

Kathyrn School Council  
Meeting Minutes- October 10, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:50pm

Present: Kelly Huck, Angela Rott, Kate Culp, Nilsa Wise, Andrea Wise, Shai Goodison, Norma Lang, Nevada Wright, Jessica Brown and Carla Shierman in person and Stacy Greenwood on zoom.

Kate motion to approve September 12 minutes and Andrea to second.

Nilsa Wise was nominated by Nevada Wright for the position of Treasurer, nomination was accepted and Nilsa Wise was elected by acclamation.

Carla Shierman was nominated by Kate Culp for the position of Secretary, nomination was accepted and Carla Shierman was elected by acclamation.

Nevada Wright was nominated by Nilsa Wise for the position of Vice Chair, nomination was accepted and Nevada Wright was elected by acclamation.

Kate Culp was nominated by Jessica Brown for the position of Chair, nomination was accepted and Kate Culp was elected by acclamation.

**School Council Chair Report & Correspondence:**

Students and staff are welcome to come and present to the school council meetings that we have during the day, to share what is going on in the school and classrooms. The school store meeting to happen on October 12 @ 2:00 to just get an idea of what is all involved and what will be needed to get going. Bieseker School Council has approached us for a possible collaboration for the engagement grant. Kate to meet with Terri-Lynn before our next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Please see attached report presented by Andrea.

Trustee's Report: Please see attached report from Norma.

Administrator's Report: Please see attached report from Kelly.

**Old Business:**

Fundraising cards due from the classrooms by October 25<sup>th</sup> for an earlier turnaround time. This year they are not to be specifically Christmas themed, can be open to any design.

Country Christmas, if it is done, would be the last week before the holidays. Kelly to find out the parameters, talk to staff and look at the calendar and get back to Kate the week of October 16<sup>th</sup>.

New Business:

Upcoming meeting dates and times to be November 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:45am and December 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:45am.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:47pm

**October 2023 School Council Report from Trustee Ward 4 Norma Lang  
Kathryn School Oct 10, 6:45 pm**

**Sept 21 Board Meeting**

[https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/whats\\_new/the\\_brief\\_sept\\_21\\_2023](https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/whats_new/the_brief_sept_21_2023)

**Trustees Gilbert and Hunter Elected to Lead Board for 2023/24**

- Ward 6 Trustee, Fiona Gilbert was elected Board Chair for the 2023/24 school year during the Board of Trustees (the Board) of Rocky View Schools (RVS) Organizational Meeting, Sept. 21. Ward 5 Trustee Judi Hunter was elected Vice-chair.

**Multi-faceted Public Engagement Launched to Balance Airdrie Student Spaces**

- Government approval for new schools, modular units and school additions over the years has not kept pace with rising enrolment and has led to many overutilized schools in the growing communities of Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere.

- The Board has approved the Balancing Airdrie Student Spaces public consultation plan and timeline to gather feedback and insights from stakeholders on how the division can best balance enrolment for all Airdrie students.

- o Phase 1 starts fall 2023 and will provide stakeholders with information, resources and an opportunity to ask questions about the proposed solutions.

- o Phase 2, beginning in early 2024, will offer stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback, both in-person and online.

- The Board aims to reach a decision at the public meeting scheduled for April 25, 2024, which will take effect at the start of the 2025/26 school year, allowing time for families and staff to prepare. Given the current overutilization of some schools, it is possible select decisions for specific schools may need to be implemented as early as the 2024/25 school year.

- A letter to Airdrie parents/guardians announcing the engagement and encouraging their participation will be sent following the Board meeting. The division will regularly communicate with Airdrie families, staff and other stakeholders through its many channels to reach and hear from as many stakeholders as possible.

RVSEngage.com will serve as the central resource for all engagement information and to collect online feedback in 2024.

- The Board tasked administration to create staff working groups to begin preliminary work to review the student accommodation situations in Cochrane and Chestermere as RVS continues to address critical space needs for students in these communities.

## **RVS to provide school council chairs a generic email address to facilitate communication**

School councils play a vital role in RVS. They are a way for parents and community members to work together with our schools to support and enhance student learning.

In order to support school council chairs, enhance communication between and to chairs, and facilitate transition between chairs, RVS will be providing the option for each school council chair to have a generic rvschools.ab.ca email address for the chair to use in their important role. These accounts will have a consistent format across RVS <schoolname>-schoolcouncil@rvschools.ab.ca.

Chairs are encouraged to use this new service, not required. Talk to admin if you want one.

## **Oct 5 Board Meeting**

[https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/whats\\_new/the\\_brief\\_oct\\_5\\_2023](https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/whats_new/the_brief_oct_5_2023)

## **Students Show They Have What It Takes at Level Up Calgary Competition**

- Rocky View Schools (RVS) students from seven schools were invited to compete in the Level Up Calgary season 2 competition, which ran from February through June 2023. The students competed against their peers from the Calgary Board of Education and Calgary Catholic School Division, coming home with numerous medals.
- Approximately 500 RVS students took part in the competition which involved designing virtual sustainable public spaces using Minecraft.
- Teachers and learning specialists involved in the design challenge shared their experiences with the Board of Trustees (the Board), and students who won in the four divisions of the challenge reflected on their learning.
- The students enjoyed using Minecraft as a tool for learning, experiencing collaboration, creative thinking and problem-solving while working on their projects.
- The challenge was enhanced by the participation of local officials – municipal mayors, local Elders, etc. – and use of real-life spaces in Calgary.

## **Significant Enrolment Growth in Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere Continues to Add Nearly**

### **1,000 More Students**

- Total enrolment across the division as of Sept. 30 is 28,602 for the current school year, up 990 or 3.6 per cent from 2022/23. This is consistent with the existing trend in the division which sees enrolment increase by 750-1,000 students per year.
- The three larger municipalities within RVS' jurisdiction are all experiencing continuous population growth, which is reflected in rising enrolment in all schools in Airdrie, Chestermere and Cochrane.
- o Of the 990 new RVS students, 499 or 50.4 per cent are in Airdrie. This is an increase of 158 percent from 2003 to 2023. The current average utilization of all three of Airdrie's high schools is 10 per cent; with no new schools approved or opening in Airdrie, by 2027, this will increase to 130 per cent.

o Chestermere schools are 98 per cent utilized overall. With a new junior/senior high school slated to open in Langdon in September 2024, pressure on the city's schools will likely see some relief.

o Cochrane continues to see growth, particularly at the high school level where both schools are more than 100 per cent utilized.

### **RVS Teachers Recognized for Exceptional Work on World Teachers' Day**

- World Teachers' Day is held annually to celebrate the work of teachers across the globe. The Board thanked the 1,048 RVS teachers for the important and exceptional work they do every day to support our students.

### **Space for Students Continues to be Focus of Board Advocacy**

- RVS continues to experience overcrowding in many of its schools, particularly in Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere. Rising enrolment and a lack of approval for construction funding for new facilities have caused a challenging situation and many schools in these communities are overutilized.
- A year-long advocacy plan was launched in 2022/23 to bring attention to these issues and to advocate to the provincial government for the much-needed new schools identified in the division's capital plan. The Board and RVS' Communications department will continue to implement strategies to bring attention to RVS' critical need for additional schools in 2023/24 with the goal of securing full construction funding for the four schools that received planning and design funding in 2022/23, as well as three other schools needed in Airdrie, Springbank and Cochrane in Budget 2024 to have them built as soon as possible.
- Securing many more modular classrooms as temporary spaces will also be front and centre in these efforts.

### **Annual Review Leads to Changes to Three Policies**

- Board policies determine how the division will operate and provide effective direction for the action of the Board, Superintendent, staff, students and stakeholders. The policies are posted online at [www.rockyview.ab.ca/about\\_rvs/policies\\_procedures/board\\_policies](http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/about_rvs/policies_procedures/board_policies)

- The Board Policy Committee is tasked with reviewing policies of the Board on an ad hoc basis to ensure these continue to reflect the intentions of the Board.

- Reviews of Policy 19 - Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning and Working Environment

Policy 22 - Community Use of School Facilities and Equipment and

Policy 23 - School Attendance Areas

(minor changes to wording for clarity and to ensure the policies align with new legislation or regulations)

### **Board Connects with School Councils to Support Their Work**

- About 20 school council members attended an orientation session on Sept. 27 with trustees and Superintendent Luterbach. The session is intended to support school councils

by providing them with information and engaging in dialogue. The presentation is available on the RVS website.

- School council executive are invited to join the Board Oct. 26 to meet as an opportunity to connect and learn from each other. These meetings happen twice annually and continue to be valuable for sharing information and building relationships

### **Upcoming Dates**

Oct 26 – 5:30-7:30 pm Save the Date Joint School Council Meeting – Advocacy, PBIS, Council connections, ASCE Grant

Langdon Consultation Round 2 – Oct 17 – 6:30 pm Langdon School

### **Principal Report – October 10th , 2023**

September:

- Our current numbers for K to grade 8 are 141 with approx. 5 more students moving into the area.
- We are starting our Common Literacy classes next week Monday to Thursday second block for the whole school
- Welcome Back Barbeque was successful. We had approx. 225 people join us for the event as well as Mrs. Lang, our trustee, Mr. Luterbach, and Mr. Beskinski from the division office. A few community information booths were organized by Ms. Ludwig and set up in the hallways of the school.
- Our Terry Fox Run raised \$1320 for the foundation. We had 4 staff members and 2 students who received a pie in the face last Thursday at an assembly to celebrate this important fundraiser
- Classrooms took part in several Truth and Reconciliation activities throughout the week last week and most of the students wore orange shirts for our Orange Shirt Day. We also gave out Orange Shirt Day bracelets for everyone in the school and staff shared the important reasons why we celebrate this day.
- Teachers have been participating in class reviews with our learning support team last week and this week. Class reviews allow teachers to examine the strengths and stretches of the class as a whole as well as identifying stretches for individual students. Interventions, strategies and supports can then be implemented to support all learners in the classroom
- The fire department will be here tomorrow to help us with our fire drill, have the fire trucks outside for students to tour and will be doing a fire prevention presentation to our grade 1-5 classes tomorrow morning.
- Hot Lunch Day is starting on October 19 th at the school
- Our Leadership students are preparing some fun activities for the afternoon of Halloween and all students will be able to dress up in costumes.