

ÉCOLE ELBOW VALLEY SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Apr 1st, 2015

1:00 PM

Attendance:

Kirsten Hunter
Brenda Renowden
Kim Flegg
Diane Stevenson
Karin Hunter
Helen Clease
Isabelle Rioux
Melanie Spagrud
Sue French
Celia Barrington
Lori Champagne
Jean Beach
Trish Cull
Judi Poole
Lana Schafer
Michelle Hornung
Troy Millington
Michelle Adams
Tammy Yakemchuk

AGENDA

- A. **Welcome** Monica Webster, Sue French
- B. **Approval of Agenda**
Brenda Renowden makes the motion to approve the agenda.
Seconded by Diane Stevenson.
All in favour.
- C. **Approval of Mar 2015 Meeting Minutes**
Diane Stevenson make motion to approve the March Minutes.
Seconded by Melanie Spagrud.
All in favour.
- D. **Council Reports**

1. Chair's Report Monica Webster, Sue French

School Council 2015-2016. The following people have volunteered to be nominated for school council roles in the next school year:

Co-Chairpersons:	Troy Millington
Co-Vice-Chairs	Sander Steer
Treasurer:	Melanie Spagrud
Secretary:	
Volunteer Coordinator(s):	Niki Ferby /Sally Lockhart
French Immersion/CPF Rep:	Lori Champagne
Spirit of Caring:	Chelsea Bowie
Bulletin Board:	
Library Coordinator:	Monica Webster
Sports Day Lunch:	Alex?
Special Lunch Coordinator:	Alex Martin
Yearbook Committee:	Brenda Renowden
FEEVES:	Troy Millington

Open spots: one co-chair, one co-vice chair, secretary, bulletin board.

2. We are looking for someone to coordinate the volunteers needed to supervise the grade ones during lunch in the month of September. Usually this is a current kindergarten parent. This person would collect email addresses of interested parents in May and June, then set up a sign up genius and send it to the interested parents in mid-August, so they can sign up for their preferred dates. The volunteer would then be available to the volunteers if they need further clarification and would organize last minute substitutions.
If anyone knows of a kindergarten parent who might be interested, please ask them to email Monica. This information will also be in the next newsletter.

3) Rockyview Schools is asking for feedback on its draft calendars for 2016-17 and 2017-18. If you want your voice to be heard then visit the the site and email your feedback by the end of this month.

4) Thanks to our fantastic volunteer committee for doing such a great job as always on staff appreciation week. You'll be a tough act to follow.

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2. Principal's Report Celia Barrington

1. Thank you to everyone who made Staff Appreciation week so terrific. We loved the flowers, the luncheon, the treats and the sentiments.
2. Budget Presentation of anticipated impact of Alberta's budget announcements on RVS and EVE. As announcement of Budget came after the creation of the power point, this information will be modified.
3. We will be required to cut by about 5-7%, which translates to about \$150,000+. Because the school used up all of our savings to keep class sizes down this year, we don't have a contingency going into next year. Class sizes may be going up slightly and we won't be able to provide as much support to classrooms.
4. Thank you to School Council and FEEVES for all your work on our behalf. We are quite delighted to have the new photocopier and are just now waiting for some training.
5. Musicfest is quickly approaching. Thank you to Melanie Spagrud for continually doing such a great job with the tickets.
6. Now that the weather is so beautiful, I don't feel so bad sending Sanders and Troy out to do our sign at the road. Thank you to both gentlemen for taking on that chore.

3. Treasurer's Report Melanie Spagrud

*Elbow Valley Elementary Parent Advisory Council
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
as of March 31, 2015*

	2014/15 Actuals	2014/15 Budget	2013/14 Actuals
REVENUE			
Special Lunch Program	28,877.35	30,000.00	30,784.15
Special Lunch Program - rebate	5,815.70	6,000.00	5,959.10
Mathathon	27,627.55	20,000.00	21,591.00
Family Fun'raiser	12,300.90	10,000.00	14,901.10
Yearbook	125.00	-	715.00
FEEVESS	4,118.97	-	-
Playground	-	-	9.62
Interest Income	121.56	-	190.95
Total Revenue	78,987.03	66,000.00	74,150.92
EXPENDITURES			
Special Lunch Program	14,934.13	20,000.00	19,833.32
School Programs			
Grade Teams	865.74	8,000.00	8,026.14
Committees			
Volunteer Coordinator	552.16	1,100.00	1,190.51
Spirit of Caring	-	500.00	327.50
Bussing			
Field Trips	3,021.69	9,000.00	8,521.91

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Skating	1,097.28	2,000.00	1,216.15
Swimming	-	8,700.00	8,603.49
Special Programs/Events			
Special Programs	8,185.12	14,000.00	13,135.58
Special Day - (Art Day)	-	-	1,928.11
Sports Day	-	1,000.00	354.05
In-Line Skating	8,934.17	13,000.00	10,112.78
Sound Kreations Residency	-	-	-
Yearbook	(97.26)	-	1,529.31
School Council Expenses	-	100.00	47.17
Playground	-	-	2,741.00
Allergy Committee	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>37,493.03</u>	<u>77,400.00</u>	<u>77,567.02</u>
NET INCOME	41,494.00	(11,400.00)	(3,416.10)
Opening Book Balance	16,993.49	16,993.49	20,409.59
Net Income	41,494.00	(11,400.00)	(3,416.10)
Closing Book Balance	<u>58,487.49</u>	<u>5,593.49</u>	<u>16,993.49</u>

Melanie Spagrud makes motion to place the financial statements on file as presented.
Seconded by Diane Stevenson. All in Favor.

4. Teachers' Report Mrs. Cull, Mme. Rioux

April Teachers' Report

Cabane a Sucre was one of the highlights of March. Maple syrup is boiled at 104 degrees until it reaches the right consistency – thick enough to keep it from running when placed in the snow to cool and harden. These sticks of tasty toffee are then ready to enjoy. The entire school was invited to participate by wearing black and white along with a sash or ceintures flechees. All students had the opportunity to sample the tasty treats.

The French immersion students met for an hour in the morning for a celebration of the French tradition of Cabane a sucre. Grade 2 and 1 students demonstrated a circle dance for La Bastringue. They learned about the process of turning maple water into syrup. In the afternoon, French Immersion students enjoyed some French Canadian music. Andre Varin and Marie Claude Gagnon. A big thank you to School Council for supporting this cultural experience.

Parent Teacher Conferences last week were well attended. It is always a great time to staff and families to connect, share successes, set goals and make plans to support the learning of our students.

The staff were spoiled last week during Staff Appreciation Week. We loved the Crave cupcakes. The potluck lunch was incredible. The flowers have brightened everyone's room. We enjoyed more popcorn than we've every seen (or eaten) before.

During our recent Professional Learning day and Team Meetings, teachers have focused on the writing continuum across a 6 point scale. This work, using and comparing writing samples from a standard picture prompt across all grade levels, is preparing us to use the

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new Communication of Student Learning (aka report card) next year. Keep your ears open for opportunities to learn more about the new Communication of Student Learning as it pertains to your children.

Also related to Professional Learning, a group of jet setters have just returned from the CUE technology conference in Palm Springs. Using the Google platform, teachers and administrators explored a variety of new and exciting learning ideas.

There's always something exciting going on in the Kindergarten classes. This past month, Mrs. Threndyle's class made beautiful Picasso self portraits. They also enjoyed some green milk as they worked on color mixing.

Grade one English classes built Leprechaun Traps. You may be surprised to hear that not a single Leprechaun was captured. Although the students are extremely purposeful and clever in their designs, these creatures spend all year studying how to NOT be captured and seem to always outwit us.

Grade Two students from Mrs. McCaig's class celebrated Pirate Day as part of their *Boats and Buoyancy* study.

Grade three students have been building using a variety of materials for different purposes. They also created Volcano projects out of clay and made authentic Ukranian Easter Eggs called Pysanka. Several classes took a "trip" to the Ukraine complete with passports, boarding passes and in flight entertainment.

The Grade four Building projects were presented in the gym. The projects were very impressive and well received by all visitors. Another highlight of Grade four is the annual Talent Show, which was held this past week. This year's show did not disappoint. Everyone who had the opportunity to take in the show were thoroughly entertained!

Evidence of Learning

Mme Lowell's class created Iqaluit alphabet books as their final project after learning about life in a northern community. They combined different art projects inspired by Ted Harrison, torn paper art, printmaking and drawing with information that they learned from their time in Iqaluit to create these beautiful books. They enjoyed having two different guest speakers come in to share about living in different communities in northern Canada.

As was indicated earlier this year, the Elbow Valley Global Charity Committee decided on a three – pronged approach with regards to donating to international causes and charities using the funds collected from the *Budding Artists*™ fundraiser. For our second donation, the Global Charity Committee recognizes Madalyn Beach (Gr. 4 Munson) as the catalyst towards having the committee decide upon the Word Wildlife Foundation as a recipient of a donation this year. Madalyn's passion in researching the plight of the Bengal Tiger as well as her initiative and self – directedness in this project made the decision to fund this cause an easy one! Congratulations to Madalyn and her interest in making the world a better place for such a regal animal!

5. Volunteer Coordinators

Cindy Perala-Ralph
Kirsten Hunter

We had a great Staff Appreciation Week starting with Cupcakes on Monday and ending with gifts on Friday. We had volunteers who stepped up each day to ensure the staff was looked after - thank you so much to the parents that pitched in to make this week a success! The staff luncheon was wonderful with an amazing variety of foods, there were many volunteers who either brought in food or helped with set up or clean-up. It is great that our parents can provide meals for the staff when they are putting in such a long day with interviews. Thank-you!

Class and Kindergarten Grad photos are coming up April 24 so we will be looking for help with this event. Photo days are always a lot of fun and each volunteer is given a gift certificate from Life Touch.

6. Special Lunch Coordinator

Lana Schafer

- survey showed that most people were in favor of continuing the lunch program although there were suggestions to make it healthier.
- overwhelming response to keep special lunches

Pizza

- biggest selling item
- discussed whole wheat crust, veggies pizza and gluten free

Subway

- concerns about nitrates
- roast beef does not have nitrates
- can add tuna, egg salad, grilled chicken as other options (possibly more money)

Lunch lady

- least ordered of the 3

Melanie Spagrud makes the motion to not to do whole wheat pizza, add veggie and gluten free pizza, keep the rest the same.

Seconded by Kim Flegg.

All in Favor.

Troy Millington makes the motion to add subway options as many as Lana sees appropriate.

Seconded by Brenda Renowden.

All in Favor.

Troy Millington makes the motion to continue with lunch lady as is, mentioning that there has been a few mistakes.

Seconded by Melanie Spagrud.

All in Favor.

7. Library Coordinator Pam Vinge

The Spring Scholastic Book Fair was held March 23 -27, in conjunction with the parent/teacher interviews.

Thank you to all the parents and students for their generous support by purchasing books and materials. Thank you also, to the volunteers that gave of their time to this important event. We couldn't run the book fairs without you!

The spring book fair was our most success fair to date! Sales generated were about \$9,500. The library will receive back 30% of the funds generated plus, Scholastic will be donating 10% of our sales in books to the library as a thank you for hosting the book fairs.

8. Yearbook Committee Brenda Renowden

ORDER YOUR YEAR BOOK – there is still time.

9. French Immersion/CPF Lori Champagne

We are still looking for people to join.

10. FEEVES report Troy Millington

School council annual general meeting is April 24-26 in Edmonton. Troy will go to the meeting.

Jean Beach made the motion to support up to \$1000.00 per person up to 2 people going to the annual meeting.

Seconded by Karin Hunter

All in favor.

E. School Trustee Report Helen Clease

EEVE School Trustee Report April 1, 2015

Budget, Budget, Budget!

On March 26 the Government released it's 2015/16 budget. This was not a good news budget for education in Alberta.

D. 7.9 billion \$40 million per day

C. total operating target to increase \$125 million or 1.9%

E. This includes 2% to honour to honour teacher framework agreement between teachers and government.

B. Boards are to maintain all classroom based teaching positions

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- No new students funded. Growing boards will not be funded for new students over 3 years.
- Funding will be based on the lower enrolment 2014/15 or 2015/16 frozen funded enrolment
- High schools participating in High School redesign will continue to use a three year average of credit enrolment units (CEU's) Those not participating will be funded at 2014/15 levels.
- School boards will need to find efficiencies in non classroom teaching costs by 2.7% (3 percent) This affects 40% of a boards overall budget.
- Approval from ministry to how and when reserves can be used.
- New capital builds to be honoured
- School Board reserves not determined at board level must be approved through ministry
- Transportation
- Operational 2 days operating

Concerns:

No funding of new students

2.7% decrease in operating

Impact to class size.

Doing more with less

How to staff and outfit new schools.

What about support staff?

Transportation fees.

Students not funded. Outside funding

\$235 million to private schools

Impact to RVS

RVS's Board of Trustees efforts to minimize cuts to classroom has been severely impacted. Funding is inequitable due to growth in RVS and there is no funding for that growth. We predict to have 1000 additional students in the fall but will receive no funds to hire the 44 teacher and additional support staff to support those students. Although today's front line teachers are being protected there are no provisions for new hires.

The board set out its priorities in early March.

All of which related to preserving direct services to students. The budget will have a negative impact on priorities.

Class sizes could rise by 1-2 students and other reductions for inclusive education and other instructional grants mean fewer supports and resources available.

Bill 10 Passed in Alberta Legislature

The Alberta government passed legislation, Mar. 10, making the gay-straight alliance clubs mandatory in every Alberta school where students request to have one. It outlines that:

- Students may set up GSAs in their schools
- GSAs may meet on school property
- Students may name the club "GSA," "QSA" or another name of their choosing

RVS has always provided support for GSA's where requested

2015/16 Instructional Resource Fees Established

Fees to stay the same as the board is committed to not downloading revenue shortfalls on RVS families where ever possible,. Instructional resource fees, which will remain at 2014-2015 levels, will cost families \$25/kindergarten student, \$105/Gr. 1-8 students, and \$145/Gr. 9 – 12 students. The maximum rate remains at \$360/family.

Diploma Exams Weighting Changes Sept. 2015

Beginning September 2015, weighting of diploma exams will be 70/30 (school awarded mark/ diploma exam mark). Since the 1983/84 school year, the weighting has been 50/50 (school awarded mark/diploma exam mark). This means that a student's final marks have been determined by blending the mark awarded by their school with the mark on their provincially scored diploma exam at a weighting of 50 per cent each.

Edwin Parr Nominee Announced

This years Edwin Parr nominee from RVS is - Joshua Lafleur from École Manachaban Middle School! Joshua's nomination will be forwarded to the Alberta School Boards' Association's Zone 5 Edwin Parr Nomination Committee. Zone winners will be announced in the fall. The Edwin Parr Award is given to first year teachers who demonstrate excellence in teaching during their first year of practice

Capital plan approved.

Full details on RVS website. EEVE stays in current position. #13

Joint Board Council Meeting

April 16, 2015

ASCA conference

Alberta School Conference Association Conference April 25/26

Student art - asking for donations.for offices throughout education department and ASBA

Teaching excellence Initiative - over next three years work to be done on providing best teachers in front of our children. This will be a collaborative effort between Alta Ed, ATA, ASBA, CASS and ASCA.

Thank you for all you do to support this great school.

Board meetings - *First and third Thursday of each month – 10 a.m.*

Everyone is welcome

Please don't hesitate to contact me at anytime. I am always available to my ward and please remember I am only a phone call or email away.

Trustee contact info:

Helen Clease, RVS Trustee Ward 4

(403) 650 2716

hclease@rockyview.ab.ca

"Strong schools build strong communities and strong communities build strong schools"

F. New Business

- discussion of ideas to improve on special lunches. Note: survey showed that the majority of parents want to keep the special lunches the way they are. This discussion is on ideas of improving what we currently have.

Meeting Adjourned @ 2:51pm

Next Meeting Date: AGM May 13th @7pm