the schools for students, staff and EA's. By using only Chrome devices, it has created an uniform platform for all users making staff and students able to access and correct problems easily.

All schools, as of Aug 2022, have Supernet 2.0 capabilities offering increased band width, all phones installed in Palliser owned buildings now connected by VoIP, ViewSonic Boards are being installed, PA systems being upgraded, along with improved cyber security practices.

The Board reviewed Admin Procedure 549: Inclement Weather and Admin Procedure 555: Bus Transportation and advised Administration to make an update. With the focus on safety, and the temperature at which buses are able to operate, school bus service shall be suspended by the Superintendent, when a temperature of -35 degrees or colder is reached. Previously, the temperature consideration was -40 degrees but has proved to be an unrealistic temperature for the operation of the bus fleet.

For Board information, Administration provided clarification on the expectation of field trips, liability risks, and the Admin Procedures tied to them. Mr. Tom Hamer, Deputy Superintendent, would be glad to attend a Parent Council meeting for further explanation. Board Highlights from March 14, 2023 Meeting The Human Resources Dept. (HR) provides support and services to employee on-boarding, teacher and support staff allocations, employee contracts, workplace investigations, staff evaluations and plays a key role in preparing proposals for the bargaining process with the ATA and CUPE Local 290. The HR Team serves 1,761 employees, (613 certificated staff, 488 support staff, and 660 casual employees including substitute teachers).

The Family School Liaison Counselling (FSLC) team supports students in areas of anxiety, depression, grief and loss, trauma, education issues, peer issues and crisis support. The team has 15 full and part time staff and 4 practicum students. With a Govt

Grant, the division hired a Youth Systems Navigator, 2 Family Systems Navigators and a Consulting Clinical Psychologist.

Palliser, along with five school divisions from southern Alberta, have formed the Southern Alberta Pathways Partnership with Lethbridge College, Career Transitions, local business, and industry partners. This collaborative effort has allowed students to explore potential careers and experience hands-on-learning.

The Board approved the 2023-2026 Capital Plan. Finding a solution for projected overcrowding at Coalhurst Elementary and underutilization at Coalhurst High School is the first priority for Palliser. Next projects are County Central High in Vulcan, and Sunnyside School.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2023.

## **Attachment #2**

Principal's Report - Daniel Grimes

Man of few words.

Looking forward to the new challenges coming next year in the new assignment.

Love KA, the building, the kids. Feels like KA is his school.

People care for the school.

Thank you for the support over the years.

## Attachment #3

Teacher's Report - Mr. Scott Godin

### SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING - Tuesday 4 April 2023, 7pm

- KAHS' Drama Department had a SUPER successful 3-day run of the play I Hate Shakespeare from March 22-24th. Shows were sold out each night and the kids did a wonderful job - congratulations to our wonderful actors and staff contributors (directed by Mrs. McDougall) for a great production!
- McDougall's 10/20/30 drama classes are working on a children's theatre unit and are planning to present their original adaptations to Jennie Emery Students in May.
- Congratulations to both our Senior varsity girls and boys on advancing to provincials in High Level (Girls) and Peace River. The boys lost a nailbiter in the semifinals, ending up with 4th place.
- Badminton is in full swing at KAHS with weekly competitions across Southern Alberta, while both softball and baseball are ready to start up!
- We will be taking a group of 24 grade students to EPIC Day on April 5th. This is an opportunity for them to explore possible industries and careers. The event is held at exhibition grounds
- We will be hosting a post-secondary fair on May 4th from 9-11am. Students from Coaldale Christian, John Davidson and St. Joseph's are invited as well. Before the post-secondary fair, we will have St. Joe's grade 9 students come for a school tour and presentation, as many of them will transition to KA next year. We are also planning a date to head over to RI Baker to speak with incoming students there.
- Planning for the Open House BBQ will be underway soon. Suggestions for a date are welcome! We will once again be asking parents for help in preparing and serving food at the BBQ.
- The 14th annual CMAS Dessert Concert was held Friday, March 31st, 2023 at 6:30pm at the R.I Baker Middle School Gymnasium. The event was sold out and music groups at both RI Baker and Kate Andrews entertained the crowd throughout the evening. The Kate Andrews Concert Band will head to the

Cantando Festival in Edmonton on April 17th to represent the school, culminating with a performance at the prestigious Winspear Centre.

- The Leadership class sold Gourmet Soda's for relief efforts in Turkey and Syria. This was a big hit!
- Two of our students will be presenting at the Lethbridge Community College on May 11, 2023 at the Leadership Summit. It is a combination of student leaders throughout Southern Alberta joining together to present Leadership ideas to students. The focus of this conference is on inclusivity.
- Baseball is in full swing! Apr. 5 season opener postponed until after Easter. Date to be announced.
- College Exploration Days will be happening May 1-5 and May 12 (trades). This is an amazing opportunity for students to get to Lethbridge College and try out a program for a day. Many different options and students are encouraged to sign up for more than one opportunity while there is space. Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from the college. The college is expecting to run this program at the end of the fall and winter semesters moving forward.

## **Attachment #4**

Student Rep Report - Abby Giacchetta

### **Student Council Update - Possibly presented by SC President, Abby Giacchetta**

- In February and March we continued with our weekly food sales. We decided to stop the sale of hot dogs as we were not getting many sales there. We are continuing with pizza and taco in a bag, which are a big hit! We order our pizza from A1 here in town. Our student services group assists in preparing the ingredients for taco in a bag sales.
- In February we sold candy grams for Valentines Day. Student Council sold them for \$2 each and then handed them out on Valentine's Day.
- Since pink shirt day was during reading week, we observed the day on February 28th instead.
- We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with gold coins for students who wore green. Since the 17th was a PD Day, we celebrated on the 16th.
- We also encouraged students to participate in Rock Your Socks on World Down Syndrome Day (March 21st), with some help from student services.
- We are running an easter egg hunt on Thursday before the east break.
- We are also starting planning for a pep rally in May to recognize our baseball, softball, badminton, and track and field athletes.
- Lastly, we are very excited to announce that we will be hosting a school Dance on May 31st from 7-9pm. The theme of the dance is country vs. country club. We'll have a DJ, food, a photobooth and lots of decorations.
- We will be doing some year end events, but haven't started planning on that yet.



**Attachment #5**  
Toasts to Mr. Grimes

Dear Council Members, Trustees and Palliser Leaders:

When we found out that Daniel was being transferred, we were all so shocked, and honestly, really disappointed to see him go. He has transformed the culture of Kate Andrews and is the rock of our school. We wanted to express our gratitude for his tenure here at Kate Andrews, while also sharing with you how respected and admired he is by the staff at Kate Andrews. Daniel is an outstanding administrator and his loss will be felt in our building and our community. He will be SO missed.

**Anonymously Collected Anecdotes from Teachers and Support Staff**

Daniel is one of the best administrators I've ever had the privilege to work for. He not only talks the talk but walks the walk. He is immensely supportive and encourages educators to refine their own pedagogy. A great leader creates more leaders. Daniel is a great leader.

Daniel is the best administrator I've ever worked under by a mile. He is unbelievably supportive and shows up for both his staff and students behind the scenes in ways many can't even begin to see. His job is difficult, but he still manages to find humour in every day. He will be SO missed.

He believes in the best of everyone. He works hard to provide a space for both staff and students to learn and grow. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with him!

Daniel has been an amazing administrative figure. Not only has he provided a safe and supportive working environment, but he puts the students and the community at the heart of everything he does. Oh.. and he has pretty good taste in movies! The halls of KA will feel empty with him gone. Daniel, you will be greatly missed!!

We are so sad to see Daniel go. It is such a loss for Kate Andrews and our community.

He is one of the most supportive, professional, caring and competent administrators I've worked with. He puts the staff and students first, and does it all with a smile on his face. Daniel has an amazing sense of humour, and we'll miss hearing his contagious laugh echo in our hallways. Huntsville is SO lucky!

He is the best principal I have ever worked with. Teaching can sometimes have its challenges, but a stop-in at Daniel's office always makes it easier to meet those challenges with a fresh perspective. This school will never be the same without Grime Time.

Daniel is the best because he realizes that teaching is much about community as it is about education. People feel safe and loved as a staff and our students know they are cared for, so they take more risks, knowing they will be okay if they fail on the first try.

He truly cares about teacher wellbeing. He trusts his staff to be professionals and take care of their craft. He has an open door and is always willing to chat when needed. He continually improved on himself throughout his tenure here. He sees the best in his staff. He understands the importance of work-life balance for his staff.

He puts trust in the teacher's professionalism and doesn't micromanage, but instead encourages and supports.

He has a good sense of humor and has created a strong and positive relationship with staff members.

Huge "Thank You" shout out to Daniel, who has shown leadership through his unwavering support, care, respect, humor and kindness. He has led our school through some really challenging times and I think he did it with perseverance, energy and in that "Newfie" funny way. I appreciate his unwavering support for me and what I do at Kate Andrews. Thank you Daniel.

Daniel is the best because he allows me the autonomy I require in this environment, as well as the guidance I request when I feel I need it.

Daniel is the BEST and most supportive principal I have ever had. I am amazed daily at his abilities to manage the students, staff and parents. He is always upbeat and energetic and makes this school an amazing place to be. He is an advocate of work-life balance and supports all staff in this regard. I always know if I am having a hard day that his door will be open to give support and uplift me. Words cannot express how much he will be missed at this school!

Daniel is the best because when I was transferred here, Daniel made a point of welcoming me, letting me know that he valued my experience and expertise. He allowed me extra prep time to get myself settled and sorted out and was always there to answer my 10,000 questions patiently and with a sense of humour. Daniel is a great

leader - he allows us to flex, learn and grow with his support and I am sad to see him go, but I know he will land on his feet and continue to be great at Huntsville. They are lucky to have him. I wish him all the best!

Daniel is the best because he gave me a chance. He provided me with the confidence I needed to be successful. This did not just start when I got a job, but when I did my PSIII at Kate Andrews. I stepped into a role teaching diploma level course for the first time and Daniel never stopped believing in me. He continuously let me know I CAN do this and trusted me fully. I will forever be grateful to Daniel for starting my teaching career off in such a positive way. WE WILL ALL MISS YOU DANIEL!!

He has been a mentor, leader, and friend over the past 6 years. His approach to leadership is admirable. I've always appreciated the fact that he has our backs. He not only does what is best for students, but also what is best for his staff. He will be greatly missed.

I remember when Daniel first started as an administrator at Kate Andrews, and he would often be baffled why no one would come talk to him in his office. He would often remind us that he had an open door policy, and in fact, went so far as to bribe us with chocolate to come talk to him (I will admit this worked). Now I can say that I probably bother Daniel WAY more than he bargained for. I think this speaks to the impact he has had on KA. I know that any other staff member, or student, truly feels like they can go talk to Mr. Grimes about anything and that the office and admin is a place where they can express their concerns, doubts, or just chat about their day. What Daniel understands as an administrator is that students and staff in this building have two roles: one in which we exist as part of the Kate Andrews Community, and the other outside of this building. Daniel has always made all of us feel like a meaningful, valued member of the KA family, while simultaneously getting to know us and supporting us as people outside of the classroom and walls of the school. The same can be said for the students at KA. Daniel supports them as students, but also values them as individuals. He understands that the world doesn't begin and end when the school bell rings. Daniel has made KA a place where I am excited to come every single day. I know that when I walk in the door, one thing I don't have to worry about is the support of my administrators- both as a teacher and as an individual.

Daniel is the best because he cares about staff and students. He has turned our KAHS team into a great one. His leadership, energy, and newfie sense of humor will be very much missed!!

Daniel is an amazing principal. He cares about the kids in his school and is willing to do all that is in his power to help them succeed. He is also the best leader to his staff. He cares about our mental health and wants to make sure we are succeeding as well. I had the pleasure of having him as a principal at two different schools and one of my favourite memories is when he borrowed a hoverboard from one of the students, came into my classroom, did a little circle around the room and then left. No words said, just adding some humor to the day. He is going to be greatly missed by both the staff and students of KA.

Daniel has been fantastic to work WITH (and I purposefully chose the word "WITH" instead of "FOR") as he is open to listening to contributions from everyone. The manner in which he does this contributes to his strong leadership rather than detracts from it, because staff feel valued and respected, and in turn value and respect him. This loss will be felt by staff, students and the community.

As a school, we are all sad to lose a leader that we trust and who has supported both the staff and students of our school so immeasurably. Daniel has led with vision, compassion, commitment, and a true investment in Kate Andrews and the community it serves. He is a willing mentor, supportive administrator, and advocate for kids. Huntsville is lucky to have him, and we wish him all great things going forward.