



**MINUTES OF THE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE PARKLAND SCHOOL DIVISION CENTRE FOR
EDUCATION IN STONY PLAIN, ALBERTA ON 18 OCTOBER 2011**

ATTENDANCE:

Student Representatives from:

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

Irene Goebel, Trustee

Richard Gilchrist, Board Chair

Eric Cameorn, Trustee – Vice Chair

Dorcas Kilduff, Trustee - Regrets

Ron Heinrichs, Trustee

Elsie Kinsey, Trustee

Kathleen Linder, Trustee

Eric Cameron, Trustee

Tim Monds, Superintendent of Schools

Kelly Wilkins, Deputy Superintendent

Emilie Keane, Associate Superintendent

Berenice MacKenzie, Assistant Principal, Blueberry School

Sharon Smith, Teacher, Duffield School

Les Worthington, Principal, Entwistle School

Shauna Boyce, Principal, Memorial Composite High School

Bill Sykes, Principal, École Meridian Heights School

Karen Stride-Goudie, Principal, Muir Lake School

Shawn Ram, Principal, Seba Beach

Kathy Mann, Assistant Principal, Spruce Grove Composite

Archie Lilloco, Principal, Stony Plain Central

Scott Johnson, Principal, Tomahawk School

Aileen Peterson, Principal, Wabamun School

Sandra Rathman, Parent, Seba Beach School

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Goebel at 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting began with the singing of 'O Canada' followed by a welcome to the committee by Trustee Goebel. Trustees and Senior Executive were introduced followed by students introducing themselves, what grade they are in and what school they attend. School administrators introduced themselves.

DIGITAL LEADERSHIP – George Couros

Mr. Couros spoke about social media – digital identity, digital citizenship, digital relationships, digital leadership and digital footprints. The pros and cons of social media and consequences of actions were also discussed.

Students, in their groups, talked about the following questions:

1. What role does social media have in your life?
2. How are you building your own digital identity? How can you make it positive?
3. What opportunities would you like to have to “create” in your own learning?
4. What are some ways that you can use social media to make a difference?

HOW HAS EDUCATION CHANGED?

1. How has education changed since you’ve been in school? What are some things that are better? What are some things that you would like to see improved?
2. Moving forward, what are some improvements you would like to see in our schools? How can we make learning better in Parkland School Division?

Responses attached (Attachment #1)

OVERVIEW OF STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Kelly Wilkins for Irene Goebel)

The purpose of the Student Advisory Committee is to meet with our Trustees. In their role as governors, Trustees feel it is important they hear the voice of students. In a formal setting, Trustees are assured they will have a face-to-face opportunity to hear from students, on any number of different topics.

CO-CHAIRPERSON NOMINATION (Kelly Wilkins for Irene Goebel)

Trustee Goebel is Co-Chair of the Student Advisory Committee. Co-Chair Goebel and a student Co-Chair, in consultation with Deputy Superintendent, Kelly Wilkins will help create the agenda for each meeting and Co-Chair each meeting. Being Co-Chair is an excellent Leadership opportunity.

Mrs. Wilkins asked for nominations.

Students from the following schools were nominated for the Student Advisory Co-Chair position: Laura Wild - Gr. 12, Spruce Gove Composite High School, Kylie Jakus - Grade 9, Ecole Meridian Heights School, Vicki Gregoire, Gr. 9 Muir Lake School and Shannon Clark - Gr. 9, Greystone Centennial Middle School.

Each nominee spoke to voters on why they feel they should be elected as Co-Chair.

Votes were tallied, and the Co-Chair for the 2011-2012 Student Advisory Committee will be Laura Wild from Spruce Grove Composite High School.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

Future agenda topics will be discussed at the November 8, 2011 meeting.

LAST WORD – STUDENT COMMENTS

Kelly explained what the “Last Word” entailed - students having an opportunity to share their comments from the meeting. Due to a lack of time, students didn’t have this opportunity at today’s meeting.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Kelly Wilkins thanked all participants for attending the meeting and congratulated the Student Co-Chair to be elected as Co-Chair of the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

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

How has education changed in the time that you have been in school? What are some things that are better? What are some things that you would like to see improve?

Education has changed a little, but it was a good change. I love the new curriculum. One thing that's better is that our whole school from grade 4-9 has new text books, and I find them better to study and learn from than the old ones. One thing that I would like to see improve is the fundraising for our school. We need new phys. Ed. equipment, but no one is active enough to fundraise.

Well the things that I have seen changed was that we went from number grades to wording to tell us where we are at.

Education has not really been given a chance to change since I started, but student to student interaction has increased significantly.

Education has changed a lot from when I was in elementary. When I was in elementary we didn't have as many hands-on activities and we didn't have very much information to do with technology and computers. As a student I like when the teachers use technology and the internet to teach us.

We have gotten a new report card system. I do not know anyone who likes this new system. Kids have come to school telling about how their parents don't like it either and have written letters to the superintendent expressing their dislike. For some universities in the United States they ask for your Grade nine marks. The way they want these marks portrayed are percentages. The new report card system does not use percentages. Other than that we have got lots of new technology resources.

It has become more interactive with the students which enable a stronger communication bond between folks.

Education in my school has changed a lot in the technological aspect of things. Even in the short time period of nine years, I have gone through many changes including going from not being allowed gameboys and such out to being encouraged to use our wireless devices as a learning tool. Every teacher now has a facebook page and most of them have a blog. We are now asking each other questions over comments and 'likes' rather than waiting for the next day to ask the teacher. We have technology classes every week. Learning how to use OneNote and Other programs to our advantage. Instead of doing a poster we will make movies and PowerPoints. I am so happy that we are moving into a technology friendly school zone. Keep up the good work!

Things that have been improved are that there are new ways that we are being taught. For example, the use of Smart boards are really helping because they allow the teachers to do a lesson through videos, websites, and writing down notes more efficiently with different tools. Also, WiFi has created a new form of learning. If a student does not understand a concept, they can use their smart phones, ipods, or laptops to assist them in their learning.

Over time, I guess I have found that teachers and staff are much more respectful almost. I mean this in the way that people are viewed more equally in opinions and their perspective on things. I see this as a huge improvement, because students feel more comfortable sharing how they feel. Also our technology, within and outside the classroom, has grown more widespread and accessible. Though maybe over the years I would like to see technology that is truly accessible to all students, technology that actually works.

We have better technology in the classes to help us like the smart board or elmo. It makes it easier for us to learn. We also do a lot of group projects but the one thing about that is most kids just socialize which leaves one kid to do most of the work.

I believe education has changed very much over the period of time I have been in school. The use of technology and social media has become part of our everyday lives and we can use that to our advantage. Some things that have gotten better are the ways we can communicate with our teachers about school assignments on social media website (facebook.)

Projects have become more hands on which I enjoy. Technology has been introduced as an educational tool but is rarely used in my school. If technology could be used often, that would be great. I would like to see where our finance is spent because that seems to need improvements.

Education has changed by becoming more interactive with technology and the SMART system. you can play educational games at the front of the room. It would show the educational views of the subject, with the fun moving around of like interactive. As well the new established, emerging, developing marking system. Things that are better is more interactive groups and such as advisory groups like now and student unions and such. I would like to see more students pick different people.

I think that during the time I've been in school the rules have really changed. When we were younger we weren't allowed to listen to Ipods or Mp3 players, but now when our teachers aren't talking we're allowed to listen to them whenever. Also last year we weren't allowed to bring food or drinks from off school grounds into the school after lunch breaks, but this year we are allowed. Report cards have changed a lot as well.

Things that have improved education is the accessibility we now have to technology. For example, every class at my school has a smartboard. I find them a new and fun way to display text books and participate in activities. Things I would like to see improved is in our science lab. Our school doesn't have the most efficient lab and it would be nice to have proper lap desks to work on.

We have gotten lots of new technology but we don't use it very much. Our teachers like to present hands-on projects/lessons which is much better than taking lots of notes and having tests. I like the "new" report card system because with it you know what areas of a subject you are struggling with.

Technology has changed a lot. It's becoming more and more advanced. Reports cards have changed referring to the A, B and C's and now it shows as percentages (just 7-9). In my opinion the percentages are more helpful to students because they know how they are doing and if they are closer to failing or closer to passing.

The Leader in Me is a great program in our school that demonstrates amazing leadership and responsibility skills. It is definitely a great addition to our school!

I've noticed that education and learning has gone from a simple chalk board and ruler to smartboards and using online tools to help kids understand what they are learning. I enjoy as a student when teachers use videos from youtube and try to make learning more than just reading a textbook and writing boring notes. I'm not too fond about the new way they're marking student grades, as many people know it's no longer in a simple ABC form. I don't understand why there was that transition.

We currently use technology as a tool to show and share what we learn in school. The advantage of being able to visually learn something on the internet is valuable and should not be discouraged. Although some students (as a fellow classmate myself has seen) misuse the technology (ie: texting in class) our smartphones and/or laptops can be useful in a way that they should not be banned or discouraged. On the brighter side we tend to get out of our desks and physically, using mnemonic devices and most of our five senses, we learn better and tend to keep information in our minds.

We have more technology than we used to but we hardly ever use it. Overall I haven't really seen many changes other than in technology.

Education has changed in terms of technology because before when you needed to use the computer you went to the computer lab now they're putting in laptops and other electronic devices.

Also, we have changed in grading, when your little you get graded with A's, B's, or C's and now we get grades based on percentages and we get mid-term marks as well as full term marks.

We have also changed in bringing the "Leader In Me" program to our school which has informed us to step up and be leaders. Also it's teaching the younger generation to lead rather than follow.

The report cards over the years have changed like excellence standard [can't remember if it was excellence standard or exceeds standard], meets standard, below standard, then it was A,B,C,N, and now it is emerging, developing, and establishing.

Now our school is bringing in the free wifi, so that people with ipods and laptops have access to the wifi connection without needing a password.

Moving forward, what are some improvements that you would like to see in our schools? How can we make learning better in Parkland School Division?

Some improvements I would like to see, is that we use technology more for learning and study tools. I'm not saying that all the schools should go buy macs, but our technology could use some updating.

Not many improvements just 1. Personally I would like to see what courses I would have to take for what I want to be when I finish school. An example of this could be a career fair that we could participate in and go to learn and ask a bunch of educational questions.

The school division can't really do anything at the moment, as they don't have the authority to change the wages of all public workers, but to it seems like teachers and assistants are getting the short end of the stick, so to speak, when it comes to pay.

In the future I would like to see a change in how we are taught, by learning new ways to learn new topics and subjects instead of lectures.

I, most people in my school and their parents would like to see a different report card.

Greener! Not in colour, but in the environmental ways! It will cost more money at first, but in the end it will be in our favour!

Offer AP or IB courses - the Edmonton school division has this and jealousy is overwhelming me!

Keep up the good work. Keep encouraging technology and working on modernizing our learning space.

Something that would be amazing is something like an online forum. Students sometimes learn from other students better than they do with the teachers, so a forum where students can post questions and comment on them might be a useful tool.

I think personally improvements that could be made more count on the students. I hope one day the students could respect each other. It doesn't mean they have to get along, just the simple understanding everyone is themselves. Or maybe I would like to see all work done in class, all assignments, homework, study notes, anything would be available online, so kids could work at home or catch-up, redo, and work ahead at their own pace so that they would be able to learn to the best of their abilities.

Some improvements I would like to see in Parkland School Division, to make learning better would be to update our technology.

We don't have enough textbooks for everyone and the ones we do have are falling apart. Many other things in my school including lockers and our few laptops aren't suitable for a learning environment. Having well kept learning tools would enhance learning opportunities.

We would like to have more different people pick each other to see the different cultures in the school to have more people interact with one another.

I would like to have travelling options again. We had them last year but then they took them away this year. I think that those options were a really good opportunity for us to meet new people and learn new things that we wouldn't necessarily learn in our normal classes.

Some improvements I would like to see is more involvement with technology by have more projects and opportunities to use computers and programs on the internet.

Our laptops are not very reliable. We have plenty of them but a good portion of them crash while we are doing our work, or they don't work to start with.

Our school has a closed campus rule that states you are not allowed to travel off school grounds at lunch walking to Tim Hortons for example even with a note. I think that should be an improvement that allows us to walk where we want during lunch hours.

I would like to see students in the future using laptops in class when possible. We need to inform youth not just about the negative aspects of the internet but how we could use it positively like we've seen today. I think it's a good idea to get kids started with the whole "digital footprint" as early as possible so they can learn positively from it and express their creativity to the world.

Allow those who are not technologically involved to do things "the old way", as in paper written, vocal presentations and chalk boards (not really but it's a good idea). So while involving the always evolving technology, also encourage the use of "the old ways" because if we do not we may unfortunately lose the culture that our ancestors have built for us.

I would like to have more reliable laptops that we use on a more consistent basis. Currently, we have quite a few laptops but half of them do not work.

I think we can make learning better in Parkland School Division by interacting with other schools by having field trips at other schools, traveling options or anything that interacts us and shows us how other schools run things there.

I would like to see traveling options for Broxton, Woodhaven, and Greystone, put back in the curriculum, or something to have a little fun and to get away from our classroom even for a little while.