

PORTER CREEK SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNCIL
Minutes of Regular Meeting
November 13, 2019
School Library

“School Council would like to acknowledge that we are on the lands of the Kwanlin Dun and Ta’an Kwach’an First Nation people and thank them for allowing us to live and work on their traditional land.”

Present:	Council Members: Dale Cheeseman: Chair Don Fitzsimmons Misty Ticiniski William Carlick Deanna McLeod Amanda Leas Sean Smith Jerry Zahora: Secretary Treasurer	Administration: Souhail Soujah: Principal Peter Giangrande: Vice Principal Candice Deo: A/Vice Principal
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Regrets: Andrew Robulack: Council Member
Jennifer Kozmen: Council Member

Guests: Geraldine VanBibber: MLA PC North
Evelyn Troy: CELC
Jason Cook: GSA Leader, PCSS
Sheri Graham: Parent
GSA: Students

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:33PM
2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Moved by William, second by Misty, THAT the agenda be adopted. CARRIED

2.1 PCSS GSA Presentation:
Jason Cook provided a presentation on the GSA at PCSS. The GSA ‘hit the ground’ this year and the group has gotten bigger. It has been a great year at the school with the formation the “Rainbow Room”, which is a safe space for ALL students. Students can go and hangout there during breaks, lunchtime. The GSA students use to hide in the hallways; students needed to be safe and therefore the Rainbow Room was created.
The “Elders” of the GSA, (original group of students) have visited the Montessori School, upper and lower classes and answered questions from the students.
There are different flags which have been brightening the transit buses when they

are used.

A delegation of students went to the Global Climate Strike.

On November 6, GSA wrote a letter to the Minister of Education with reference to the Dept. of Education Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) which came into effect in 09/05/2021. Policy should be updated as the wording in it is outdated. Copy of letter provided to School Council.

On November 7, Kate White questioned the Acting Minister of Education, Jeanie Dendys with reference to the SOGI policy. School council watched the proceedings from the Legislature discussing this issue.

The Dept. recognizes students and school community members who identify as LGBTQ2S+ who face a unique set of challenges within schools and communities. They feel that every school should have a safe space for all students, just like PCSS Rainbow Room.

More policy and education is still required.

An article in the Whitehorse star did headline not accurately report the intent of the letter to the Minister of Education from the GSA.

They invited the Minister and others to the PCSS Rainbow Room in order to discuss their concerns and ways that they may support the department in ensuring that LGBTQ2S+ youth from around the territory are protected and able to achieve their fullest potential.

In November, the GSA, Rainbow Room received \$10,000. From the Victoria Gold attendance initiative to help run LGBT retreats and Rainbow Room.

They also provided a petition 178 days ago, re: banning conversion therapy with 401 signatures on it supporting this.

YG announced that it would be banned in the Spring of 2020.

Local guidance counsellors come to the Rainbow Room and speak about how the Room has helped GSA students' time at the school.

4 GSA "Elders" attended the "Be the Change".

Host an assembly with the whole school, with Chase Blodgett and Kate White are guest speakers.

They held a 3 day retreat at the Takhini Hot Springs and had a great time. They cooked, played games and learned a lot about each other. All grades are represented in the GSA.

Emilie Tremblay is inspired by PCSS's GSA's success and are looking at creating their own safe space.

GSA have met with Vanier school's Social Justice class to discuss the Dept. of Education SOGI policy.

As well, organized a Youth Night on October 24th.

Other initiatives they are working on:

- Christmas sleep over – Dec. 6
- Fundraising – ongoing
- LGBTQ2S+ Prom – students would like to organize
- Participate in the PRIDE parade

There were roundtable discussions with reference to the LGBTQ2S+, GSA; and bullying;

It is felt that FN issues and these are parallel.

There are approximately 75 students at the school

Council thanked students and Mr. Cook for presentation.

3. **Adoption of Minutes:** Moved by Don, second by Amanda, THAT the Minutes of Regular meeting, October 9 2019 be adopted. CARRIED

4. **Parent/Community Issues:**
Speed Bumps: Dale provided an update on the issue with the Speed Bumps brought forward by the PC Community Association:
A decision to move the 15km/hr speed sign be moved closer to the entrance off Mountain View Drive so people are aware of the speed limit on the road to the School.

5. **Reports: Committees:**
 - 5.1 Health and Safety: (Andrew): meeting to be held next week

 - 5.2 Field Trips: (Dale, Deanna) No report

6. **Principal's Report:**
 - Enrolment: 481
 - Ursulla Westfall – Gr. 11 student receives full scholarship from UNBS based on her marks
 - Students attend conference in Toronto for Northern Youth Abroad, (presenter Olivia Dobbs)
 - Various Universities visit school over the last few days: BC Universities, Universities from the East as well, Yukon College
 - Highest academic Achievement dinner is prepared by the cooking class
 - Honour Roll assembly is held
 - Individualized conference held this week

- Dawson Tournament: One minor incident (from PC)
Jr. boys win
- Super Volley – Silver medalists, Girls team, (lost to FH)
- Volleyball Tournament Junior team and Gr. 8’s starts tomorrow
Hosted at PC, girls and boys teams
Schedules are posted outside the Gym
- School to do 2 surveys, one for parents, one for students
- Remembrance Day Assembly – Excellent
- Students attend Career Expo
- Women in trades expo – students attend
- Pro-D Trauma Informed Care provided
- Cultural Day – November 27, 11:30 – 12:30: council members invited to attend
- Elijah Smith School principal contacted PC to inquire into creating a “Safe Room” at their school (similar to the Rainbow Room)

7. Treasurer’s Report: Balance in account \$15,181.43. Funding received Oct. 29

8. Old Business and Correspondence:

- 8.1 AYSCBC: Spending of funds received (\$2,000): deferred to next meeting
- 8.2 Fire Smart: Deferred to next meeting

ACTION: Fire smart to be contacted

- 8.3 Vaping: Issue with vaping is not high at PCSS as it might be at other schools.

9. New Business and Correspondence:

- 9.1 Youth Investment Fund:
Terry Milne, approached Souhail with a grant which might be available through the Youth Investment Fund. School Councils would be able to obtain this funding if approved on behalf of the school.

Council and administration discussed what kind of funding could be applied for: i.e.: food for trips, certification for students such as: 1st Aid, Avalanche training, etc.

ACTION: Souhail to contact and get more info and advise.

To be discussed further at next regular meeting.

10. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:08PM.

Next regular meeting, December 11, 2019

Dale Cheeseman:
Chair

Jerry Zahora:
Secretary Treasurer