

Senator Patrick Burns School Council Meeting

November 20, 2024

6:35 pm-7:26: pm (online)

Administration: Kari Mandin (Assistant Principal)

Attendees: Henry Y. (Chair), Miriam P. (Vice Chair), Kristine S. (Secretary), Megan S. (Volunteer Coordinator), Daniel H., Mari D.

Call to Order (6:35 pm)

Introductions and Etiquette

- Please keep mics muted when not speaking and use 'raise hand' function for questions.

Approval of meeting agenda

- No new items to add

Principal's Report (Kari on Harry's behalf)

- Girls and boys' basketball semi-finals and finals this week. Harry supporting girl's game tonight in lieu of School Council meeting.
- SPB has implemented creative use of indoor spaces to keep kids active throughout lunch and after school during winter months. Gym is open for sports during lunch hour. Everyone gets two intermural gym sessions per week.
- Lots of clubs available and they are now all listed in a chart. Parents can go to the main office to review the list.
- Volleyball season coming up with tryouts in January. Sra. Shut is organizing lots of activities in December to lead up to volleyball season. All kids are welcome to participate in the tournament and learn some basic volleyball skills.
- Auditions for school play have started. Callbacks will take place before the end of December. The cast list should be available before the break. Anyone who wants to participate will get a role.
- The Mercado – New initiative where the options classes will have student led and designed booths from which they will sell their art products via an auction.
- Staffing update: S. Barias is transferring to JP Vanier. Her last day is on Thursday, November 21, 2024. Measures are in place to fill this gap.
- Middle school symposium. Every middle school can send 8 representatives to Mt. Royal in January. All the information they gather at the workshop will be brought back and shared for the benefit of SPB.
- Multiple surveys are issued throughout the year. Some target specific grades, but the safety survey is sent out to all students. Achieved close to 80% participation on the latest safety survey.
 - Results showed an increase in 'sense of student safety' in latest survey. There is still room for improvement but trending in the right direction.
 - Wording of that particular question is very broad and includes travel to / from school, as well as their time in school. These aspects should ideally be separated to provide better clarity on exactly what is driving the results. Suspect it's the public transit that is driving the low score because direct feedback from kids is largely that they feel safe at school.

- Increased supervision in hallways, supervisors are very clearly visible and identifiable by their sweater uniform. What teachers are experiencing aligns with how students are feeling (i.e., school itself is safe).
- Miranda has heard that some CBE middle schools in the south of Calgary have yellow bus service.
- Kristine suggested some form of collaboration with Collingwood school buses, which don't appear to be at capacity. Particularly for Grade 6s and those with siblings at Collingwood.
- Miranda to look into possible options.
- Experiences like today's lockdown drill could be contributing to kids' perceive safety. While some kids are reassured by practicing safety drills (e.g., lockdowns and fire drills), others (particularly those not familiar with the practice) could feel less safe. Police shared statistic that there have been 12 lockdowns in Calgary. This was shocking or even fear inducing in some kids. Kari and Harry will consider messaging and preparation for parents and kids related to safety drills. Confirmed there are two lockdowns per year: one in spring and one in fall.
- Grade 5 tours happening next week. Grade 7 leadership students are organizing a scavenger hunt around the school.
- Grade 9 celebration format is changing this year. Historically, students have walked the stage but the Area Director has indicated that it's not technically a graduation and so walking the stage is not an appropriate format. More information on the Grade 9 celebration will be forthcoming.
- Counsellor visits for Gr 9s will happen in January for the various high schools including Bowness, Crescent Heights and Aberhart.

Parent Association Report

- Henry would like to bridge disconnect with Parent Association (PA). Important to understand where the money is coming from and how it's being spent.
- Kristine to follow up with PA and loop in Henry

Key Communicator Report (Miranda K.)

- Miranda attended the October meeting.
- Lots of discussion about the provincial budget. CBE is asking for 13 new schools.
- Concern about enrolment is a common theme across schools. CBE has several tools for managing enrolment, but no changes implemented thus far.

Volunteer Coordinator Report (Megan S.)

- Kari and Harry to remind teachers that we have a volunteer coordinator (it's been a long time!). They will also solicit clear, standard information from teachers on their volunteer needs including the number of parents, date, activity and start/end times.
- No recent request from teachers for volunteers
- Daniel H. would like more information on how to volunteer with school. Megan to connect with Daniel.
- Kari to send CBE guidance document to Henry and Henry and Megan will prepare simple instructions on how to get police clearance.

New Business or Questions

- none

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, December 18, 2024
- 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 (7:26 pm)