

## **Senator Patrick Burns School Council Meeting**

January 15, 2025

6:32 pm-7:35: pm (online)

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

Attendees: Henry Y. (Chair), Miriam P. (Vice Chair), Kristine S. (Secretary), Megan S. (Volunteer Coordinator), Miranda K (Key Communicator), Peter B., Lindy W., Kris RM, Maria C.

### **1. Call to Order (6:32 pm)**

### **2. Welcome, Meeting Guidelines and Introductions**

- Introduced council members.
- Reminder to keep mics muted to minimize background noise

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

- Approved without additions.

### **4. Reports and Updates**

#### **a. Principal's Report (Sr. Ludwigsen, Sra. Mandin)**

- Kari will be going on maternity leave in June. An acting assistant principal will fill in until Kari's return. Congratulations!
- Before the holidays, the Spanish Ambassador gifted our Chief Superintendent four Spanish books, which were subsequently donated to SPB. Idea was to formally offer them to SPB in a separate visit. This visit recently happened and was an opportunity for SPB to further showcase its exceptional programs and teachers (literacy programs, Spanish instruction, drama, climbing, etc.). SPB shined and the visit was a tremendous success.
- Students are currently participating in an off campus climbing program.
- Visited WO Mitchell and Dalhousie even though Gr 6 is no longer attending SPB. The intent was to engage and highlight Spanish as an option for middle school.
- High school visits are underway. Aberhart, Crescent Heights and Bowness are being promoted via presentations at SPB and opportunities for students to visit the school. Generally helping parents and students navigate the enrollment process, which opens very soon (Feb 1).
- Renaissance fair took place today. It was a particular success because a teacher identified the need and successfully made space for diversity and inclusion of Indigenous culture.
- Spanish visiting teacher was hired in September, however it proved to not be a good fit. An alternative Spanish visiting teacher (also interviewed in September) was available and equally qualified, so they are in place for the remainder of the year. The new teacher has settled in nicely.
- Low number of students predicted to feed into SPB next year and therefore projections for student enrollment are low in 2025/2026. New zoning is likely underway to eventually boost enrollment, but next year could be a gap year with a substantial reduction in funding due to lower student numbers. Therefore, planning is underway to prepare for a low funding year. Actual funding won't be known until September 2025.
  - Peter pointed out that parent volunteers could be leveraged in a low funding scenario to take some pressure of teachers. There is great interest from parents, especially to continue to promote sports (e.g., coaching).

- Harry intends to seek student input to focus efforts on those activities where there is the most interest. Community coaches would be considered if there is a gap in student interest and teacher volunteer capacity.
- SPB feeds from 77 different communities! Very cool!

#### **b. School Council Updates**

- Henry has a document on how to follow the police clearance process from start to finish, including how to have the fee waived.
- Lots of interest and quick response from volunteers for the climbing excursion.
- Kris will email Kari re: fundraisers
- There is an outdated email address on our website to contact our School Council. No one seems to have access to this account. If Henry can't quickly figure out how to access it, then he recommends removing it and creating a new account.
- Alberta School Council Association workshop email was recently sent out. Miranda will circulate and follow up on whether we should send someone.

### **5. Previous Business**

- Henry connected with Parent Association Chair. Moving forward, Henry will attend their meetings so that he is properly looped into the funding side. The coordination between allocating funds and managing funds is critical.
- Lack of crosswalks and safety for kids crossing streets is a major concern. Tracey (community member) is working to address this and SPB is fully supportive, but essentially on standby until we hear again from Tracey.
- Transportation for Gr 6 is less of a concern with them now remaining in elementary school. However, it still appears to be a gap. Harry clarified that the CBE does not provide transportation to a "program of choice" school. Therefore, yellow school bus is unlikely to be an option at SPB. This topic is closed for now.
- Options to facilitate carpooling could really help parents out and help them remain in the Spanish program through middle and high school. Harry has requested support for this in the past and the messaging is that it's up to parents to figure it out. Suggestion to create a facebook group or to post on your community chat.

### **6. New Business**

- Spending of Alberta Council Engagement Grant. Looking for ideas to spend about \$2,000 e.g., speakers, workshops etc. Council members, administration and learning leaders to come up with ideas.
- Schedule for in person meetings? Preference is to default to virtual meetings unless there is an exceptional circumstance/opportunity.

### **7. Questions**

- none

### **8. Approval of last month's meeting minutes**

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

**9. Next Meeting (3rd Wednesday of the month):**

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

**Meeting Adjourned (7:35 pm)**