

ECOLE ELBOW VALLEY SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
FEB 4TH, 2015
1:00PM

ATTENDANCE:

Diane Stevenson
Kirsten Hunter
Isabelle Rioux
Rita Walter
Monica Webster
Judi Poole
Sue French
Celia Barrington
Melanie Spagrud
Trish Cull
Brenda Renowden
Riena O'Brien
Lori Champagne
Troy Millington
Tammy Yakemchuk

AGENDA

- A. **Welcome** Monica Webster, Sue French
- B. **Approval of Agenda**
Melanie Spagrud makes the motion to approve the Agenda.
Seconded by Sue French. All in Favour.
- C. **Approval of Dec 2014 Meeting Minutes**
Sue French makes motion to approve the Dec Minutes. Seconded
By Isabelle Rioux. All in favour.
- D. **Council Reports**

1. **Chair's Report** **Monica Webster, Sue French**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the school survey, we had a great response.

2. **Principal's Report** **Celia Barrington**

- 1. The Alberta Education Satisfaction Survey (known as APORI) is underway. All teachers, Gr. 4 students, and Gr.4 parents are asked to respond to a satisfaction survey.
- 2. I was very proud of our group of 10 Gr. 2 and 3 students who presented their class project on Human Impact on Bears to our Board of Trustees. Mrs. Gibson's and Mrs. Douglas' classes did wonderful work and it was a true example of inquiry learning. The Board was very interested in what the students had to say, asked them some very good questions, and some even planned to visit the Rocky Mountain Flatbread Company to see the placemat in action. Other reps from these classes will be demonstrating their project at the RVS Showcase in Airdrie.
- 3. Mrs. Belsey's and Mr. Munson's classes were randomly chosen to participate in the Trends In International Mathematics and Science Study to be taken the first week in March.
- 4. We are looking forward to the Family Dance on Feb.11, always a very popular event.
- 5. On the 12th, I host new Assistant Principals and try to share my pearls of wisdom re. effective school management.
- 6. Congratulations to Mrs. Neufeld's Gr.3 and Mme Boraas' A.M. Kindergarten classes for tying for the most Mathathon donations. Both classes will enjoy a visit from the Reptile Man on Feb.9th. Thank you to Mrs. Ferby and Mrs. for organizing this.

7. Teachers' Convention has some excellent sessions for teachers this year, including our very own group who will be sharing their work is QR Codes.
8. We received an amazing 47% return of the Elbow Valley Surveys. I have added up the responses and written the comments in a summary document, which will be located on our website and sent as a separate attachment to this report.
9. Looking into electronic receipts.
- 10.- Looking for volunteer to take on ordering of school T-Shirts.
- 11.- Suggestion to give the t-shirt some Pizazz.
12. Suggested that if the students got more wear out of it, more people would by it.

3. Treasurer's Report Melanie Spagrud

Melanie makes motion to place financial statements on file as presented.
 Seconded by Isabelle Rioux. All in Favour.
 Pizza and Math money still coming in.

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

	2014/15 Actuals	2014/15 Budget	2013/14 Actuals
REVENUE			
Special Lunch Program	28,275.35	30,000.00	30,784.15
Special Lunch Program - rebate	4,079.80	6,000.00	5,959.10
Mathathon	27,027.55	20,000.00	21,591.00
Family Fundraiser	-	10,000.00	14,901.10
Yearbook	125.00	-	715.00
Playground	-	-	9.62
Interest Income	81.85	-	190.95
Total Revenue	59,589.55	66,000.00	74,150.92

EXPENDITURES			
Special Lunch Program	10,005.61	20,000.00	19,833.32
School Programs			
Grade Teams	242.35	8,000.00	8,026.14
Committees			
Volunteer Coordinator	65.46	1,100.00	1,190.51
Spirit of Caring	-	500.00	327.50
Bussing			
Field Trips	2,245.47	9,000.00	8,521.91
Skating	-	2,000.00	1,216.15
Swimming	-	8,700.00	8,603.49
Special Programs/Events			
Special Programs	6,341.07	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>27,736.87</u>	<u>77,400.00</u>	<u>77,567.02</u>
NET INCOME	31,852.68	(11,400.00)	(3,416.10)
Opening Book Balance	16,993.49	16,993.49	20,409.59
Net Income	<u>31,852.68</u>	<u>(11,400.00)</u>	<u>(3,416.10)</u>
Closing Book Balance	<u>48,846.17</u>	<u>5,593.49</u>	<u>16,993.49</u>

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

February Teachers' Report

The Super Bowl was last weekend, but that doesn't minimize the thrill of our Grey Cup visit. What a privileged school we are!

Elbow Valley enjoyed a special presentation from Sun Ergos. The storytellers performed Legends – Stories from the Buffalo Hunter. The four stories inspired by Alberta First Nations were both entertaining and educational. The goals of the performance included:

- To elicit emotions in the students
- To stimulate and nourish imaginations through movement, sound, colors, textures, shapes, characterizations, words, costumes, artifacts and stories.
- To foster thinking and discussion of ideas, values and the experience of living.
- To encourage young people to see there is no right or wrong interpretation of what they have experienced

We thank school council for providing the funding for this special event. What better way to combine “Things that Go” and “Beach” themes than to take a trip to Hawaii? The Kindergarten classes had a blast last week with their special activity day complete with an airplane ride.

In December, the Grade one students sang at the Bus Driver's tea. They visited the Heritage center where they sang Christmas carols to the seniors and read their poems. These students are becoming civically engaged. Throughout the month of December, students and their families collected a generous amount of mitts and socks to be donated to In From the Cold and some classes created Valentines to send to vetrans overseas.

Three of the English Grade Two classes created McLamerolle as a culmination of their combined studies of Alberta pioneers and the concept of *community*. Some classes have enjoyed an “in school” field trip exploring Boats and Buoyancy. The Grade two classes also participate in their Positive Playgrounds initiative every month, teaching kids new games to play outside. The latest Destination Imagination challenged the students to draw and present stories while learning about quilting.

Most of the Grade 3 classes have finished their weaving projects which connects to their study of Peru. Most classes are busy exploring a variety of building materials and fasteners.

A highlight every year is the Grade 4 Multicultural lunch, which met everyone's high expectations. It's always great to be treated to some favorites and try some new dishes from other cultures.

Mme. Wilikie's class has been invited to do a video conference with the First Lady Barbara Bush! They were one of the few schools that were selected to ask a question, and the only school from Canada.

Several classes have also been working on their self-directed inquiry simple machines and/or building projects in science.

Budding Artist update – the order arrived narrowly in time for the Christmas break. Our Global Charity raised over \$4775.00 through the Budding Artists Program this year. One third of the funds will be going to Plan Canada to support them in controlling and managing the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. An information package about Ebola and Plan Canada was provided to all teachers to share about this cause with their classes.

Evidence of Learning:

We have students from Mrs. Douglas' Grade 2 and Mrs. Gibson's Grade 3 classes will present their inquiry project, “How does human behavior impact animal behaviors?” The students showcased their learning in a variety of creative ways in response to their personal interests and aptitudes and used some exciting new technology throughout the project. They also had the opportunity to present their projects at the Rocky View Education Center in January.

5. Volunteer Coordinators Cindy Perala-Ralph
Kirsten Hunter

We are finally arranging for the 2 winning classes 3N and KB PM from the Mathathon to enjoy their surprise. Between the 2 classes they raised over \$3200 and thank you to Sally Lockhart and Niki Ferby who ran the Mathathon and came up with the idea for an incentive! We are having Calgary Reptile Parties come in for an hour for each class. The kids will handle the reptiles and learn facts related to their curriculum.

We are currently looking for 8 volunteers to come in the Wed morning (25) and Thurs afternoon (26) after the family dance to count money and write out tax receipts. Please go to signupgenius to do this.

Staff appreciation Week is around the corner (March 23) and we will be looking for interested people to help during that week. An email will go out to those on the Volunteer Group list to ask for creative ideas and suggestions. We would like to ask Staff if they have anything on their wish list for Staff Appreciation Week.

6. Special Lunch Coordinator Lana Schafer

No Report.

7. Library Coordinator Pam Vinge

No Report.

8. Yearbook Committee Brenda Renowden

-We will send out a sticker in the agendas to remind everyone to purchase their yearbooks.

- Suggestion to put an automatic link to the LlifeTouch website in the news letter and it would make it easier for parents to order.

9. French Immersion/CPF **Lori Champagne**

- Fundraiser with the cheese was successful and will do it again next year.

- \$900 to EVE

- still looking for volunteers to join the board.

10. FEEVES report

Troy Millington

- Met with parent council and Staff and if we support some of the programs school council currently supports then council could support other funds that are more fitting.
- This is only a 1 time event to help out.
- Scheduled for a casino again in the fall.
- Will find out which submissions are eligible and which money can be freed up with council budget.

E. School Trustee Report

Helen Clease

Trustee School Council Report FEB. 4, 2015

- **Minister Meeting with Superintendent and Board Chairs.** Between Jan 19 and Feb. 5 Minister Dirks will be meeting with boards.
- **Diploma weighting** At the ASBA FGM boards supported lowering the weighting of these exams. Currently they're 50% but there was a resolution put on the floor to lower them to 30%. It passed with 82% of Alberta School Boards in favour. The ATA is also in favour of this. Gordon Dirks is studying the issue before he'll commit to lowering the percentage. He'll be discussing this during his upcoming meetings with Board Chairs
- **Foundational elements of Learning** Minister of Education has told us that he'll be ensuring that Alberta's curriculum will focus on foundational elements of "reading, writing and arithmetic" and will be incorporating essential 21C skills such as innovation and critical thinking. He has also indicated support for many aspects of Inspiring Education. RVS has assembled it's own task force on literacy and numeracy in an effort to improve results.
- **Education Act update:** The regulations that will support the Act have been released for feedback until January 31. The 16 regulations have been posted on the AB ED website and there's links for feedback. Some of the regulations that may be of particular interest to you are in regards to school councils, school fees, school records, student transportation and early childhood services.
- **Excellence in Teaching Awards** nominations accepted until Feb 6. Semi-finalists get access to \$1500 for PL and award recipients get access to \$4000 for PL.

- **Political Landscape:** MLA, Bruce McAllister has crossed the floor(along with other Wildrose MLA's) and become a member of the Progressive Conservative Party. Bruce has been assigned to a government committee on education, which is a file he's been working on for the past 2.5 years.
- **Budget 2015** -We'll be beginning our budget discussions soon, will start with budget priorities. All indications based on provincial financial outlook is that this will be a tough budget. The Premier has indicated that everything is on the table creating concern about the capital projects promised.
- **RVS Four Year Plan** Thank you to all who participated in the development of our 4 year plan. The plan will be presented to the Board in February for approval.
- **ASBA** - As President of ASBA there has been a lot of work that has taken me away from my community. In addition to the on going provincial work we have gone through the process of hiring a new executive director and now are reviewing all aspects of our work (expenses, budget, bylaws, policies). Over the next year we will be focussing on communications and advocacy. Our top advocacy efforts will focus on funding, infrastructure and preserving the local voice.
- **ASBA Spring General Meeting:** At our June SGM the theme will be on students. If you know any students or student initiatives that we could focus on please let me know ASAP. One keynote speaker will be Craig Keilburger from Free the Children.

Thank to you all for your understanding while I serve as ASBA president. The job often takes me out of my community. I appreciate your support and understanding as I work to support not just RVS but all boards in Alberta.

Thanks for all that you do to support our fantastic staff in our schools.

Together we make a difference to our students.

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) 949-7095

hclease@rockyview.ab.ca

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

F. New Business

- Call for volunteers for the Middle School Casino March 2 and 3rd.
- Anyone who has younger kids in the school and would like to help and eventually take over Music Festival Tickets – please let council know.

Meeting Adjourned @ 2:10 pm
Next Meeting March 4th @ 7pm