

École Secondaire Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School

“Committed to excellence in teaching and learning”

School Council Minutes for Monday, November 25, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:59pm 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.

1.0 Minutes of the October 28, 2019 meeting were presented for approval. Alan Kuprowski moved to accept the minutes from the October 28, 2019 meeting. Carried.

2.0 No circulation to share.

3.0 Busing Update - Jamie Rawlusyk shared that we have always kept a fleet of between 4-7 buses. Maintenance was adding up, and so we bought 2 new buses. At the end of last year we sold 2 buses and 2 are still for sale. We kept 2 buses. New regulations regarding standards in order to be qualified to drive a school bus have been implemented. As a district we met and the “MELT” training is \$5000 for a 54 hour course. To certify a brand new driver would be about \$9000. Gas, insurance, etc. was costing aprox. \$85,000 per year. We thought we could we use that to hire out instead. As well, Alberta Teachers Association does not want teachers driving. We met at the district level and decided to hire a bus line, so Prairie Bus lines received the job. So, we have had to alter the way we do things, particularly in PE. We were taking aprox. 1600-1800 bus trips in a school year. We have asked PE to reduce down to 900 trips a year. Cost now is \$120 per trip with Prairie. We believe we are going to have to adjust even further. Longer field trips were usually always budgeted to use Prairie anyways, so that won't change. If a seat belt law came into effect, it would cost \$15,000 to retrofit our two buses with seat belts.

4.0 Student Leadership Report - Ainsley Lirondelle shared the Leadership report.

1. Past and Continuing Events

- a. SPC cards (Student Discount Cards), school T-shirts and scarves are being sold for \$10 in the Exec Office Tuesdays and Thursdays during Flex
- b. To advertise our events, we are using 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. Week of Wicked
 - i. Began Monday October 28th and ended on Halloween.
 - ii. Decorated the cafeteria the Friday before, sold butterbeer and pie, had our annual costume contest on Halloween day, "Tape a Teacher" (where some students just had fun taping a teacher to the wall)
 - iii. We hid our clown from the storage room all throughout the school and created a sort of scavenger hunt, we had five students collect their prize on Monday for completing the hunt
- d. On November 6th, Community held their Cards for Veterans event, where we made lovely cards for the attendees of the reception after the Remembrance Day Ceremony
- e. Last week on Monday and Tuesday at lunch, our Community team held our annual Chocolate Mustache Sales as well as a Coin Drive for Prostate Cancer Research, we donated about \$150.

2. Upcoming Events

- a. Our Internal team has almost finished planning for Winter Formal on Dec. 12th and the website will be available on the school page within the next week or so.
- b. Our Leadership Facebook page has been made! Our handle is Raiders Leadership and we're hoping to make it live before tomorrow
- c. Our Thurber Life team has started planning for Week of Winter, which will take place from the 16th to the 20th and be full of fun holiday-themed events!
 - i. Friday the 13th: Decorate the cafeteria after school
 - ii. Monday the 16th: Hot chocolate & cookie sale, Wishlist wall
 - iii. Tuesday the 17th: Ugly sweater day, wishlist wall, candy grams
 - iv. Wednesday the 18th: candy grams
 - v. Thursday the 19th: Gingerbread house decorating contest at lunch
 - vi. Friday the 20th: PJ Day, delivery of candy grams during period 5.
- d. Along with week of Winter, our Community team is hosting the Door Decorating contest, because last year was awesome! The period three classes will all have the opportunity to decorate their classroom's door to compete to win a prize at the end of the week!
- e. Soon we will be planning for the February Pep Rally

5.0 School Report - Dan Lower shared that last month he travelled to Brazil with our Director of International Services. We get more requests for students from Brazil than we can handle. Dan found it very interesting to see their Education system.

Dan shared that we are at day 54 of 84 teaching days this semester.

On November 7th we had a PD morning for our staff on First Nations, Métis and Inuit training. The new "Teacher Quality Standards" includes foundational knowledge of First Nations, Métis and Inuit for all students.

Dan shared that we have our upcoming Jazz Cafe on Friday, Nov 29th and our Winter Concert Dec 5th.

Dan shared a document for the “Public Engagement for Proposed Choice in Education Act”. If you would like to take the time to complete the survey it would be appreciated. As things are happening in education, our teachers continue with all the good things that we do without bringing any political influence into our classrooms. We will not be having any staff cuts this school year. We do not know what will happen next year.

Dan shared the Red Deer Public Schools Values video. Our Trustees were tired of seeing the other school districts in Red Deer promoting their values and felt that our School District teaches these same things. They wanted to promote ours as well. At a High School level we are really curriculum focused, but even we could do a better job at promoting our District values: Respect, Curious, Responsible, Collaborative, Resilient, Healthy. We are already talking about these values in our Connections time.

Dan asked if there are any ideas from parents on how to promote this? Dan will ask teachers as well.

Alan Wade shared that teachers do teach those character qualities - with examples for behaviours of students in class and code of conduct in class.

Discussion on Respect - our school property. It's frustrating even in our cafeteria. Could we have a spring clean up session? We will be figuring out ways to make these Values more visible to our students.

Dan opened up discussion for any questions or concerns from parents:

Parents brought up concerns about the traffic congestion - could an adult do some traffic control? The roadway is becoming so dangerous with cars and students. Dan will reach out to the City and see about a pedestrian light.

Dan wanted to make sure that new Grade 9 parents know that during our exam week, students only come to school if they are in an exam. The last 3 days of classes before exam week is usually class review time. The exam schedule will be posted on our website soon. Most Grade 9's will have 2 PAT's this semester.

Parents asked if there could be more on-line use of google classroom by teachers. This would be a big help for parents so that they can help their students stay organized. Can the Google classroom codes be put on the course outlines? Currently over half our teachers already use google classroom. Dan will follow up and encourage teachers to set that up. Dan also shared that we are running 6 sessions for all Grade 9's on skills to help the transition into high school.

6.0 ASCA - Sarah Rollingson shared that the Member engagement session with the Education Minister was on-line for the last hour. The discussion will be posted shortly. The Minister said that she will respond to all the questions.

Two of the questions - will diploma weighting stay the same at 70/30? Yes.

Will there be a voucher system in Alberta - No.

If you are not OK with something, please say something. If you write a letter, also cc the party opposition. We are hopefully planning another one of these sessions again before the AGM.

7.0 City-Wide Council Meeting Report - Sarah Rollinson shared that there was discussion on budget. Red Deer Public School District is hiring a new Superintendent for next school year. Hopefully by late December early January we will know who is hired. Chad Erickson did an overview of the mental health curriculum. They are trying to figure out how to make it a credit course for students so that they will take the course. It was shared that if you think your child is struggling in any regard, please call the school - they will connect you to the people that will help your student get the help they need. Reminder to do your survey.

Next meeting Jan 21 at 7pm at Westpark Middle School. We might be able to have a tour of the new school around 6:30pm if you want to come early. Other meetings are March 10 at Glendale, May 12 at Aspen Heights.

If you have any ideas for things you want to see at School Council - please let Robert Pack know. The School Council email address is on our website:

ltchs-schoolcouncil@rdpsd.ab.ca

8.0 Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm