

École Secondaire Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School

“Committed to excellence in teaching and learning”

School Council Minutes for Monday, January 30, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm 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 discussion on school tours was added to new business

2.0 Minutes of the November 28, 2016 meeting were presented for approval and were adopted.

3.0 Correspondence was circulated.

4.0 Dan Lower introduced Vice-Principal Sandre Bevan. Sandre has taken over as the Vice-Principal of the Grade 10's this year. Last year Sandre was the Vice-Principal for Grade 12's. Sandre shared Graduation Data that she has been compiling for the last four years. Of the 434 students - 73% of them graduated. It is difficult to track every single student as some were international students, or moved away, etc. Sandre shared the rate of success by specialized program. We were surprised by the low rate of success of our K&E students. Because of this, we are able to make some adjustments to the way we support these students. Sandre shared the breakdown of the schools that students attended in Grade 8, and then Sandre shared the graduation rate for students based on their previous school attended. This will allow us to put supports in place for this as well. Sandre shared the reason of deficiencies for the 43 students that did not graduate. Sandre shared the student retention & success rate. Of the 434 students that we tracked, we kept 78% of students in our building.

5.0 Reports:

Leadership Report - Jade Weber shared that our Thurber Life team will be handing out and selling matchomatic forms and making hearts for around the school. Also our internal team is going to begin planning for Thurber Idol within the next few weeks, and a basketball intramural tournament will be happening in the month of February during lunch.

School Report - Dan Lower shared that we have hired five new teachers for our second semester. One teacher covers a maternity leave and the other four are to reduce class sizes. English, Math, Social, Science and a Social/Science/English teacher. Doug Rowe a long time counsellor is retiring, as well as Eugene Parkins in our CTS department and Betty Callaghan in our accounting department.

Dan shared the stats on our students that are failing. As we chart over time, we can learn how we get better at this - put the right supports in place so that students can reach the level that they are able.

This past semester, we implemented Inflexible flex - of the over 300 students that were assigned - 243 students finished one or more assignments.

Dan shared the first of 3 videos regarding the pillars of support from the Red Deer Public School District.

This first video was on Teacher Efficacy.

ASCA Report - Brad Vonkeman shared that the time frame for writing the PAT's in Grade 9 is changing. The council also had discussions on Curriculum redesign, carbon tax and how it will affect school budgets. Some legislation is being put in place on the Release of information between Alberta Health and Alberta Education.

Council continues to offer webinars on Wednesdays on many different topics. Registrations are now open for the upcoming conference. Lindsay Thurber has money available to attend if you are interested. Conference info is on the website. Parent awards are still available for nominations.

City Wide Council Report - Brad Vonkeman shared that the meeting was at Mattie McCullough. Parents, staff & students shared why the school is great. Parents said traditions are great, grade level teaming. Staff said wide range of programs, family friendly programs. Students said people and opportunities to do other stuff. They took the opportunity to have a bit of a Town hall meeting for parents and discuss the three priorities that the district has. Next meeting is at Gateway on March 7th.

City Wide Student Advisory Council - Mason Lantz shared that at the last meeting they discussed new educational changes with high school redesign, LAT's, curriculum changes, and supports that are in place for students. Next meeting is Thursday, Feb 2nd.

6.0 Old Business - no old business

7.0 New Business - Mason Lantz has been talking to the Leadership teachers about school tours that happen during Grade 8 orientation. Can we consider a virtual reality type of tour with department heads? Providing a more informative tour, would be helpful to new students and parents. Use newer technology to showcase our areas. Discussion followed. Dan suggested possibly finding an outside agency to put this together.

8.0 Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm. Mason took council on a tour of the robotics classroom.

Next meeting is February 27, 2017 at 7pm in the Learning Commons.