

Agenda: Sarah Thompson School Council

Date: December 9, 2024 at 1:15pm

Location: Sarah Thompson School

In Attendance (In person or via zoom): Lisa Gilchrist, Sandi Harrower, Coralee Vinish, Chelsea Burnett, Lindsay Grindle, Jennifer Olsen, Bailee Comstock, Chris Sidorenko, Ryan Siemens, Jennifer Yersh, Shelley Kinley, Betty Peddle, Lori Selanders

1	Call Meeting to Order	1:15pm
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	Approval of previous minutes was by Chelsea and seconded by Lindsay
4	Approval of agenda	Approval of agenda was by Jenn and seconded by Lindsay
5	Trustee Update – Shelley Kinley	<p>December School Council Report 2024</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) At our last Board meeting, we were able to celebrate students who achieved 100% on their diploma exam. Seven students were celebrated for Biology, Math, Physics and Chemistry. Some of these students have received 100% on multiple exams. Kudos!2) The Board approved the Terms of Reference to create an ad hoc Superintendent Search Committee to support the recruitment process and work has begun. We started with a staff survey report. We hope to have our Ad placement out by January.3) The Board will be reviewing feedback from the Chestermere Student Accommodation over the next month. The RVS Engage closed at the end of November. Thank you to all who participated.4) Additional funding from the provincial government was also approved over the summer. The Board has approved a spending plan which includes school transition for new students with complex needs, enhancements to our IT infrastructure and resources and technology for schools to support the BASS student accommodations. Remaining funds will be

		<p>included in instruction contingency as part of the fall update.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">5) As a Board, we participated at the ASBA Fall General Meeting November 17th – 19th, 2024 in Edmonton. We were able to advance educational issues and share information and issues about our school division with MLA's, the education minister and the Premier.6) Please look online and check the highlights of our Annual Education Results. There has been growth in both literacy and numeracy skills numbers, the percentage of students on par with provincial achievement has been improved or maintained, especially in Math 30-1 results (now at 73%), and the high school completion rate continues to exceed the provincial average.7) Each year School Divisions are required to submit audited financial statements to the Minister of Education by November 30th. Again, this year, RVS was given a clean report for 2023/2024. Final revenues were 314.7 and expenses were 314.2 million resulting in a small surplus. We ended the year with 7.7 million in total operating reserves (2.4% of the operating budget). Most of these reserve dollars are in Transportation. The government has mandated a range of 1 – 3.2% reserve balance for this school year.8) Planning is underway for the 2025 Trustee Election. We have appointed a returning officer. We also approved formalizing the joint school election agreement with local municipal governments for the next election – October 20, 2025.9) Representatives from the Chestermere and Area Community Coalition, Synergy Youth and Community Development Society presented to the Board about the work they are doing in Chestermere, Langdon and Southeast Calgary. To view their survey: https://www.yoursynergy.ca/youthsafercommunitiesproject10) The Board will also be looking for feedback from School Councils. A short questionnaire will be forwarded to the Parent Council for feedback. Look for it over the next few weeks. We will use to inform best practices for our School Council events.
--	--	--

		<p>11)A Long Service and Retirees awards ceremony was held in November. Staff were recognized for 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service along with retirees.</p>
6	Admin Update	<p>1.School concerts – how the classes /grades are split for performances: Mrs. Crooks has been teaching music for 23 years! “I have a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance and a BEd. I helped to open STS in 2012 and taught here for 10 years. It was the happiest time of my career. I left to pursue full-time teaching, when the opportunity presented itself and worked at ELS from 2022-2024. In that time, I realized how much I missed being at a smaller school. At STS I have the opportunity to teach music 3 x a week and can see the love of music grow and the skills develop quickly. I am thrilled to be back!” At STS all students have the opportunity to perform at some point during the year. This year everyone performed in the Remembrance Day assembly in some way. As we have many combined classes the concerts will be broken down as follows: Christmas – 1/2W, 2B, 3/4M, 4N, 4/5R Spring – 1L, 1W, 3B, 3H Year End Farewell – TBD what that will look like 5C, 5P and 4/5R (just the 5’s) With splitting the classes up for the different concerts, each student gets a little more time on stage to perform.</p> <p>2. Principal transition – Ryan introduced Jennifer, and she gave us a little about her background. Ryan and Jennifer have met previously and toured the school, and she has met most the staff and students. Ryan has been sharing information on staffing, student’s with SSP’S, budget, supervision, timetables, teacher and support staff evaluations, school goals and survey results, where the school has been and where it is going.</p> <p>3. The Studio – Ms. Wentworth and Ms. Behal gave us a tour of the new classroom. They explained how they came up with the idea and all that the room has to offer to all students. This space is designed to provide students opportunities to be creative, collaborative and use their imagination. It is a space to foster curiosity and play.</p> <p>4. General updates – Past PL Day – teachers had a workshop to learn about different text structures to help students become better writers. Chantal Chagnon (Cree / Metis Singer, drummer,</p>

		<p>artist and storyteller) joined us to share about the medicine wheel and medicine teachings.</p> <p>Lunch box talks – we had guests come in to talk to the students during lunch box talks. This helps grow the students skills in communicating with adults in a safe environment.</p>
7	Chair Update	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher appreciation at 3-way conferences – we delivered pizza for the teachers on the Tuesday afternoon and then coffee and muffins on the Thursday morning of the 3 way conferences. 2. School Education Plan – Sandi has reviewed the plan and signed off on it as School Council Chair
8	Treasurer Update	None at this time
9	Upcoming Events	<p>Hot Lunches – The new hot lunch menu is available for the remainder of the school year.</p> <p>December 10 – Elder Saa’kokoto will be at the school</p> <p>December 11 – Christmas Concert “Antlers”</p> <p>December 17 – Caroling in the gym and around our neighbourhood</p> <p>December 19 – 3B, 3H 3/4M and 4N Field Trip to Telus Spark</p> <p>December 20 – last day of school for 2024</p> <p>January 6 – First day of school for 2025</p>
10	Old Business	Sidewalk update – Erin collected over 140 signatures in support of extending the sidewalk. She has submitted it to Rocky View and has not heard anything back yet.
11	FoSTES Update	<p>The gift card fundraiser has recently wrapped up and they raised \$527.22</p> <p>Currently there is \$41308 in the Casino account and \$9807 in the main account.</p> <p>Coralee did ask if swimming lessons would be happening this year. Chris has sent in the request and awaiting a reply.</p>
12	New Business	School dance – discussion around dates, times, capacity, etc. Planning committee will be formed to plan more details and present at the next meeting.
13	Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 2:17pm

1 4	Next Meeting	January 20, 2025, at 1:15pm
--------	--------------	-----------------------------