



**MINUTES OF THE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE PARKLAND SCHOOL DIVISION CENTRE FOR
EDUCATION IN STONY PLAIN, ALBERTA ON 08 NOVEMBER 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 Cameron, Trustee – Vice Chair

Dorcas Kilduff, Trustee

Ron Heinrichs, Trustee

Elsie Kinsey, Trustee

Kathleen Linder, Trustee

Eric Cameron, Trustee

Kelly Wilkins, Deputy Superintendent

Emilie Keane, Associate Superintendent

Berenice MacKenzie, Assistant Principal, Blueberry School

Sharon Smith, Teacher, Duffield School

Les Worthington, Principal, Entwistle School

Karen Stride-Goudie, Principal, Muir Lake School

Scott Johnson, Principal, Tomahawk School

Aileen Peterson, Principal, Wabamun School

Arlene Fieldhouse, Parent, Stony Plain Central School

Norm Usiskin, Teacher, Forest Green School

CALL TO ORDER

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Trustee Goebel opened the meeting with 'O Canada' followed by a welcome and introduction of Trustees. Senior Executive and students then introduced themselves.

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION – Norm Usiskin

Norm Usiskin set up all students with a gmail account to allow each student to be able to create blogs under PSD Blogs.

21st CENTURY LEARNING – Laura Wild

Each student was given the Alberta Education booklet *Framework for Student Learning*. Seven different competencies are described and research has identified that the development of these competencies is essential for students in the 21st century to become “engaged thinkers and ethical citizens.” Alberta Education has embedded these competencies in its “Framework” which will provide direction for the development of future curriculum. Students broke into groups and were assigned one of the following competencies:

- Critical Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making
- Creativity and Innovation
- Social, Global and Environmental Responsibility
- Communication
- Digital and Technological Fluency
- Lifelong Learning, Personal Management and Well-being
- Collaboration and Leadership

The groups engaged in the “It Says, I Say, So What” strategy that is used to engage people in understanding written text:

It Says: Students silently read competency and think how they will orally express their understanding

I Say: Students take a turn understanding saying their understanding of the competency.

So What: Each student individually responds to “So what are some ways that this competency is reflected in your current school experience?”

Using the Recording Sheet, a spokesperson from each group reported to the whole group about their common answer on the competency they were assigned. (See attached Comments from Recording Sheets, Appendix A) Groups were then asked to discuss which competency of the seven is being addressed to the greatest extent in their classroom/school, supported by evidence from their experiences.

PART II: STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION – Norm Usiskin

Students logged onto their gmail account via PSDBlogs. Norm explained how students can set up their own blog. He encouraged students to be aware of what they are writing, to be thoughtful, appropriate and grammatically correct. Authors need to click preview button prior to posting just to ensure it looks and says exactly what was intended.

Associate Superintendent Emilie Keane suggested students blog on the following topics:

1. Reflect on what you have learned about yourself in your position as SAC rep.
2. Give advice to Sr Executive. What could we work on/improve to make student learning better for you and your schools.

Kelly encouraged students to check out 184 Days of Learning and perhaps sign up to be a writer for a day!

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

Groups discussed possible future agenda topics.

LAST WORD – STUDENT COMMENTS

Students shared their comments from the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Framework for Student Learning

COMPETENCIES

Critical Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making

I SAY:

They are well rounded people. If you are a critical thinker you have the ability to look at the whole picture. They are open-minded, willing to listen to more than one side of the story. They are aware of their own weaknesses. Be able to look at things in depth, not just what is on the surface. Being able to look at a problem and find many solutions.

SO WHAT:

We are always encouraged to be critical thinkers, not only in our school environment, but in our community.

Creativity and Innovation

I SAY:

Students are able to adapt to programs (report cards, etc.).

Students are creative and able to use those skills inside and outside at school, clubs, sports, work.

SO WHAT:

We can choose what we want to focus on (3 different sciences).

Technology helps with projects and presentations.

We can bring in new ideas and programs to schools that are beneficial.

Social, Global and Environmental Responsibility

I SAY:

Fairly good understanding of ourselves.

Appreciation of what is given to us and how to use it in every way possible.

Contribute (helping) instead of taking things for granted.

Contradictions.

All about cultural background.

SO WHAT:

Creating blogs to help suicidal teens, gays, immigrants, racism and sexism.

Student exchanges / trips.

Volunteer work and leadership.

World Vision.

Positive attitudes.

Communication

I SAY:

They want us to express ourselves but take in other peoples' ideas as well. We are expected to communicate in a proper manner. We want to use different methods to communicate. We should acknowledge people from different backgrounds in our school

SO WHAT:

Must consider your audience when communicating. We have assemblies, "Leader in Me" communities and advisory to help us communicate. We use different forms of communication (blogs, newsletters). We have student council meetings for students to express themselves.

Digital and Technological Fluency

I SAY:

Each student learns differently through technology and we have different learning steps with technology.
With digital and technological fluency we can send and receive information with one another through a variety of websites, Facebook or blogs.

We are responsible for our actions and words on the internet for positive interaction.

We use the appropriate website for the task at hand.

SO WHAT:

Facebook page for homework /videos to help.

Many options for use of computers.

Cell phones / iPads / iPods – take pictures of homework on board.

Elmos.

Digital recording devices.

Lifelong Learning, Personal Management and Well-being

I SAY:

Schools aren't just teaching us the subjects and what we need to learn but also how to apply to our life.

SO WHAT:

Take Our Kids to Work day.

Encouraged to try hard and do our best.

CALM, Grade 10.

Collaboration and Leadership

I SAY:

Cooperate – do our share of the work.

Be responsible for your actions.

Motivate others.

Be flexible – use others ideas and not just your own.

Share what you learn. Talk to teachers.

Take responsibility in helping others.

SO WHAT:

Citizenship Awards.

Fundraisers (Japan, Haiti, Movember).

Teach others the good & bad.