

## École Secondaire Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School

“Committed to excellence in teaching and learning”

### School Council Minutes for Monday, May 29, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm by Brad Vonkeman 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, Metis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.*

**1.0 Agenda Review** - agenda was reviewed and adopted as presented.

**2.0 Minutes of the April 24, 2017** meeting were presented for approval and were adopted.

**3.0 Correspondence file was circulated.**

#### **4.0 Reports:**

**4.1 Leadership Report - Jade Weber** was unavailable. Kayden Wall was here in her place, and he shared that he will be the upcoming student body president. Kayden shared that Thurber Life had a successful Nerf game. The Community team is planning another senior visit this Wednesday. Last week, about 10 seniors played bingo with us. The rest of the teams are busy planning events for the 150th celebration. Dodgeball tournament will be starting soon.

**4.2 School Report - Dan Lower** shared some info on “the incident”. The incident was two grade 9 boys arguing at a skate park. Some curse words were said, and the Syrian boy misunderstood what was said against his sister. At school it began with a punch and a student being thrown to the ground. A Canadian student pursued another fight at lunch and it blew up from there. False information was shared on the internet. After that, parents started receiving letters from me. We contacted the RCMP and took advice from them. By 7am on Tuesday RCMP advised they were going over. We had 38 officers on our premises. Groups such as the Sons of Odin, a neo-nazi group, etc. showed up on the Tuesday to protest. The protesters were contained to the end parking lot of the Memorial Centre. We think about 150 students stayed home that day. I had maybe 3 or 4 questions or concerns from our own parents about whether to send their students or not. Two of our students were visible that day - Thomas Gower made a sign and Ursella Khan went out and talked with the protesters. They were invited up to meet Mr. Eggen today in the legislature for standing up for what they believe in. They received a standing ovation from the legislature. The media portrayed that not everyone received the same consequences. This was not true. There have been claims on the internet of groping, etc. This has never been brought forward to us at all. We believe that we would have heard about this before now if it was true, and we wonder why people be speaking up about this on the internet yet never have mentioned it before now. Of the 40 protesters that were reported, we never counted more than 20. There were a couple of parents of our students that were out there with the protesters. These were parents of the suspended students.

The morning of the protest we started every one of our classes with a discussion about what happened and the circumstances around this. We want people to know that we are so much more than the different nationalities that we have here.

Shelley Goulet was surprised by the hateful comments - she hopes those comments were not from our Red Deer area. There are refugee students in our school system that have never set foot in a school, this is a difficult life they are trying to adapt to.

Robert Pack had some parents contact him and he encouraged them to send their students that Tuesday. We want Dan to know we support him. Dan said that the best way to combat these mistruths is to come to our school.

Mason Lantz responded with a statement from the students of LTCHS. On Behalf of the students at Lindsay Thurber I would like to formally thank you for how well you handled the situation that took place over the past 2 weeks. As I watched the events unfold last week, you stood up in front of uninformed hateful people in order to dispel the myths circulating over social media. I honestly believe that if any one of those protestors had ever attended a single one of these meetings they would know for a fact that the punishments were fair and equitable. I heard that you weren't even legally required to provide most of the information you did which I think goes to show the lengths at which you went to convince the public of the inaccuracy of the allegations. You have affirmed my beliefs that in this day and age people need to be as well informed as possible and you have proven to the students of this school that you are there for them. I really have to say that I feel pride in knowing that I have been a student under your leadership.

Brad Vonkeman also thanked Dan for the letters that were sent out. This was very helpful in keeping us informed. John Goulet reminded us that these refugee students are speaking for their parents as well, so they have that additional stress. Brad reminded us to keep well informed.

Dan shared that we try as best we can with our 14 refugees, some just came in June, some were here from the previous January. It is still scary for them. 3 of the 4 Syrian boys that were suspended were in a camp for the last 6 years. We want to help them integrate. A few days before the incident, Gaylene Mackay went to a session that described a diplomat mentor program. We are going to start this next year.

Dan also shared information about the June 21st celebration that we are having to celebrate the 150th year of Canada and the 70th of LTCHS. We are creating a time capsule that staff and students will be able to put something in - we have drawn 3 names of students from each grade as well as staff. There will be special mosaic being created, BBQ, cake, native drummers and dancers will perform. Some of our students are creating a video for that day. You are all invited to come.

Dan asked for feedback on ideas of how to improve council next year:

- Theresa shared she would like to see kids presenting what they learned at meetings.
- At orientation, have a parent share what council does, how it is different from elementary and middle school council.
- Elect our officials at our second meeting? Brad advised that this is not possible, maybe elect at the final school council meeting.
- Summer newsletter - add info on school council - explain the difference from elementary or middle school councils, inform the time commitment of the meetings
- Encourage more students to attend
- Encourage trustees to attend

Dan would like to thank all the parents who attend and lend their guidance to council. Dan has enjoyed having his VP's attend different meetings this year. Thanks to Mason, Brad, The Goulets, and Alissa our staff member who attends. Thanks for all your support.

**4.3 ASCA Report - Brad Vonkeman asked** Robert & Yvonne Pack to share some info as they went to the AGM. They shared that they enjoyed the breakout sessions, but were disappointed that the Minister of Education wasn't present. Bullying session was very informative. Robert felt some direction to attend the session on Purpose of School Councils. It was informative regarding what they can advocate for and what they can't. The curriculum session raved about the survey results. Now it will be interesting to see what will be brought out in the media from this. The session on anxiety talked about how we enable the anxiety in our children. A session on PAT's & Diploma schedules, and then a session on the Dual Credit program. They had students that had participated and gave their testimonies of how they have used this to their benefit. Brad shared the outcome of resolutions debated at the Annual General Meeting.

**4.4 City Wide Council Report - Theresa Chilibeck shared** that the City Wide meeting was at West Park Elementary. They do "one book many schools". They had different games painted on the pavement to get the students active in the spring. Brian St. Germain did a presentation on residential

schools. He believes that both of his parents were in residential schools. The Treaty flag raising will be at Central Office on June 14th.

**4.5 City Wide Student Advisory Council - Mason Lantz shared** that there hasn't been a meeting so not much to report. The Student Voice Assembly is coming up on Saturday. Three Thurber students are going.

**5.0 New Business** - No new business.

**6.0 Adjournment** - Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm