

Agenda – Sarah Thompson School Council

Date: March 4, 2024

Sarah Thompson School

In Attendance: Moe Talha, Lisa McLellan, Betty Peddle, Ryan Siemens, Jared Featherstone, Brenda De La Mare, Chantelle Everett, Nicole Porquet-Seitz, Jen Olsen, Shelley Kinley, Raegen, Chris Sidorenko, Sheena Noppen, Cindy Reid, Carla Grasdahl, Sabrina Norton, Brandy Couture, Chelsea Burnett

1.	Call Meeting to Order at 8:38am	
2.	Introductions and Land Acknowledgement	<i>"Rocky View Schools would like to acknowledge the land and recognize all the Indigenous Peoples whose footprints have marked these lands from time immemorial. Together, we can learn and honour the ways of knowing of Indigenous Peoples for all future generations."</i>
3.	Approval of previous meeting minutes	Jen, 2 nd Jared
	Approval of Agenda	Jared, 2 nd Brenda
4.	Trustee Update – Shelley Kinley	<p>1) RVS' newest school has been named Horseshoe Crossing High School. A naming committee was formed in December of 2023 comprised of three parents, a student, me and two administrators. We provided two names to the Board. The name symbolizes Langdon's community and history while paying homage to Langdon's emblem, an upside-down horseshoe, representing both good fortune and generosity of spirit, like the town itself. The Crossing symbolizes the historic paths of the Blackfoot people, who camped in and around the Langdon areas on their travels as well as the journey students take toward their future.</p> <p>2) Exemplary Practice – WG Murdoch School Social Studies Students modelled their own Museum for Human Rights Displays at their school for their local families and staff. Students had project-based learning on topics they wanted to research. The project was sparked by a Virtual Visit to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg. They had to develop their own promotional materials and create a Call to Action such as a fundraiser or letter writing campaign related to their topic. It was a very successful research project.</p>

		<p>3) Student Transportation – RVS’ Transportation department serves approximately 12,700 students. 87% are RVS students and 13% are Calgary Catholic students. There are upcoming challenges: securing enough drivers and buses for the many routes. There are still supply chain issues of buses and replacement parts. Transportation is taking a multi faceted approach and has initiatives to support bus contractors and retain drivers. The new Where’s the Bus app is presently being test piloted and will roll out in the next few months. An RVS initiative is that any drivers from Rocky View who drive within Rocky View Schools will have their children’s bus fees covered.</p> <p>4) Indigenous Learning continues to support staff and students in ensuring Indigenous Ways of Knowing. Curricular, resource support, professional learning, protocol guidance and planning for recognition of significant events – Rock your Mocs, Summer and Winter Solstice, Orange Shirt Day, Red Dress Day are examples. There have been 131 requests for support to the committee which expanded in the fall of 2023.</p> <p>5) Board Financial Update – During this year, we did receive a \$1 million increase in budgeted revenues but are still feeling significant financial pressures. The additional funds were for the Supplemental Enrolment Grant and increased English as an Additional Language Funding. Increased Leave utilization and corresponding costs earlier this fall caused significant budget adjustments in school and central level</p> <p>spending for Professional development, supplies and freezing of planned expenditures for technology and other equipment.</p> <p>6) The Board is responsible for setting the budget and approving the budget development process. The Board has approved the following as the 24/25 budget priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Provide direct resources to schools to support student learning with a focus on numeracy and literacy· Support student and staff wellness
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Enhance facilities and technology infrastructure; and· Target an operating reserve balance at the end of the 24/25 fiscal year – excluding Transportation at 0.5 to 1% <p>7) Protocol Ensures Student Safety During Inclement Weather based on implementation of the Inclement Weather Protocol: committees for each area composed of one trustee and a designated Principal meet before 5 am and make recommendations to the Superintendent of Schools. Based on the recommendations, the Superintendent decided to close all schools (except for online schools) and cancel buses Jan 12. Jan 15 schools remained open, but buses were not running in part due to contractor shortages. Even when schools are closed, several staff will be on site to ensure a safe, warm space is available. Despite no buses running on Monday Jan 15th – 68% of RVS’ overall student population attended.</p> <p>8) The Board ratified their agreement with Alberta Teachers Association Local # 35. And local # 35 has ratified the settlement too.</p> <p>9) Staff will soon benefit from the Benefits transition to ASEBP – RVS has been self-insured prior to this transition. This move will result in a \$500,000.00 savings that can be reinvested in the future.</p> <p>10) The Board provides funding support for School Council members to attend the ASCA conference and AGM. We value the work of School Councils and pay for membership for all our schools to belong to the Alberta Schools Councils Association. Each year ASCA hosts a conference – this is their 95th year and the date is April 26th – 28th in Edmonton. Funding applications are accepted until March 8th, 2024 up to \$1000/pp or \$2000.00/Council.</p> <p>11)Balancing Airdrie Student Spaces engagements have been held over the last two weeks. We have heard great feedback from parents. Thank you to staff who volunteer their time to assist in these RVS community events.</p>
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		<p>12) Board has updated their Terms of Reference for the Labour Relations Committee and the Board Planning Committee – this is part of our ongoing commitment to best governance practices.</p> <p>13) Check out the new RVS website. Changes have been made and we value your feedback as we try to make it as user friendly and informative as possible.</p> <p>14) Don't forget to save the date March 14th for our next Joint/School Board Council Meeting at the Education Centre. This is for Council Chairs, Vice Chairs and Principals.</p>
5.	<p>Admin update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -School Fees -Presentation by Mrs. Bertamini's AM Kindergarten class -Anxiety and Resiliency parent presentation upcoming -School Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Presentation by Mrs. Bertamini's Kindergarten class on the northern lights. -School fees for the present year shared. School is recommending to not increase fees. -New website will be available this year. -Will be bringing in Caroline Buzanko to present on April 25th at 6pm at Sarah Thompson school. She will be presenting on anxiety and resilience. Langdon school community will be invited as well. -3 way conferences are this week. Hoping for 100% attendance. -Volunteer orientation will be available both evenings prior to conferences starting. Orientation is required for those who would like to volunteer at the school. -Book fair will be available during conferences as well -Professional learning day March 15th – focusing on writing and math as well as a review on AB curriculum -Kindergarten registration is open currently. -Passport to Kindergarten evening on June 3 from 3:30-6pm. Hoping to have representation from school council and FOSTeS -Assurance survey for Grade 4 parents was completed, thank you to those that participated.
6.	<p>Chair Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -ASCA conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Alberta School Council Association conference on April 26-28. Funding available. -School council available to reach out with questions sarahthompson-schoolcouncil@rvschools.ab.ca

7.	Treasurer Update	\$3431.81 funds available -Examples council will spend money on are the welcome back BBQ, Terry Fox run, Kindergarten passport evening supplies, classroom books and supplies etc.
8.	Old Business	
9.	Society Update	\$12 972.86 General account \$49 669.20 Casino account Looking for new members Working on planning the next fundraiser
10.	New Business	
11.	Adjournment at 9:36am	
	Next Meeting	April 15 at 8:35am