

TCS School Council Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 22nd, 2022

Time: 2-3pm

Location: TCS Learning Commons

APPROVED MINUTES

Exec Attendance: Stephanie Dyck, Sophie Kolterjahn, Nicole Sharpe

Admin Attendance: Michelle Duimel, Dawnyshia Dykshoorn, Leslie Wenzel

Palliser School Rep: Shane Cranston

ACSCS: Mike Humphries

Teacher Rep: Jennifer Munton; Communications: Dawn Peart

Parent Attendance: Arlene Reimer, Jessi Krahn, Laura Kozen, Cynthia Michie, Samantha & Dallas Halvorson, Diana Thomas

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer – Stephanie Dyck and Mike Humphries
 - Stephanie reviewed roles of the TCS school council and school mission
 - Shane Cranston director of learning from Palliser introduced
2. Motion to Approve Agenda
 - Moved by Sophie Kolterjahn, 2nd Dawn Peart
 - Motion carried
3. Motion to Approve TCS School Council Meeting Minutes of *April 14th, 2022*
 - Motion Cynthia Michie, 2nd Arlene Reimer
 - Motion carried
4. Palliser Board Greetings – Shane Cranston Director of Learning
 - Thanked parents for being part of TCS School Council
 - Updates:
 - i. Start of the year has been great, stable enrollment over last several years, 8500 across division
 - ii. Stable budget, looking at a planned deficit
 - iii. New student information system was introduced as a way to maintain records, attendance tracking – the board is working to transition schools in to this
 - iv. Coming out of the pandemic school board is seeing different challenges re: wellness from staff and students – working to support everyone
 - v. Seeing re-engagement with schools, working to be visible in schools, central office is getting out to support schools
 - vi. Hiring – communications coordinator started Monday – making sure central office is getting all information out to schools and families – looking forward to an improved communication system

Question – Sophie – is it possible that the board can look at communication to parents to inform of the new information system and challenges that were occurring prior to report cards, to allow time for adjustments?

A: Yes, this communicating with school families early should help alleviate some concerns and hopefully everything will be sorted out well before report card time

5. Principal/Executive Director's Report– Michelle Duimel and Mike Humphries

- Great start to the school year, record enrollment (460), 60 staff, feeling complete as we welcome parents back in to the building as well
- School information system
 - A part of it will look at supporting report cards – end of November for elementary, live reporting for JH training is happening this week but date for rollout is not yet confirmed
 - Formal reporting terms will change
 - Outcome based reporting system
- Recess Initiatives
 - How do we reimagine recess? Great playground and field space already at TCS, but hoping to refresh recess
 - Looking to develop a committee around this – please reach out to Michelle if this is of interest to you
- School Goals/Assurance Framework
 - Assurance Measures and Frameworks – put out by the Alberta Ed and is standardized for the entire province of Alberta
 - Represents TCS against Alberta
 - Available on the TCS website under school goals
<https://www.tcskids.com/about-us/school-goals-accountability-pillar>
 - Results come from Grade 4 & 7 each year as well as all teaching staff
 - Results continue to be high
 - Q: all the measures appear to have hyperlinks – can you use those to see the details around what data was considered for these scores?
 - A: Yes
- Highlights:
 - Student growth and achievement – students least like learning about LA and math;
 - Grade 7 students said 67% follow the rules, 64% of students respect each other – TCS to dig deeper in to this to see why that is and where is it coming from
 - Program of studies- JH parents said 64% very satisfied / satisfied with opportunities to learn another language, but our students reported at 87% satisfied. We see a difference between what parents and students value – intention is to investigate why there is a discrepancy and how do we bridge that gap?

- Same observed with music, low 70%s – how can we enhance music program? – See below
- Satisfaction with program access – both in grade 4 and 7, if we asked parents how satisfied they are with accessing learning supports / program 64 & 67% satisfied, students are at 91 & 93%
 - How do we better communicate the program access to parents to bridge this gap?
- Review of Alberta Education Accountability Pillars and “Our School” Survey (conducted Spring 2022) – will be on the TCS website soon!
 - 111 responses – great response rate
 - This is a standardized assessment tool
 - Scores that were lower – parents supporting their children’s learning at home 5-6.5/10 range
 - Parent in attendance provided context that parents may have answered based on their own performance rather than school, and the difficulties parents faced in the recent pandemic
 - We are interested to see if it changes coming out of covid and progressing in to this year at TCS
 - Bullying – was not notable in survey
 - Dare to Care with elementary and JH occurred last week
 - Communication w/ the School – what do you rely on?
 - Most significant answer was Weekly Happenings email
 - 2nd was teacher emails or phone calls
 - School goals powerpoint is on the website and will be reviewed at the society meeting
 - As part of the assurance framework there will now be a Spring and Fall goal process – setting goals and reflecting on them
 - Michelle provided a handout to parents which is also on the Palliser website – Our Four-Year Education Plan, next year TCS will have a complete one as well
- 1st ever Band Program at TCS beginning Fall 2022
 - Launching as part of the grade 6 music curriculum
 - Mr. Michie is heading this up
 - Plan is to introduce it at the end of grade 5, to prepare for grade 6
- Students from Colombia (mid-Nov to mid-Dec 2022)
 - Partnering with Palliser
 - Looking for families to provide a home-stay
 - Students would be in grade 6-8
 - If you are interested, please contact Michelle
- Grade 6 and 9 Experience Trips
 - Grade 6 will return to the Edmonton trip – Legislature, water park
 - Possibly January but still working out the details and plans
 - Grade 9 – Green Bay Bible Camp – scheduled in May, but hoping to push it in to June to optimize activities with warmer weather

- ACSCS – meeting September 22, 2022
 - High School survey was sent out last week
 - Topic of Christian HS has been discussed for many years – trying to decide what this could look like
 - Combined discussions with GCA re: this topic – discussing many scenarios, committee formed b/w the 2 schools, consulting with groups that have done this before
 - If it were to happen, it is a number of years away
 - Please complete the survey if you haven't had a chance to complete it
 - Q: Cynthia- Is there a possibility of looking at a partnership with Palliser rather than an independent school like GCS?
 - Have not communicated with Palliser yet
 - All options are on the table
 - Q: Arlene- what type of facility are you looking at, eg. old CBE school?
 - The ideal would be to rent the right space in South Calgary Board of Education, which would minimize cost compared to building a new school
 - New events person hired (also TCS parent)- Laura Kozen

Response/Questions

- Comment from Shane (Palliser) – reported that TCS set of data is very very good – TCS is one of the most highly performing schools
- Q: Arlene Reimer- how do we communicate to families to remind them of the commitment to attend to church?
 - Response: could we consider a workshop to review the value proposition of attending?

6. New Business:

- School Council Executive
 - Executive Report – Stephanie Dyck
 - School Council for Beginners!
 - TCS Website – Parents – School Council
 - Governance model – if you attend you can vote
 - Volunteer Opportunities are listed on website and level of commitment
 - School Council Exec Evaluation available on website
 - Financial Report – will be available in September
 - Connect with us: schoolcouncil@tcs.com
 - Check out our bulletin board
 - ASCA UCP Leadership Candidates' Forum
 - Online forum from NZ

- Opportunity for discussion with UCP leadership candidates on priorities for education
 - Register at: albertaschoolcouncils.ca
 - Succession Planning
 - Terms 2-3 years – if you are interested in being an executive member, please contact us as our 2nd term for all positions has begun
- AB School Council Engagement Grant – Sophie Kolterjahn
 - Government provided money to support school councils to create connection and engagement with parents
 - Last year TCS hosted Sid Koop
 - Looking for ideas on how we can utilize the funds remaining and hoping for an additional grant this year
 - Please connect with us if you have ideas
- Committee Introductions and Volunteer Opportunities:
 - TCS Banking – Arlene Reimer
 - Banking information is available on the website
 - Christian Credit Union – partnership w/ credit unions in Calgary
 - 1x per month deposit at TCS – dates to come on the website
 - 1x per month statement
 - CCU bonus payments to the school
 - 0.50 cent return for grade amount deposited
 - 5x grade amount, bonus \$2 earned
 - Bonus payments deposits in July
 - Lost and Found – Jessi Krahn
 - Need people to go through it on a weekly basis
 - Need people to put it out for a week (after school)
 - Contact information is on the website
 - Staff Appreciation – Stephanie Dyck
 - Information on the website
 - Blessings Initiative – Audra Chase
 - We have a freezer to fill with meals
 - If you would like to contribute

7. Motion to Adjourn TCS School Council Meeting *September 22nd, 2022*

- Moved by Sophie, 2nd Nicole Sharpe
- Motion carried

8. Closing Prayer – Mike Humphries