

Minutes: Sarah Thompson School Council

Date: May 12, 2025, at 1:15pm

Location: Sarah Thompson School

In Attendance (In person or via zoom): Lindsay Grindle, Chelsea Burnett, Jenn Olsen, Lisa Gilchrist, Nicki Black, Coralee Vinish, Jared Featherstone, Betty Peddle, Nicole Porquet-Seitz, Shelley Kinley, Chris Sidorenko, Jennifer Yersh, Shannon Storey, Brent Legault

1	Call Meeting to Order	1:19pm
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	Approved by Lindsay and second Lisa
4	Approval of agenda	Approved by Lisa and second Jenn
5	Trustee Update – Shelley Kinley	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Exemplary Practice: Students Make a Splash Inclusive Aquatics Programs. Supported by a team of RVS staff including Learning Assistants, Occupational Therapists, learning support staff, students went to the pool to learn water safety, strengthen motor function skills, and gain experience at the pool, on the bus and while transitioning between the two locations. Through this experience students achieve goals in their Student Success Plans while having fun in the water. Students went to Genesis Place in Airdrie, but the learning team is seeking partnerships for Cochrane and Chestermere/Langdon area students.</li><li>2) The Board is committed to safe, accessible transportation while minimizing rising cost to families. Transportation fees have been maintained over the last four years, but mounting costs require an increase to the fee structure to close the gap between government funding and the cost of providing service. The fee will be raised \$70.00 for Grades 1 -12 in the 2025/2026 school year (while maintaining family and early registration discounts), Kindergarten will now be paying for a half price rate and full fee charge for students requiring a second stop. Given the unpredictability of transportation funding from</li></ol>

		<p>government and external factors like bus and driver availability (Competitive market) and contractor costs, effectively managing transportation resources is essential for RVS to consistently meet busing needs at a reasonable cost while maintaining service levels.</p> <p>3) The Board has approved minimal increases to school fees for 2025/26 despite increases in the cost of materials, travel, equipment and other items required in optional courses, programs, field trips, etc. Fees for Programs of Choice such as Building Futures, Mechanics Training Centre remain unchanged. Courses: 80% of current fees remain unchanged, of the 20%, less than half increased to a maximum of \$10 (5%), 106 new optional courses and extra curricular activities were added.</p> <p>4) Community Use fees maintained at current rates to encourage use of RVS Facilities. Connecting with communities is a priority in the Board's Strategic Plan. In 2023/24, RVS facilities were accessed by the community 3,246 times.</p> <p>5) New Developments and Approvals: RVS was awarded planning approval for two new schools by AB Ed in March: a K-9 in Lanark, Airdrie and a High School in Chelsea, Chestermere – this is in addition to five other schools. See School Projects Update on the RVS website.</p> <p>6) Career Education Update - RVS's Career Learning Framework builds future ready students. A framework to guide career learning in the division has been developed. You can find it on the RVS website – Career Learning - information for parents to talk with their children about career options along with resources, information and opportunities.  <a href="https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/schools/learning/career-learning">https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/schools/learning/career-learning</a></p> <p>7) Superintendent Luterbach will be retiring at the end of August, and after an extensive search, we have found his replacement. Ryan Reed will be shadowing the Superintendent over the next four months. As well, we have filled the position of Associate Superintendent of Schools, presently held by Murray Besenki. Jeff Smith</p>
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		<p>has been hired as his replacement. Congratulations Ryan and Jeff. We look forward to working with them.</p> <p>8) Seven students recognized for 100% on January Diploma Exams – congratulations to all students who achieved a perfect score. From Chestermere High School, Pavneet Gill, received 100% in Chemistry 30.</p> <p>9) RVS is committed to Goals and Outcomes of Education Plan in its third year. The goals are to advance students’ literacy skills, build future-ready students and create inclusive, engaging, healthy learning environments for all students. RVS priorities include providing active learning opportunities, ensuring effective instruction and assessment practices, creating communities of inclusivity, and promoting healthy, safe environments for all students. We will be expanding OURSCHOOL survey to include ALL parents/guardians in May. We look forward to hearing your feedback. Changes in assessment for 2025/2026 required by the provincial government and RV resulted in some measures being removed from this plan.</p> <p>10) Modular Classroom approval – On April 17<sup>th</sup>, AB ED informed RVS we would receive 5 new classroom units and one washroom relocation. This falls short of the 27 new classroom units requested. We do not know when the new modulares will be delivered and installed but it is not likely they will be delivered and installed before the start of the 2025/2026 school year.</p> <p>11) Students moving into two new communities in Airdrie and South of Airdrie in the Goldwyn community in RVS have been designated to new schools. Vantage Rise in Airdrie is designated to schools in Airdrie and Goldwyn (RVC) has been designated to Kathryn School (K-8) and Beiseker (9-12). Both areas also have French Immersion designated schools.</p> <p>12) Gratitude was expressed by our Board Chair on behalf of the Board for our RVS Administrators for their excellence in leadership and significant contribution to schools. In recognition of Volunteer Week, RVS volunteers were celebrated for their important role in</p>
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		<p>supporting student success in our school communities.</p> <p>13) RVS' budget continues to feel pressure despite an increase of 2.5 % in the base grant received from provincial government. Lower than expected enrolment led to a reduction in instructional funding as well as an increase in funding for mental health and curriculum grants means we are expecting budgeted revenue of \$328.5 million. Despite the increase we are projecting higher total expenses of \$332.1 million with a deficit of 3.6 million to be drawn from division reserves. At the end of the quarter, expenses were approximately half of the budget.</p> <p>14) Board Policy Updates. The Board approved changes to the following Policies: Policy 2 – Role of the Board, Policy 3 – Role of the Trustee, and Policy 12 – Role of the Superintendent. Policies have been revised, updated and modernized along with rewriting the background sections describing the high-level role of each.</p> <p>15) Notice of Motion- Trustee Bowen provided notice of her intent to bring forward the following motion for the Board's Consideration on May 22: Move that the Board of Trustees amend Policy 7 – Board Operations to reflect that all Board motions be recorded.</p> <p>16) Ratification results are now in from teachers/ATA: 38% voted in favour of the proposed settlement and 62% voted against the proposed settlement. Now there will be a two-week cooling off period and then the ATA will vote again to decide on next steps. Bargaining continues during the interim. More information will come forward over the next month.</p>
6	Admin Update	<p>Student Survey – Our School – This survey helps teachers and admin with education plans and see the student's attitude towards school.</p> <p>Parent Survey – Our School – Important for as many parents as possible to participate to get a good view on what is going well and what needs to be improved.</p> <p>Volunteer appreciation tea – May 28<sup>th</sup></p> <p>School Fees – update been approved</p> <p>June 5 – Date been set.</p>

7	Chair Update	Staff appreciation lunch - Lisa will be putting out a sign up for parents to bring in dishes. School calendars – need to pay for them this school year and had out the first day back at school.
8	Treasurer Update	Account \$6331.28 and piggy bank at \$17 923.44
9	Upcoming Events	May 16 – PD Day May 19 – STAT May 28 – Volunteer Appreciation June 2 – Passport to Kindergarten June 9 – 13 – BOGO Scholastics Book Fair June 12/13 – Grade 5 Farewell
10	Old Business	
11	FoSTES Update	Card box fundraiser going well so far and had a good response. Community Strong account is \$10 020 and Casino account is \$41 310.56
12	New Business	Introduction of Principal and vice principal of Langdon school to talk about the transition for the Grade 5's and what Langdon School has to offer the students Langdon School next AGM June 4 <sup>th</sup> , 9am.  The following school council positions have been voted in accordingly:  Chairperson – Lisa Gilchrist nominated and accepted Vice chair – Lindsay Grindle nominated and accepted Secretary – Nicki Black nominated and accepted Treasurer – Chelsea Burnett nominated and accepted Directors - Betty Peddle & Coralee Vinish
13	Adjournment	2:28pm
14	Next Meeting	June 16, 2025, at 1:15pm