

Kathyrn School Council
Meeting Minutes- January 9, 2024

Meeting called to order at 8:45am

Present: Kelly Huck, Angela Rott, Kate Culp, Nilsa Wise, Joanne Wray and Carla Shierman in person. Norma Lang, Nevada Wright, Mary Siemens and Jessica Brown on zoom.

Kate motion to approve December 12, 2023 minutes and Carla to second.

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

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

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

Old Business:

The \$500 engagement grant has been used to book the a locked room which is coming out on Feb 13 from 6-8, with snacks provided. This will be an adult only event held at the school.

PATS have been requested to be shared with the parents of the students. They used to be provided and are no longer, did something change in the protocol? Kelly will look further into this.

New Business:

February meeting to be on the 13th at 5:00 which will be followed by the locked room. Pizza provided for everyone attending the council meeting at 5, and snacks provided for those who just attend the locked room at 6:00-8:00.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:38am

Treasurers Report by Nilsa Wise

2023-2024 Parent Council Financials

Opening balance: \$2483.23

Trustee Report by Norma Lang

January 2024 School Council Report from Trustee Ward 4 Norma Lang
Last meeting was Nov 1, 7 pm

~~VISTA ASP~~

~~Early December Council meeting — ASP Open House~~

~~A couple community members spoke about concerns with the ASP and a couple of those about the school site specifically Council was due to make a decision on the ASP, but asked Admin to gather some further info / work with the developer to explore a few changes – eg – not putting the houses on the current school site. Checked in with the mayor on Monday and she shared that it's coming back to council late Feb. Stay tuned.~~

Nov. 2, 2023

Board Celebrates Students Receiving 100 Per Cent on Grade 12 Diploma Exams

- Twice a year, the Rocky View Schools (RVS) Board of Trustees (the Board) recognizes students who obtain a perfect mark of 100 per cent on a provincial diploma exam.
- The following students were recognized by the Board for obtaining 100 per cent during the June 2023 exam sitting:
 - o George McDougall High School student, Kacey Paradis, scored 100 per cent in Math 30-2.
 - o Rashveer Sandhu from Chestermere High School achieved 100 per cent in Chemistry 30.
 - o Janelle Saltvold, Cochrane High School, achieved 100 per cent in Physics 30.
 - o Chestermere High School's Balroop Toor scored 100 per cent on his Physics 30 diploma exam.
- The Board congratulates these students for their stellar achievements and wishes them great success in their future pathways.

RVS Requests 22 Additional Modular Classrooms to Help Manage Growth

- To help mitigate the ongoing space crisis in RVS schools in the Board will submit a request to the provincial government for 22 additional modular classrooms, as well as the relocation of 12 classroom units and one washroom unit.
- There are 990 additional students in RVS schools this year. With no new schools across the division until 2026/2027 at the earliest, these additional modulars and modular relocations are critical to meeting students' space needs.
- The units are requested for schools with expected utilization rates of more than 100 per cent, based on accommodation changes and projected enrolments.
- In March 2023, RVS received 10 new modular classrooms and two classroom relocations; RVS' request was for 32 new units. In addition, five surplus modular units were awarded to RVS on Oct. 24 which the Province will pay to deliver and set up.
- If approved, these modular units will help mitigate RVS' enrolment issues in the short term but will also increase the stress on core school buildings which will have more students than they were built to accommodate.
- Typically, the Province announces decisions about modular requests in March of each year. Board Will Hold an Additional Meeting to Hear Balancing Airdrie Student Spaces Delegations
- About half of the 990 new RVS students were welcomed into an Airdrie school in September emphasizing the need to find a longer-term space for students solution in the city. The Balancing Airdrie Student Spaces engagement will seek stakeholder feedback and insights to help inform the Board's decision. Details are available on RVSEngage and families and staff are encouraged to watch for more information to be made available soon.

- Given the size and scope of the ongoing Balancing Airdrie Student Spaces public engagement, it is expected the Board may receive significant interest for delegations on the topic. In support of the Board's commitment to hear from as many stakeholders as possible, an additional Board meeting dedicated to delegations presenting on this topic will be held Tuesday, March 12, 2024.
- Information regarding how to submit a delegation request will be available on rvsengage.com in the new year

Nov. 16, 2023

RVS' Rapid Growth Prompts Ward Boundary Review

- Given the consistently high population growth in many of the communities within RVS, the Board determined a review of the current ward boundaries should be completed.
- RVS' ward boundaries were last reviewed in 2016.
- Board Policy 29 – Ward Structures outlines how and when a ward boundary review can be undertaken. An important factor is ensuring RVS' communities are served adhering to a representation by population model where each trustee represents a similar number of residents.
- The review will include consultation with all communities within the RVS. Additional information regarding this community engagement will be provided when available. The review will be completed by December 2024.

Annual Education Results Report Highlights RVS' Accomplishments, Initiatives and Stories

- RVS' 2022/23 Annual Education Results Report (AERR) highlights accomplishments and initiatives designed to help students connect to passions, interests and people; achieve their potential; and navigate successfully as global citizens throughout their learning with RVS, the performance measures laid out in the 2019- 23 Four-Year Plan.
- This edition of RVS' AERR continues our approach of a blend of storytelling and data. Within its pages, you will find stories about many of the important teaching practices, events and activities taking place within RVS on a daily basis.
- Highlights include:
 - o The majority of students in grades 1-4 demonstrated growth in literacy and numeracy skills as measured by the LeNS, CC3 and Alberta Numeracy Screening Assessment.
 - o Our students feel they can get the help they need in school; however, they also indicated they could use support in developing conflict resolution skills.
 - o Overall diploma exam results are at the provincial average while our high school completion rates are better than the provincial average.
 - o The AERR reports back on the progress of specific actions taken the year before and identifies new actions to be taken in 2023/24. We are pleased to report that all six of the items identified for 2022/23 were completed.
- The 2022/23 AERR is available on rockyview.ab.ca

Community Invited to Share Initial Thoughts Online Regarding Balancing Airdrie Student Spaces Plan

- Many RVS Airdrie elementary, middle and high schools are operating at or near full capacity as a result of ongoing enrolment growth and a lack of government approval for new schools or modular units.

- In September, the Board approved the Balancing Airdrie Student Spaces community engagement plan to engage the community and collect feedback on potential student accommodation changes that would best serve all Airdrie students.
- Beginning Nov. 15, community members are invited to provide their initial thoughts on the proposed solutions online on RVSEngage. Further opportunities to learn more about the proposed options and provide feedback online and in person will be offered in the new year.
- RVSEngage is the main source of information about the engagement for community members, and was updated Nov. 15 with new information, including the possible solutions being considered:
 - o Converting C.W. Perry School into a high school. This will redistribute Grade 9-12 students across Airdrie. C.W. Perry was chosen because of its location in the city and ability to accommodate high school-level programming in its spaces.
 - o Grade 8 students staying in their current school for Grade 9, creating a more traditional Grade 10 - 12 high school model. This minimizes the changes for families as students stay in their schools for one more year; however, it impacts the programming options our Grade 9 students currently have and increases space pressures in some schools by adding a grade. It may also require adding or removing a grade level at some other schools.
 - o Re-organize grade structures across Airdrie schools to remove urgent pressures where possible (Kindergarten – Grade 6, Grade 7 – 9 and Grade 10 – 12). This addresses both high school utilization and standardizes grade configuration across the community.
- An online interactive tool, Your RVS Journey, allows parents/guardians, students and other community members to see how they might be impacted by each of the proposed solutions. The tool is available on RVSEngage.

Board Ratifies Agreement with ATA Local

- After multiple bargaining sessions on collective agreement matters that are determined to be managed between RVS and ATA Local #35, the Board ratified the mediator's report and previously agreed to items.
- The Board awaits information from ATA Local #35 to determine if they will agree to the mediators report and previously agreed to items.

Board Continues to Move Forward with New Airdrie SW High School Site

- The Board approved the sub-division agreement of the jointly owned land in SW Airdrie. The partners, RVS, City of Airdrie and Mattamy Limited, will subdivide the quarter section of land into portions for RVS, the City and the developer. RVS' portion of the land will be used for a future Airdrie high school.

NOV 30

Nov. 30, 2023

Nose Creek Elementary School Highlights Inclusivity Practices

- Staff at Nose Creek Elementary School (NCES) believe inclusion must be consistently pursued to honour students in their care. During a presentation to the Board (the Board) of Rocky View Schools (RVS), NCES staff members shared how they bring Alberta Education's six principles of inclusive learning - diversity, high expectations, learners' strengths,

removing barriers, building capacity and collaboration - to life every day in their classrooms.

- The presentation highlighted how the school evolved to one in which students, teachers and staff have a better understanding of inclusivity. The teaching staff worked hard to ensure programs and activities involved all students, while injecting fun into the learning. Students also learned the importance of working collaboratively on things like recycling and reading. Some students became inclusion superheroes, helping to create a welcoming school environment.

- This work aligns with Goal 3 of RVS' Education Plan – Creating inclusive, engaging, healthy learning opportunities for all students.

Infrastructure, Maintenance and Renewal Spending Projects Approved for 2023/24

- As part of its annual fiscal process, RVS administration brings Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) spending for the coming year to the Board for their approval.

- In March of 2023, RVS was granted \$2,795,116 in the provincial budget for IMR for the 2023-2024 school year.

- Highlights of upcoming projects include:

- o Student washroom/change room upgrades for Glenbow School in Cochrane

- o Electrical/fire panel upgrades at schools in Cochrane and Bearspaw

- o Painting and flooring repairs/upgrades throughout the division

- o Ceiling/LED lighting upgrades at schools in Langdon, Airdrie and Bearspaw

- o School front door security enhancements for 27 schools

2022/23 Audited Annual Financial Statements Approved

- Each year, school divisions in Alberta are required to send annual financial statements, the auditor's report and any other communication pieces to the Minister of Education by Nov. 30.

- External auditors provided RVS a clean audit report. Congratulations to all staff who have a hand in preparing the documents and supporting the audit process.

- RVS has made strategic investments over the past few years to spend down operating reserves to get within government's mandated range.

- The final results for the 2022/23 year included revenues of \$298.3 million and expenses of \$307.6 million resulting in a deficit of \$9.4 Million. RVS planned to draw \$7.9 million from reserves in 2022/23 but ended up drawing \$9.4 million. The additional draw resulted from increased teacher sick / medical appointment leaves, increased furniture and equipment spending, land acquisition on the Powell Street school site, and 21/22 projects that extended into the 22/23 school year.

- At the end of the 2022/23 year, RVS' operating reserves were at \$3.9 million (1.3% of operating budget). This is at the lower end of government's required operating reserve range (between 1 and 3.2%). Almost all those funds are in our transportation reserve which cannot be used for other needs across the division.

- Nearly all of the \$3.8 million of capital reserves were used on the renovation of the school on Powell Street in Cochrane (now Cochrane Christian Academy) and preparing the new high school site in south-west Airdrie.

School Fees Policy Enhanced

- Changes to the School Fees Policy intend to clarify the purpose of fees ensuring they continue to be reasonable for families and support students in achieving learning outcomes. Additional changes were made to provide further clarity and improve transparency as well as minor edits and updates. Joint Use and Planning Agreement Negotiations with Rocky View County to Continue
- The Board will continue to negotiate with Rocky View County regarding a joint use agreement after the Board approved a motion to maintain those discussions.
- Board Continues to Engage Government in Advocacy Efforts for More Space for Students
- Trustee Fred Burley will represent RVS at the City of Airdrie's event in Edmonton Dec. 5 where Mayor Brown will host Cabinet Ministers and MLAs to share information and engage in dialogue about Airdrie.
- The Board will tour MLA for Banff-Kananaskis, Sarah Elmeligi, through Springbank Middle School Dec. 8.
- The Board received correspondence from the Honourable Minister of Infrastructure Pete Guthrie and MLA for Airdrie-Cochrane in response to RVS' invitation to tour an Airdrie high school and discuss the need for space for students. Minister Guthrie expressed interest in the meeting and to connect in January.

RVS Participates in Alberta School Boards Association Fall General Meeting

- Members of the Board attended the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Fall General Meeting in Edmonton from Nov 19-21, at which joint advocacy with school boards from across the province was the focus.
- RVS' resolution to ask the provincial government to review the practice of administering Diploma Exams was passed by the membership. Trustee Shali Baziuk was re-elected as Vice-President of the ASBA to serve another two-year term

Dec. 14, 2023

CCA Reads Advances Student Literacy Skills by Encouraging Reading at Home

- Students at Cochrane Christian Academy (CCA) and their teacher presented about how they are being encouraged to discover a love for reading through a program introduced at the school in the fall by the school's literacy team.
- CCA Reads aims to get students reading outside the classroom and to help them develop a love of reading by choosing books they are interested in, rather than books they are assigned.
- Students track how often they choose to read outside school hours. For every 25 nights they accumulate, they win a prize. A coveted prize is the ability to have Pizza with the Principal once the student has accumulated 150 nights.
- Since the program began in the fall, there has been an increase in the number of CCA students reading at home. Currently, more than 75 per cent of CCA students are participating in the program. The Literacy team is developing plans to have CCA Reads run in future years.
- This program aligns with Goal 1 of RVS' Education Plan – Advancing student's numeracy and literacy skills.

New School in Langdon will Welcome Students in Grades 9 – 11 When it Opens in September 2024

- The Board of Trustees (the Board) of RVS shares in the community's excitement and anticipation of students benefiting from learning where they live when the school opens in September 2024.
- The Board today made the decision to open the new high school in Langdon for Grades 9 to 11 in the 2024/25 school year and grow to include Grade 12 students for 2025/26.
- This decision was made after careful consideration of what the Board and Administration heard during an extensive public engagement with community members, both in-person and online. The input collected through the engagement expressed a broad range of opinions, scenarios and ideas on which students should attend the new school and existing schools in the area. The Board believes this decision best serves all students in the community.
- The following will also begin the 2024/25 school year:
 - o Langdon School and Indus School will become Kindergarten – Grade 8 schools. Students from both of those schools will move on to the new high school in Langdon starting at Grade 9.
 - o Sarah Thompson School will remain a Kindergarten – Grade 5 school. Sarah Thompson students will continue to be designated to Langdon School for Grades 6 – 8.
 - o High school students living in Chestermere will continue to be designated to Chestermere High School (CHS) for Grades 10 – 12.
 - o Current Grade 10 students who live in the new school's attendance area and currently attend CHS will need to apply as an out-of-area student to attend CHS for the 2024/25 school year (as Grade 11 students). RVS transportation would not be guaranteed.
- To begin to understand how transportation efficiencies may be best achieved with the opening of the new high school, the Board directed the Superintendent to investigate opportunities to bus Chestermere students to and from Langdon area schools starting in September 2024 and report findings to the Board Planning Committee by the end of March 2024.
- The Board thanks residents of Langdon and area for participating in the public engagement and looks forward to celebrating the opening of the new school with the community next school year.

Supplemental Growth Funding Supports but Does Not Solve Instructional Funding Shortage

- Each spring, the Government of Alberta announces the funding being provided to school divisions based on their projected enrolment, their previous two years of enrolment and the funding manual. This funding method is called the weighted moving average (WMA) model.
- For a growing district like RVS, funding based on the previous two years' enrolment and projected enrolment for the upcoming year does not keep up with the actual number of new students coming into the division.
- Despite having to educate 28,558 students in 2023/24, RVS' grants are based on 27,835 students. This means there are approximately 720 students not included in the division's base instructional grants.
- On Nov. 28, additional funding for student enrolment growth was announced as a one-time grant. Divisions will receive \$1,500 per student for actual enrolment growth between

zero and 100 students and growth exceeding 100 students will be funded at \$2,000 per student.

- For RVS, this means the updated supplemental enrolment growth grant formula should generate an additional \$1.2 million in revenue for RVS. These dollars are in addition to the \$737,000 of supplemental enrolment growth funding already anticipated for 2023/24.
- However, even with nearly \$2 million in supplemental enrolment growth grants in 2023/24, the WMA still results in RVS receiving \$3.3 million less than if every student was fully funded this school year.

Premier Invited to Chestermere High School to Participate in Career Connection Programs

- RVS has extended an invitation to Premier Danielle Smith to visit Chestermere High School (CHS) to see how students in the school's Cosmetology and Culinary Arts career connection programs are learning skills in those fields. The Premier recently indicated a willingness and desire to visit schools across the province and RVS is keen to be included in a tour.
- CHS' programs are taught by highly certified professionals in the fields and, in the case of Cosmetology, students enrolled in the program can earn credits towards their Alberta hairdressing certification.
- These programs and many others across the division support students in experiencing various career paths and help to build future-ready students.

Board Responds to Delegation

- A response letter has been sent to the community delegation which presented its concerns regarding human sexuality education in RVS schools. The Board's response thanked them for taking the time to provide their perspectives and shared it had reviewed the information and details received from RVS senior administration. Following the review and consideration of the information presented, the Board believes that current RVS policies, procedures, and processes related to teaching sexual health education meet a high standard of care and diligence in providing a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging. The Board is confident the division is meeting its mandate to provide human sexuality education in an open and transparent way and is engaging with and including parents as their children's primary educators.

Updated and New Administrative Procedures Shared

- Administrative Procedures provide written direction from the Superintendent of Schools to staff, students, families, visitors and other school entities on how the division is to operate. They may also provide operational details on the implementation of Board Policies. They are regularly reviewed for necessary updates and new Administrative Procedures are added as needed and published on RVS' website.

Principal Message - January 8 th , 2024

- Christmas concert went well, and we had a great turn out from the community
- Popcorn and a movie afternoon were a hit during the last week of school
- Last week of school we did five spirit days and held caroling in the learning commons every morning

- Leadership option students wrote cards for a senior centre in Airdrie and were delivered by Lynita to the centre before Christmas. We will be travelling to the senior centre Jan. 30 th to spend an afternoon with the seniors.
- Bear Necessities: Angela
 - o Pilot project in Behavior Tracking will start soon – staff will be in-serviced by Wendy Ruzicka who is leading this pilot next week. This program is our year 3 project with PBIS and looks at office managed behavior vs classroom managed behaviors.
- In-line Skating will happen every day next week – every classroom will have 3 opportunities to participate
- Common Lit will start up again the following week.
- Kodiak clothing was ordered. We had a few orders for water bottles and clothing from

students

Budget Item:

As you are aware, our budget has been impacted this school year. This means increased spending from our school generated funds, which are collected via donations and fundraising.

Kathyrn School Administration will need to utilize roughly \$20,000 for necessary purchases that may involve items like:

- Special School Event Supplies, including food items
- Purchasing some school supplies, utilized by all students
- School option fees, to offset parent costs for field trips etc.