



School Council

**Minutes of the ÉEVE School Council Meeting
Oct 10, 2023
7:00pm In-person and over Zoom**

SC Executive:

Caley Remington, Chair - present
Chelsey Conrad, Co-Chair - present
Judi Hunter, School Board Trustee - present
Jennifer Tanguay, Secretary - present
Sharelle Stitt, Treasurer - present

School Administration Members:

Denise Weaver, Principal - present
Alanna Berger, Assistant Principal - present

Attendees:

Kirsten Inglis, Janelle Wimperis, Robin Somji, Jessica Gergely, Kare Wallac

1. Call to Order

Chelsey called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Chelsey motioned to accept the agenda and minutes as circulated; no objections; motion carried.

3. School Trustee Report

Airdrie Community Engagement: schools 100% full, no schools/portables in the cue. Opened discussion with parents - need to change boundaries. Student enrolment increased by 1,000 from last year. One of the fastest growing divisions. 1/3 students in portables. Asked for 32 last year, got none. Asked again this year, 19 available, got 10. When portables are moved, costs \$250,000 each. No efficient but not in our control. Springbank schools stable - we aren't in dire need (80-85% capacity vs 120%). No consideration for future growth potential when looking at moving portables (ie. hypothetically taking one of ours despite growing community of Harmony). When

current elementary students are in high school is when Springbank will see the need. Harmony growing, zoned for a school. High School is full, no longer accepting out of bounds students. County bought 74 acres by high school but not looking at expanding. County responsible to allocate land for schools. Division responsible for teachers, support staff, caretakers. RV has 4 schools coming in the future, decision where they go based on school readiness rules - 6 steps (2 recently added). Airdrie, Cochrane, Chestermere, Langdon are the communities seeing the highest growth. Keep in mind 1,000 students in our division go to alternative programming such as CLC, online schools, mechanics program, etc. outside of regular schools. ABEd has allocated \$12.4 million for apprenticeship programs, see the need as only 40% graduates go to University. Western Canadian companies spending \$3.6 million bringing in Olympian athletes talking to students about importance of staying in school.

184,000 people moved to AB last year. 2 million more expected due to immigration opening up, mostly along the Edmonton/Calgary corridor. Growth increasing pressure on schools.

Caretaking: previous \$2 million federal/provincial COVID funding now gone. Our caretakers were the lowest paid, retention problems: increased pay and added benefits, which has resulted in budget difficulties. Don't want to take money out of instruction for caretaking, which has resulted in a decrease in services. RR33 had a lot of gravel trucks on it, they have moved while paving RR40, that road is now done. Bingham Crossing concerns around trucks on RR33 north of Hwy 1. Sent letter to county requesting different access road or limiting hours/time of day for safety concerns before/after school.

Raffle tickets for high school PE department. Video on community website. \$20,000 potential (\$15,000 would go to school).

October Newsletter, Trustee Hunter Ward 5

Schools are well underway with successful start-ups. I had the opportunity to attend the Welcome back celebrations at Elbow Valley Elementary, Springbank Middle School and Westbrook School. The weather was spectacular, and it was wonderful to watch the children playing and parents conversing. Thank you to the schools for hosting and providing food.

Rocky View Communications team have deservedly won a Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE) award for the Space for Students advocacy campaign. This national award recognizes and honours exemplary work in all aspects of school public relations, communications, marketing, and engagement.

The Airdrie Community Engagement has begun. The engagement will inform parents of the serious space issues in the City of Airdrie and give possible scenarios to alleviate the overcrowding in schools. Options will include, changing a middle school to a high school, making boundary changes, and making grade configuration changes. Parent will have the opportunity to weigh in through the School Engage platform as well as community consultations.

Planning is in process for similar processes in Cochrane and Chestermere.

The Alberta government is consulting with stakeholders to gather input for revising the social studies curriculum. Public input will be sought in 2024.

Alberta says \$12.4M will create nearly 2,000 apprenticeship positions

The Alberta government is spending \$12.4 million that it claims will create nearly 2,000 new apprenticeship positions to be spread over five different institutions across the province. The new positions are slated to go to students at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary, Red Deer Polytechnic, Lethbridge College, and Keyano College in Fort McMurray. In an interview with Postmedia, Advanced Education Minister Rajan Sawhney said the announcement reflects a growing need from employers.

Classroom Champions receives \$3.6M to expand educational programs for Western Canadian students

A mentorship program that connects Olympic athletes with children at schools across the country is set to receive a major funding boost aimed at bridging educational gaps and empowering young minds. Classroom Champions, a leading educational non-profit, has secured \$3.6 million in funding from 23 Western Canadian corporations they're calling the Energizing Community Collective. Steve Mesler is the CEO and co-founder of Classroom Champions, which now works with millions of students across North America by facilitating video lessons and interactive chats with athletes.

Alberta's population continues to surge growing by 184, 000 last year. This will impact our already overcrowded schools. Link below

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/alberta-population-growth-statscan-report-1.6979657>

The new Langdon Junior/Senior high school will open September 2025. Parents of Langdon are presently engaged in dialogue about the school grade configuration and attendance boundaries.

September 30 was Truth and Reconciliation Day, all Rocky View participated in activities related to this day.

Caretaking is presenting a problem for many schools. Rocky View Schools received additional funding during COVID for caretaking. The funding has ceased so caretaking has been reduced and schools are adjusting to the new "normal".

Springbank Community Associate in conjunction with Springbank High School is holding a raffle to support the Springbank High School Physical Education program. Please be expected students at your door selling raffle tickets.

Bussing times for Elbow Valley, Bragg Creek and Redwood for students going to the Springbank Schools due to construction on Stoney Trail and 22 X.

Gravel trucks were being detoured along RR 33 and RR 31 while RR40 was being paved. All trucks should be using RR 40.

4. Administration Report (Denise)

Would like to share a little about myself: born and raised in Brooks. Taught in Grasslands '96 and Bassano, 4/5 split before moving to Calgary. 3 kids. Taught grade 2 at Prairie Waters, IB primary program instructional leader. Muriel Clayton as assistant principal, Menno Simmons Christian School as principal. Back to RVS to pursue Masters, Meadowbrook assistant principal then principal before coming here. So much potential, truly a sacred space. Kids pure, polite. Honoured and blessed to be part of our community. Getting used to everything - costumes, sorting ceremony, livestream announcements, but it's been great.

School Education Plan needs to be signed by council and submitted tomorrow. Discussed administrators' message, school profile, RVS assurance results, ABEd assurance measure results, and goals pertaining to advancing students numeracy and literacy skills. Of particular concern, current BAS reading assessment results - which across division levels are concerning overall. Have developed a literacy and numeracy committee, 3 reasons for low scores identified: Covid, unknown amount of home reading, change in community due to Covid.

Plan: team (Alanna, Christi, Katie) met today, 6 week literacy intervention support for Grade 4 to determine what's going on, provide intensive support, re-do BAS in November. Plan for the rest of the year. Question brought forward about RVS assurance results from past 3 or 5 years, to compare scores and determine if this is a trend, or a decline because of Covid? Will bring that information forward to the next meeting. Question brought forward about turnover rate? Rare. Caley: seen issues in FI over multiple extended leaves the past 4 years, sub concerns as there is a small pool of French teachers. Discussion around need for French-speaking sub's to facilitate FI programming.

Instructional design background, love it, 5th school I've done it with, targeted based on need. Intervention support plan is based on need.

Math scores, character focus goals (future-ready, critical thinking, managing information etc.). House teams: indigenous elder to come in and talk about animals that were chosen. Learning Commons: skeleton here, needs to be more inviting, want to work out of here to be less removed. Makerspace: proper storage, make it more functional. CBI drawing up a proposal on what it could look like, will bring proposal forward to council. Outdoor classroom: plans were drafter a few years ago, need to find and bring back to council. Director of Indigenous Learning for RVSD could present to council on some ideas. We have the space, just need to use it. FÉEVES needs council direction, will survey parents. Makerspace use: Art, science, joint classes, in-house field trips etc. No central point/person managing it. Learning Commons use: Self-regulated learners, here's the tools, go and do it.

Kindergarten/Grade 1 has a new part-time music teacher, done in the reading room. Owls Nest/support room not being used, looking at what that space can be used for.

Support being held all over the school. Question about indigenous teaching: Artist Bear last year taught about wolf packs, could provide more teachings about house team animals. Could have outdoor mural, want staff/parents/students ideas/vision. It is a mandate, but don't want it to be offensive or inappropriate.

5. Co-Chair's Report

Big turnout for volunteer sign-ups for committees, have class rep list, working with Kirsten to draft letter to send on behalf of council. First ask will be for Learning Commons help on Tues/Thurs AM and PM to help Mr. Lofthouse. Makerspace volunteers will be contacted once a further plan is made. Last half of year will have more opportunity to volunteer, right now is the planning stage and setting things up.

Concerns have been brought forward regarding the cleanliness of the school because of caretaking cut-backs. Have discussed with Judi/Denise. Need to voice concerns to the board. SMS is sending out a petition to parents to submit to principal and board, should we do the same. Questions about is this back to pre-Covid levels? Judi: it's actually worse, sharing head building operator (HBO) with 3 schools, someone comes in for part of the day, but no one on site at all times (have to call if need arises). A lot of HBO's let go, is there a way to change the way things are done (ie. remotely checking mechanical systems). \$2 million extra funding during Covid now gone, less hours available as wages went up plus benefits given. 8 hours/week less now. Denise: I would handle anything that comes up, wouldn't ask staff to do that. Judi: need to have someone in the building all day. AHS has been called, they have said this isn't a problem. But something to be said for having someone here all day, ensuring bathrooms and high touch surfaces are cleaned. Voices are the only way to effect change, individual better than petition. Can campaign, write emails to super intendant, can be directed to them if sent to principal or school trustee but better to contact directly.

Changing meeting times to reflect attendance/core executive needs. Suggest 3 evening meetings: first/mid-year/AGM, the rest in afternoon. Discussion on recording Zoom meetings, thoughts are that minutes are sufficient; holding AGM in May instead of June (which most other schools do).

Chelsey motioned that the September, January and May (AGM) meetings be held in the evening, the remainder to be held in the afternoon; seconded by Robin; no objections; all in favour; motion carried.

6. Treasurer Report

No financials yet, will be updated by Rhonda for next meeting. Small surplus coming into this year.

7. Healthy Hunger Report

Kim sends regrets. Program up and running, brings in approximately \$13,000 each year. Dates set in August, if more dates wanted, submit before then for consideration.

8. Yearbook Committee Report

Last years yearbook went out a few weeks ago, can something get put in OWL Outlook in case anyone who ordered didn't receive one. Megan Roy will be co-editing plus a couple other helpers. Contract signed, tutorial started. Have teachers list, would like class rep list so volunteers can submit best 3-5 photos. Going to meet twice a month, might tweak a few pages. Should it be handed out in June? Would miss sports day, kindergarten grad. Need to determine what the deadline would be, but how much would be missed? Would be nice for kids to be able to have them signed before end of school year. Photo submissions will be streamlined for efficiency. Could kids help take/submit photos? Had 8 pages 'From My Eyes' 2 years ago, school had camera/memory sticks. Jessica Gergely: can help with photo editing.

9. Open Floor

Chelsey: Friendly Helpers such a great program, my daughter in grade 4 loves it.
Denise: Nancy integral to this program. Robin: good for shy kids, need more than one bench. Chelsey: such a confidence boost for the Grade 4's going into Grade 5.

10. Canadian Parents for French (CPF)

New rep, Janelle Wimperis. Met with Stephanie, hoping to compile a list of class reps from FI. Caley: streamline communication by going through Kirsten, can request info from parents go to CPF rep and not her (ie. fundraisers). Cheese Fundraiser will be taking place in November. Wants date for FI night for Kindergarten/Grade 1: Denise will ask Alanna to get date set. Judi: can put up a school to identify this is a FI school, can't change the name of the school itself in regards to the middle school (ABEd name change vs. recognition). Is there resources for FI parents? Denise: Katie Gibson is a FI teacher and parent, the person to ask. Upcoming events: Oct 27 and Dec 18.

11. FEEVES Report

No report.

12. Future SC Meetings

November 14, 2023 at 2:00pm.

13. Adjournment

Caley adjourned the meeting at 8:48pm.