



**MINUTES OF THE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE PARKLAND SCHOOL DIVISION CENTRE FOR
EDUCATION IN STONY PLAIN, ALBERTA ON 23 FEBRUARY 2010**

ATTENDANCE:

Student Representatives from:

Blueberry, Ècole Broxton Park, Connections for Learning, Duffield,
Entwistle, Graminia, Greystone Centennial Middle School, High Park,
Memorial Composite, Ècole Meridian Heights, Muir Lake, Seba Beach,
Spruce Grove Composite, Stony Plain Central, Tomahawk, Wabamun,
Woodhaven

Irene Goebel, Trustee and Co-Chair of Student Advisory Committee

Richard Gilchrist, Board Chair

Dorcas Kilduff, Vice Chair

Robert Gillard, Trustee

Elsie Kinsey, Trustee

Kathleen Linder, Trustee - regrets

Darcy Kolodnicki, Trustee – regrets

Mary Lynne Campbell, Superintendent of Schools

Tim Monds, Deputy Superintendent

Kelly Wilkins, Associate Superintendent

Darlene Marcenkevics, Principal, SGCHS

Colleen Woloshyn, Principal, High Park

John Hodgson, Principal, Wabamun

David Bridgeman, Principal, Seba Beach

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Student Co-Chair at 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting began with the singing of ‘O Canada’ followed by a welcome to the attendees from the Co-Chairs. Participants introduced themselves.

RCMP PRESENTATION ON BULLYING

Constable Peter shared a slide show presentation on bullying and answered attendee questions. A copy of the presentation will be posted to the Student section on the division’s website.

GETTING PERSONAL

The Student Co-Chair shared a personal story of bullying and answered student questions.

DIGGING DEEPER

Alberta Government Public Service Announcements about bullying were shared with attendees.

Students were asked to work in groups to consider the following questions:

1. What is the impact of bullying at your school?
2. What form of bullying is most familiar to you?
3. What strategies have you seen to be effective in reducing bullying?
4. As a group, record two or three questions you have about bullying.

Results from Table Discussions

Impact of Bullying

- segregation (bully groups / target groups / bystanders)
- males are more direct with bullying
- females do more bullying
- targets are more passive
- it is more difficult on the target at smaller schools (everyone joins in)
- depends what group you are in
- high school is mostly homophobic bullying and 'girl' issues
- seen more often in younger grades
- depression and/or low self-esteem are the result for the target
- don't want to go to school if you are the target
- less trust or basis for trust in girls
- Parkland School Division pretty healthy with regards to bullying
- a lot of it is done 'behind the scenes'

Forms of Bullying

- targeting a person's appearance
- cyber-bullying *(this was noted by all groups)
- racial slurs
- cross-gender sexual/verbal harassing
- exclusion from a group
- physical
- teacher bullying
- verbal insults

Effective Strategies

- "No-Bull" (old SGCHS program)
- "Stepping Up to Serve" (Ecole Broxton Park program)
- promote use of guidance councilors
- self-confidence
- educating young people on the difference between teasing and bullying (start early!)
- being happy with yourself and your self-image
- knowing what you want
- optimism
- talk to an adult
- laugh it off
- walk away
- it can get out of hand if you don't tell anyone
- positive relationship with adults
- providing ways for kids to talk to each other
- cross grading helps with feeling of security
- refocusing advisory curriculum from school spirit/health (security with other grades)
- extra-curricular/after school activities
- defend the target – especially in the classroom since there is an authority figure present
- greater presence and supervision in the places where bullying occurs and is a lot harder to catch
- deal with bystanders
- go to the Principal, don't stop telling, show that bullying is ineffective
- bystanders stepping in
- authorities must understand the situation and try not to go into the situation with a bias

Questions about Bullying

- what to do when authorities/adults don't believe you or take the other side?
- how do you educate bystanders who play a major role in bullying?
- we have been told so much about bullying, why is it still a problem?
- what should be the focus of advisement style classes? Should it be curriculum based, or a focus on building relationships between students for a support network?
- what resources can be used to aid bullies in improving their behavior and attitudes?
- how could schools and extracurricular activities communicate to minimize the effects of bullies?
- how can schools legitimately control / monitor cyber-bullying, which everyone agrees is a serious issue?
- how can students find an activity (extra-curricular) where they can be safe and successful?
- who is the best to go to? Parent? Teacher? Principal?
- when/where does bullying start?
- what or who is the strongest influence on an individual to start being a bully?
- how do we help people who we know are being bullied?
- how do you change a negative person into a positive person?
- how do we help people we know are bullied?

LAST WORD – STUDENT COMMENTS

Students had an opportunity to share their comments from the morning's meeting.

- ~ *“ The meeting was educational ”*
- ~ *“ We covered a lot of information about bullying. I am going to go back to school and share what I've learned ”*
- ~ *“ This was a good learning experience ”*
- ~ *“ People tune out when we talk about bullying because it's been talked about so much. We need to find new ways to teach about bullying ”*
- ~ *“ This was a good start, by the end of this we need to have effective solutions ”*
- ~ *“ What will the Board take from these meetings? Will there be actual change? ”*
- ~ *“ Great discussions, but we need to find solutions ”*
- ~ *“ Helpful to bring awareness about bullying, it's been talked about a lot. We need different ways to find a solution ”*
- ~ *“ This is a huge topic and there are two sides to the issue. Bullies have backgrounds that are not easily fixed ”*

CLOSING COMMENTS

Co-Chairs provided closing comments to the morning and thanked all attendees for their participation in the discussions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.