

Senator Patrick Burns School Council Meeting

December 18, 2024

6:35 pm-7:46: pm (online)

Administration: Harry Ludwigsen (Principal), Kari Mandin (Assistant Principal)

Attendees: Henry Y. (Chair), Kristine S. (Secretary), Megan S. (Volunteer Coordinator), Peter B., Tracey K., Lindsay M. (community guest)

Call to Order (6:31 pm)

Introductions and Etiquette

- In person round table introductions.

Approval of meeting agenda

- Added one new business item: Community group and pedestrian safety (Lindsay M.)

Principal's Report (Harry)

- Mercado – exciting progression from a winter concert to a program that engages more of the student body. Sra. Newburn was instrumental in executing the Mercado
- CTF courses are improving through collaboration with SAIT. CBE has supported wood shop by bringing in experts via SAIT to work with the students. Also supporting Sr. Mason volunteering on outdoor programs from other schools so that he can bring that knowledge back to SPB's outdoor ed. programming.
- Spanish Ambassador and Chief Superintendent visited SPB to see the Spanish visiting teachers. Spanish visiting teachers are seconded for up to 5 years. Currently SPB has 2 visiting teachers in grade 6 and a total of 5 in the school. The student council presidents led the visitors on a tour which included a robotics demo handing out Ferrero Roche. Tour was about 25 min through various classrooms. They were impressed that there are teachers who are former students e.g. Sra Shutt and Sra. Leader. The visit went very well and is a sign of the CBE's confidence in SPB. The Chief Superintendent will return on January 10 to visit more classrooms and to have a short ceremony to present books gifted by the Spanish Ambassador.
- Grade 6 reconfiguration (Collingwood is K to 6) was a surprise to everyone. Administration was not consulted. Teachers on a probationary contract will automatically lose their contract at SPB. This will affect 2-3 staff and those with the lowest in seniority will be displaced. Teachers can also volunteer to move to Gr. 6 at Collingwood, but teachers prefer to stay at SPB.
- Literacy is still recovering from covid setbacks. SPB is at a stage now where teachers know the level of each student so that interventions can be appropriate applied. SPB is ahead of the game in this regard. Downtown specialists work with our learning leaders teachers in general to emphasize that every teacher is a teacher of literacy because every subject requires literacy. For example, students are practicing reading out loud, pausing to confirm comprehension. This may mean that the whole curriculum is not covered because the pace is slower. However, it helps boost literacy and understanding.
- Volleyball tournaments were held with Gr. 6s and were a success. Volleyball clinics had to be cancelled. Tryouts will start in January.

- Parent question about whether SPB allow parent volunteers for coaching sports teams. Harry clarified that a teacher always needs to be a sponsor for a sports team (i.e., present). SPB tried a community coach but parted ways due to challenges. Not knowing the students can pose an issue with a community / parent coach.

Parent Association Report

- No update.

Key Communicator Report

- No update.

Volunteer Coordinator Report (Megan S.)

- Megan is in regular contact with a few teachers.
- Miscommunications are being worked out and paperwork is being simplified.
- Some parents have doubled up on their police clearance because the system does not identify if you already have clearance.
- Henry has a document on how to follow the process from start to finish. He will send it to Harry/Kari to circulate.
- Helpful to get the volunteer requests out early so that parents who want to volunteer have time to get their clearance.

Previous Business

- Transit concerns raised during the last meeting are less of an issue now with Gr. 6s staying at Collingwood and getting one more year of yellow school bus.
- Henry is trying to bridge the gap between School Council and Parent Association.

New Business or Questions

- The number of grade 7s coming into SPB next year is higher than current but not above capacity. It's the elementary schools will bear the burden of absorbing the higher student load with the grade redistribution.
- Lindsay presented Community group's pedestrian safety objectives. Area of concern relates to the 357m between the two playground zones between SPB and Banff Trail School. The speed limit increases to 50 km/hr between these zones. Two accidents and a dog was killed in October at one particularly dangerous corner. The Community group is petitioning for the following:
 - Speed limit reduced to 40 km/hr
 - Addition of one marked crosswalk
 - Addition of "no parking" signs in the alleyway behind Banff Trail School
- They are working with Councillor Chu and trying to be more proactive. This includes consulting with other stakeholders in the walk zone, such as SPB and Triwood Community Association.
- Trying to get a traffic study for the 5-way intersection done at the right time of day (i.e., 2:50-3:15pm when school gets out).
- A marked cross walk would increase safety for SPB students accessing the muster point during an emergency.
- School Council formally passed motion to support this initiative

- Harry suggested adding this initiative to the week ahead email for added exposure. Lindsay indicated that their petition is currently informal, and they likely have what they need for now. Their goal is to take 200+ signatures back to Councillor Chu to see what else is needed. Establishing this connection with SPB and knowing that the community group has the school's support is sufficient for now and Lindsay will follow up with Harry when additional support is needed.

Review and approval of last month's meeting minutes

- Last month's minutes approved.
- Minutes are available here: <https://senatorpatrickburns.cbe.ab.ca/>

Next Meeting (3rd Wednesday of the month):

- Wednesday, January 15, 2025
- Wednesday, February 19, 2025
- Wednesday, March 19, 2025
- Wednesday, April 16, 2025
- Wednesday, May 21, 2025
- Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Meeting Adjourned (7:46 pm)