

Senator Patrick Burns School Council Meeting

March 19, 2025

6:32 pm-7:31: pm (online)

Administration: Harry Ludwigsen (Principal), Kari Mandin (Assistant Principal), Karma and Gabriella
Attendees: Henry Y. (Chair), Kristine S. (Secretary), Sara S. Venus, Darren E., Rodrigo, C., Karilynn S., Jaslin, Tracey K, Melanie K.

1. Call to Order (6:32 pm)

2. Approval of Agenda

- Approved without additions.

3. Special Presentation

- Harry introduces Karma, describes her role, she's been here since September – every teacher is a teacher of literacy
- Karma starts, taught 15 years at Collingwood and this is her 5th year at SPB (check years)
- Checked fluency of students and understanding of vocab and spelling through assessments – survey would determine if students would require more intervention, 15 minutes during humanities block for decoding and fluency skills, guided reading in each classroom, focus in literary element (gradual release model), I do and they do modeling, also did this with novel studies, Oct/Nov/Dec teachers read a novel to students, gr 9 class she read thief to them, read and stop at vocabulary words, other element was theme or character development, currently students are in a book club (that's the we do part with karma), then at end of year they do an independent novel study, Karma to share data regarding improvements in literacy, 1 minute test to read aloud to teacher and teacher can decipher what level they are at through words per minute, TEST RESULTS: blue (exceeding), green (at), yellow (needs support), red (needs a lot of support), each child did this assessment at beginning of year then again in February for students that did red and yellow in September, students showed improvement (see graph), students ask how they are improving, Karma says reaching out loud to teacher helps them understand better how they are struggling and the students improve confidence
- Harry: what does push in and pull out support mean?
- Karma: pull out support of students, Karma worked with Tara Xavier (specialist from downtown, trains staff how to perform the interventions) to determine which kids required pull out attention to work on a teacher to work on decoding and fluency skills. Pull in support is Karma going into class and working with students
- Harry: each students have clear guidance to as what they are doing which helps Karma read with all the students, include English LA and Social together to do this and works well with this block and teachers decided that for the intervention times, we are a step ahead of the CBE because they are just implementing this
- Karma: this has been really rewarding
- Jaslin asked in chat: see screenshot
- Harry: speak to English/LA teacher to ask for results, importance of this program and the reading together and how helpful it is.
- Karma: assessments again in May

- Harry: hesitant to call them assessments, they do not affect the grades or anything, it is more about understanding the students and their needs and what level of support they require
- Karma: it's more like information to help understand the needs

4. Reports and Updates

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

- Strike update: looks like staff could come back to work after Spring Break, what's interesting is that the impact to SPB has been minimal, mentioned Bronco pride and staff and students looked after their spaces and cleaned and helped where appropriate, Gr 9s helped keep the halls clean, even Harry shoveled some snow!
- Parent Teacher Conferences are tomorrow and Friday – teachers didn't want any cleaners around during the sessions for privacy reasons, so they preferred to be WFH
- Volleyball girls seasons ended last night, both boys team made it to semi-finals and lost to Col. Evans, girls played yesterday, Sr. girls went to sr. Irvin and first time in a few years they won!, went to JP Vanier Sr. and Jr. girls and lost – Harry has to buy breakfast for their principals, Jr. girls lost (in finals), shout out to the coaches on both girls and boys teams for the success, super proud.

b. School Council Updates

- N/A

5. Previous Business

- N/A

6. New Business

Fun lunch, are they really fun?

- Not all students can afford it, but it provides a lot of funds for our projects (like our new basketball court)
- Takes a lot of labour to get this successful
- Gr 6 lunch supervisors will be gone next year
- If they are gone, Harry can't ask teachers or staff to do this
- We will need volunteers to continue this program next year
- Darren asked: Student engagement in this process for fun lunch?
- Harry: Students engagement or doing the work?
- Darren: students doing the work?
- Harry: we can run that idea by the student council and see if they can do
- Karilynn asked about angel lunch program, Harry will connect with her regarding what that means, she responded by dollar value provided from PA and principals will determine which students and families will get it (WO Mitchell does it), Tracey Kehler mentioned the program at WO, fun lunch fee is slightly increased as a whole to cover the costs required to cover those families eligible and apply (Kristine Sachar from WO Mitchell)

7. Volunteer Trip

- Henry expressed sadness about cancelling
- Kari mentioned situation about multiple field trips in the week and how parents are busy
- Melanie Yar says she didn't get any communications about that
- Kari will follow up
- Harry says zoo trip looks good
- Sra. Herrera may have a plan to reschedule or do something instead

8. Questions

- Are there opportunities to follow up with teachers if 10 min during parent-teacher interviews is not enough time?
 - Harry: Teachers just really want to connect with parents. Suggest using the 10 min and if it's not enough time, send your child's teacher an email outlining your questions and suggest a time when you could discuss. Teachers are happy to make time.
- Would the School Council like to see select teachers dialing in to these meetings (like we did today) to share the amazing work they are doing? Yes!

9. Approval of last month's meeting minutes

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

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

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

Meeting Adjourned (7:31 pm)