

## École Secondaire Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School

“Committed to excellence in teaching and learning”

### School Council Minutes for Monday, January 27, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Robert Pack with the recognition statement:

*We acknowledge that we are on Treaty Six territory to the North of the Red Deer River and Treaty Seven territory to the South of the Red Deer River.*

*We acknowledge and give thanks to all the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.*

Robert welcomed everyone back and hoped everyone had a great Christmas break.

**1.0 Minutes of the November 25, 2019** meeting were presented for approval.

Jennifer Harman moved to accept the minutes from the November 25, 2019 meeting. Carried.

**2.0 Circulation information was shared.**

**3.0 Student Leadership Report** - Ainsley Lirondelle shared the Leadership report.

#### 1. Past and Continuing Events

- a. Our SPC cards are no longer on sale as there is a deadline to return them for the fundraiser, but the School T-shirts and Scarves are still available in the Exec Office for \$10.
- b. To advertise our events, we are using our Raiders Leadership Facebook page, our Instagram (@ThurberRaiders), a Calendar posted on our broadcast board outside of the exec office with an overview of the events of the month and we continue to have announcements every Monday and Wednesday morning
- c. Our Internal team had an amazing Winter Formal this school year which was on Thursday, Dec 12th. It was the best formal ever! This year we even sold out as we had reached the maximum capacity and broke the record for most tickets sold!
- d. Our Thurber Life team hosted Week of Winter, which took place from the 16th to the 20th and was full of fun holiday-themed events! We decorated the cafeteria, had a hot chocolate & cookie sale, had our wishlist wall which was well received, ugly sweater day, gingerbread house decorating, pj day and candy grams.
- e. Along with week of Winter, our Community team hosted the Door Decorating contest. The period three classes had the opportunity to decorate their classroom's door to compete to win a prize. This year we

had some really cool doors, there are some pictures up on the school's instagram.

- f. Last Tuesday we had our Pathways and Foundations Appreciation event where we played games with their classes in the gym and had lots of fun.
- g. We are currently running our Exam Cart, where we give out pencils, water bottles and snacks to students entering exams. This year we decided to just leave out the supplies by the Exec Office so that the students could take what they needed.

## **2. Upcoming Events**

- a. Our Athletic Reps are hosting 3-on-3 basketball intramurals which will start in the new semester as forms were due back on the last day of school.
- b. We will have a Teacher appreciation day with coffee and donuts on Friday, Jan 31st.
- c. Our Internal team is currently planning for our second Pep Rally of the school year on February 7th. The theme is Wild West so we will be encouraging students to dress up that day!
- d. With Valentine's Day coming up our Thurber Life team has started cutting out the 2000 hearts with the names of our students which we will be hanging around the school after school on the 13th.
- e. Along with our paper hearts this year we are planning to run a "Crush for your Crush" sale where students can pay to have us send a can of pop to their friends with a message.
- f. Feb 24 & 28 hosting a book drive - donating the books to "Books on the bus".

### **4.0 School Report** - Dan Lower shared that he has officially turned old over the Christmas break. He now needs glasses! Dan introduced our Grade 11 Vice-Principal Amanda Wilson.

Amanda shared that she is the liaison for our Inclusive Education department and the FRIM/World Languages department. Amanda is also our Tech liaison looking after the instructional use of computers and technology in our school. We re-branded last year with a new logo and taglines. Amanda shared an idea that she has had - she has seen "Portrait of a Graduate" posters in other schools. Amanda would like to do this for our students. Amanda showed us a few examples and would like some feedback on words and thoughts that we could use to put together a "Portrait of a Graduate" for our school. She will include our Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow slogan as well. Parents suggested we could align with the words for the Character Attributes from the RDPSD Values video: respectful, healthy, responsible, resilient, curious, collaborative. Put our own spin on those. Amanda will survey students as well.

Dan shared his school report with some information and research on cell phone usage by students. Each of our Admin works with staff and meets with teachers 5 times throughout the year. One of the things that we did was ask teachers to invite us into their classrooms and tell us how we can be helpful to them. Teachers were wanting to see if students are attentive to their lessons. We unanimously noticed that student's attention was to their cell phones. Some were obvious and some were sneaky. Teachers can be unaware of the amount of time students are on their phones. This is the number one cause of distraction. Being a learning institution, it would be folly to ignore the research that is out there about the disruption and the time it takes to become focused again. Research shows that cell phones reduce retention of information and distract from acquiring knowledge.

Dan would like to include parents in the discussion about cell phone usage in our school. We can help our students. Dan shared that he has banned cell phone usage with staff at our staff meetings, and this has worked really well. Dan has shared his research with teachers and would like a whole school practice in place regarding this. We know that sometimes cell phones are used for learning, as a calculator, etc. We will develop guidelines, consult with parents and consult with students. Currently, some teachers have agreed to try a few different ways to deal with this during this semester. One concern is that we don't have enough lockers for every single student, if we wanted to have them put their cell phones into a locker. Some teachers have created holders for cell phones, lock boxes, etc. Teachers will provide us with some feedback shortly. Dan reminded parents that students will rarely ever go more than 73 minutes without being able to connect with their phone. Parents can always reach their children during learning times through the office.

Link to Dan's presentation:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/18qKHIMTgjSvXQZslv6m\\_voQsWlnSd4pbaSbhGfqTZNM/edit?ts=5e320af6#slide=id.g35f391192\\_00](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/18qKHIMTgjSvXQZslv6m_voQsWlnSd4pbaSbhGfqTZNM/edit?ts=5e320af6#slide=id.g35f391192_00)

Questions:

**As a parent would you support the development of a school wide cell phone use guideline at Lindsay Thurber?** Discussion: *Parents absolutely support this. Encourage their students that their grades will get better. Students need to know that for their future - this is not allowed in the workplace. There are societal expectations. Show their students this video. Could we bring in an expert to talk to small groups about this, and/or other distractions - distracted driving, etc. Can we approach it from a respectful point of view - regardless of the learning part. What is happening in other jurisdictions? What consequences do you think would be appropriate if they used their phones?*

**What opposition do you think we may run into from parents, and how might we mitigate this?** Discussion: *My student is doing really well, so the student says - why should I give up my phone? Sometimes it is their employers who are*

*the ones calling and the students are worried they will miss a shift if they don't get a call. Some won't care at all about any of this.*

**What should we consider that we may not have thought of when deciding if this is what we should do?** Discussion: *What about - I Watches, google hangout on chromebooks, messaging on Mac's.*

Dan will bring information back to this group as we prepare to roll this out.

Dan share updates from the Learning Commons and the Career Centre:  
Learning Commons update:

Fiction section - there are lots of empty shelves right now. Fear not, we are not getting rid of the books! We are however, reorganizing the fiction into genres which will make it more user friendly for the students.

Exam evening of Dominance - was too successful, we will do it again but break up into different evenings eg 9/10, 11/12 - students gave us things to consider as an exit pass that you can see on the whiteboard at the entrance.

LC - Outreach - VR in the science lab, Green screen in the caf for Halloween, research support and citations services that we provide.

Girls who Code - happens on Mondays, the girls are building a study app that is starting to look pretty cool. Charlotte Hiles is helping me with this club.

League of Legends - our competitive season for esports team starts in January. First semester team made it to playoffs in the game Overwatch - coaching.

Career Centre Update:

Rock the Diploma sessions - numbers are consistently good

Every student who comes in is checked to see if they are on MyPass - have been doing this since the beginning of the school year.

Out of Province Post-Secondary Fair was in October. Over 25 institutions from across Canada set up tables in hallways by cafeteria. Parents/students from Thurber, Hunting, St. Joe's and Notre Dame were invited, and career counsellors from St. Joe's and Notre Dame helped with the event.

In February - Possibly running a FLEX session on completing your own income tax return - Connecting with Jeff Anderson, financial advisor, to come in and talk about post-high school financials - income, saving, investing, RRSP's, etc.

Cindy hopes to go into Social classes to do a career planning presentation specific to students in the -2 stream.

Cindy shared that RDC Social Media Course has asked Jill Halter (Notre Dame) and herself to help spearhead a focus group regarding the development of short PD courses in social media and digital literacy.

**Dan ended with any general questions from Parents:**

A parent shared that their student asked the teacher: Can I go thru my exam with you - teacher said it was a closed exam - so no. *Dan advised them to ask their child to come talk to their Vice-Principal and we can follow up.*

- 5.0 ASCA** - Sara Rollingson shared that you can go to the Alberta School Council Association website: [albertaschoolcouncils.ca](http://albertaschoolcouncils.ca)  
There is a “Disconnect Challenge” on their website. If you are interested in doing it before the family day weekend, sign up. (It may say it is closed - but it is not)  
At our last meeting we talked about making a resolutions video. The AGM is happening in 12 weeks, so we will not be having a live event. We may do some short videos regarding the resolutions. Conference is open for registration. Conference dates are April 24 & 25 and the AGM on the 26th. This will be held at the Delta in Edmonton. If anyone is interested, let Robert Pack know. The school will support the expenses. In conjunction with the ATA - there is a teacher appreciation event.
- 6.0 City-Wide Council Meeting Report** - Sara shared that Della Ruston shared Hour Zero information. The Board has hired a new Superintendent - Chad Erickson. District Ed plans - Literacy, Numeracy, Equity and Completion. Went thru everything and discussed overarching message. They will be changing Equity - while this is a foundational piece, replacement that was suggested was something around health & wellness. Next meeting March 10 at Glendale.
- 7.0 New Business** - Guidelines for presentations by outside groups. Robert asked if there is a policy on requests from outside groups? We do not have a policy. Dan shared that most of the outside group requests are usually focused on careers or post secondary education. Each request must meet what we are striving for in our school year. Typically, the other requests are from inspirational speakers and the cost is great, so we usually do not have them. We do have some presenters - thru CALM classes. These presenters are usually through the Alberta Health Services - regarding sexually transmitted diseases, etc.
- 8.0 Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.**

**Next meeting Feb 24, 2020**