



SUNALTA SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

12 FEBRUARY 2025 6:30 PM

ATTENDANCE & DISTRIBUTION

	ATTENDANCE	REGRETS
COUNCIL	Stacey Selley Dana Riley Nigel Lalande Sarah Duff Katrina Edgerton-McGhan Lesleigh Russell Amanda Kuchma Desirae Robertson Farrah Sunderji	Emily Gillis Rizza Pandya Kristi Nelson Kerstin Arends Lindsey Starko
SCHOOL ADMIN	Christine McCrory Elaine Hordo	
GUESTS	Grade 1 Teaching Team – John Mitchell, Meredith Eakins, Joanne Korpessio	

1 Welcome & Introduction

a) Call to order

- The School Council meeting was called to order by Stacey Selley, Council Chair, at 6:39pm.
- A quorum of council positions was present.

2 Land Acknowledgement

a) Video presentation of Grade 1 student reading the new Sunalta School land acknowledgement.

3 Sunalta School Guest Speaker(s) – Music Teacher, Ms. Erwin

a) PIRATES musical for Grade 4, 5, 6 performance at end of spring semester

- Focusing on the kids who want to do it
- Requesting funds for spring concert (council gave \$100 for the winter concert).
- Rehearsals starting in April
- Big show on May 15

b) Tech team is learning more and more.

4 Sunalta School Guest Speaker(s) – Grade 1 Teaching Team

a) Extra busy today as grade 1 hosted the all school assembly – Valentine's Assembly

- Created a tree using all the different ways you can say "love" in the various languages spoken by Sunalta School families.

b) This year so far...

- Calgary Farm Yard field trip
- Owl Visit
- Making fortune cookies to celebrate Lunar New Year

c) Volunteers are always appreciated! – email your child's teacher to ask about volunteering in the classroom (CPS Police Clearance is required in advance of volunteering).

d) Coming Up!

- Field trips coming up
 - Ralph Klein Park "Mud Between my Toes" program – sponsored Conoco Philips
 - Teacher's Pet in-class Field Trip
- Pizza making and crepe making to tie into lessons.
- Swimming lessons in last week of June.
- Hatching this Spring! –All three classes are doing it this (2 classes with ducklings, 1 class doing chicks)
 - Picking up eggs on April 13th, and returning babies on May 24th



- Such a great learning and observational experience for the students
- Thank you to Council for supporting these activities!
- e) Guest speakers – Dr. Kate Mueller, Veterinarian (also James' mom)
 - Learning about animals and how vets are involved in communities.
 - Very interactive with the kids, they loved it!
 - Always open to parents sharing their careers or specialties, please reach out!
- f) Current Focus
 - Building Community

5 Administrator's Report

- a) Thanks and Gratitude
 - Mount Pleasant Art Residency (funded by Council)
 - Two different artists did a multi-week art residency for all grades on site.
 - Collaborated with teachers to connect the art experiences within the current lesson plans.
 - Students are incredibly proud of the work they've created
 - Creating a gallery display for student led conferences
 - Think-a-Thon – April 24th
 - Healthy Hunger – each week
 - Alien InLine Volunteers
- b) School Happenings and Updates
 - Family Literacy Day (Jan 27)
 - Lunar New Year celebrations
 - Kindergarten Mad Science program
 - Gr 1 Kindness assembly (Feb 12)
 - Gr 3 Bow Habitat Station (Feb 20), learn about the trout (trout at the school have hatched)
 - Gr 4 Drumheller overnight (Feb 20-21) – sleep overnight with the dinosaurs, thank you to parent volunteers attending too.
 - K-6 Curling in the gym – equipment funded by council
 - Staff Book Study – [Disciplinary Literacy in Action](#) supporting our SDP
 - [Share the Care](#) project (K-6)
 - Led by a student teacher
 - Students made 250 valentines to deliver to Brenda's House
 - [Pink Shirt Day](#) (K-6) & [Be Brave Hitmen](#) game (Gr 6) – Feb 26
 - Preschool Update
 - Preschool will have to move – bittersweet, as they have operated out of Sunalta School for decades.
 - School enrollment now requires all spaces available – projected to be 380 this year
 - Temporarily relocating to Westgate Community Centre
 - Contact scarboropreschool@gmail.com with any questions.
 - Student Led Conferences (Mar 20-21)
- c) [2025 School Planning](#)
 - ACTION for Parents:
 - [School Planning Engagement Survey](#)
 - School Planning Meeting Evaluation
 - Video Link: [CBE School Planning and You](#)
 - How is our School Development Plan Used?
 - Guides ongoing assessment and review of goals and actions.
 - Our school development plan is the driver for closing learning gaps.



- Overall Goal
 - Impact of Assessment on Student Learning – building teachers' capacity to use assessment to support us in knowing our learners within the context of the new curriculum.
 - Our focus this year will be building capacity in assessing, with proficiency in all courses.
 - Professional learning focuses on disciplinary learning.
- Mathematic Improvement
 - Providing scaffolded entry points for students to achieve the new curriculum expectations.
- Well-Being Improvement
 - Diversity and Inclusion
 - School Connectedness and Belonging
 - Regulation (being present and ready to learn)
 - Resilience and Mental Health (growth mindset)
- Question: are we benchmarking against other schools? With PATs?
 - Last year was the first year doing the PATs digitally; simultaneous subjects
 - Benchmarks are at a provincial level.

d) Annual School Budget

- \$2.7M for the 2024-2025 school year, for all expenses at the school.
 - Staffing comprises a little more than the typically 75% average; remaining funds are used for operational supplies.
 - Approx. \$5,400 per student (on average)
 - Approx. \$17K for supplies from student fees
 - Nearly all field trips, experiences, residencies, etc are funded through Council from direct donations.
- School Approved Fees
 - In most schools, families pay \$60-100 per student per year in additional fees (high schools are in the thousands). These fees are required.
 - Sunalta School Council fundraises sufficiently to ensure that no additional fees are required.
 - The fundraising goal is set each year based on the budget proposed by School Administration and then divided by the expected number of students to attend that year (for 2024-25, the goal is \$130/student, calculated by dividing the \$50K fundraising goal by the anticipated 385 student enrolled this year)
 - Grades 4, 5, 6 students are asked to contribute to the bigger/overnight field trips (a nominal portion, \$25 for Grade 4 for Drumheller, \$100 for Grade 5 and 6 for 3 night overnight camps)
- More info is on the website and the surveys too – surveys open until mid-March.

e) Question: What's the max capacity for the school?

- 410 total, but this would include utilizing the space currently used by Student Care.
- Current enrollment is 377

f) Question: Can the school have any control over class sizes?

- No, we are a community school, so if we still have capacity, we have to accept students from the designated zone for the school.

g) Question: Kindergarten registration numbers?

- Haven't checked the registration yet today.
- Lottery is today for the specialized programs, and they have 10 days to confirm.

6 Think-A-Thon – Lesleigh Russell

- a) Last Think-A-Thon was in 2023 and raised \$9K, excited to do it again this year! \$7K fundraising goal for 2025.
- b) Each classroom selected a prize/activity to celebrate their participation – chosen by the teachers (usually games and activities).



- c) Teachers prepare ~20 questions for the quiz
 - Students have from April 4-24 to review and practice.
 - Quiz is on April 24
 - Grades 1, 2, 3 will do the quiz with their buddies.
 - Fundraiser will close on April 30.
 - Kids get a freezee at the end of the day; also a Healthy Hunger day
- d) Council Action:
 - Nigel and Lesleigh to coordinate how donations will be collected in advance of the package going out.
- e) Funds raised will go towards purchasing art supplies for the art room.
- f) Question: Can parents buy stuff for school versus getting money?
 - It really does work better for the school to do the purchasing through the school wholesale vendors – better pricing and ensures that the all-school supply room is properly resourced.
 - Parents can definitely reach out to their child's teacher to offer supplies they want to have at home.

7 Grade 6 Grad – Stacey Selley for Kristi Nelson

- a) Purdy's fundraiser for easter treats
 - Participation is completely optional!

8 Volunteer Update – Stacey Selley for Rizza Pandya

- a) Fun Lunch volunteers – need at least 3 volunteers each week, please sign up!

9 CBE Update – Farrah Sunderji

- a) Alberta Education will randomly contact parents/families to complete a survey to give opinions about Alberta Education.
- b) Ask a Workshop – Feb 24th (7-8:30pm)
- c) Overflow
 - Very common in so many schools; really impacts the connections between students and families at the school (not really community based anymore).

10 Financial Report – Nigel Lalande

- a) Finalized the 2024-2025 budget, approved - \$105K in total expenses
 - Experiential - \$32K (field trips, bussing,)
 - Events/ Residencies - \$18K
 - Supplies/Equipment - \$35,600
 - Engagement - \$14K
 - Society Operations - \$5K (insurance, members)
 - Fundraising update –
 - As of Monday, direct donation is \$37K (goal is \$50K)
 - Balance of funding comes from Casino, Healthy Hunger, Think-A-Thon
 - Getting a lot more participation through Benevity – ask your employer about corporate matching!

11 Closing

- a) Next meeting is March 11, 2022, 6:30pm.
- b) Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.