

Senator Patrick Burns School Council Meeting

February 19, 2025

6:33 pm-7:30: 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), Alex P. Peter B., Amanda V. (Parent Association Chair), Gabriela J.

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)

- Report cards and parent teacher conferences are staggered. Report card format has been mandated by the CBE and includes a bulleted strength-based format combined with identifying one area for improvement.
- At SPB, the focus of staff professional learning days has been on wellness, including staff wellness. Megan facilitated a recent professional learning day by helping empower staff to make small changes that benefit their wellness.
- Last week's Teacher's Convention was a success. Meeting with colleagues is an important component of profession learning. Sharing learnings and discussing challenges provides great value. SPB asks each staff member to share their one "ah ha" moment from the conference.
- Seven staff members will be going to Montreal to attend the conference *Languages without Borders*. SPB applied for extra funding and provided a strong case to receive funding for 7 when normally only 2 staff/school would be approved/funded.
- Three temporary staff are being evaluated and probationary contracts are expected for them later this year.
- Open house took place with new feeder schools. About 60 attended, which is lower than previous years but not unexpected given the Grade 6s are staying in elementary school next year.
- Gr 9 transitions are coming up. Karri is supporting families with a variety of options.
- Can read up on Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) job action on CBE's website here: <https://cbe.ab.ca/news-centre/Labour-Action/Pages/default.aspx>. Starting Monday, SPB will be without facility operators. Cleaning will be contracted out. Opening/closing of school will be left to administrators. No noticeable disruptions to students or parents. School closing at 6pm and sports have to be done by 6:30. Only parents/siblings of players can attend games. Other spectators will be limited during the strike. This applies to away games as well.

b. School Council Updates

- Alberta School Council Association workshop is coming up. Encouraging interested parents to attend. For more information visit: [xxx](#)
- Email address on our website to contact our School Council is outdated. Henry has set up a new SPB school council email address: [xx](#)
- Still seeking volunteers for wellness symposium. They do not have to be a parent. Please fill out this google form application: [xx](#)
- Megan is receiving trickles of interest in volunteering and has a small list of about 20 parents who she can regularly contact for support. She receives the odd request for last minute volunteers from teachers and connects them directly with teachers. The volunteer coordinator role appears to be functioning as intended. Teachers also have their own parent lists and will go directly to the class parents for volunteer support.
- Paul Davis is doing a public talk in Calgary March 9. Intended audience is parents and kids 13 and up. Harry will add to the weekly update. EventBrite [link](#).
- Paul Davis presented at SPB last year and Harry suggests giving it at least another year before inviting him back to SPB.

5. Previous Business

- Spending of Alberta School Council Engagement Grant. Seeking ideas e.g., connect to wellness symposium, speaker around anxiety and stress management, etc. Henry will do some research and please provide your suggestions!

6. New Business

- Introduced School Council to Amanda V. (Parent Association). Happy to build this connection. Casino funds need to be spent within 2 years and we want to put them to the best use. Unlike Engagement Grant, the funds can be put towards food.
- Amanda and Harry will meet to discuss opportunities. Harry notes that a consequence of Grade 6s staying elementary schools is that SPB will be short funds. It will require planning and strategic collaboration to bridge the funding gap in 2025/2026, and until student numbers return to their current levels.
- Students feel happy, safe grateful and teachers love teaching at SPB. SPB is truly unique within CBE.

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

Meeting Adjourned (7:30 pm)