

Manachaban Middle School
Parent Council Minutes
Jan. 28/19 6:30 pm

1. Welcome & Introductions
 - 1.1 Present: Jason Helfrich (co-chair), Tara Courte (co-chair), Trish R., Lisa Preston (secretary)., Leah Pearce (treasurer). Fiona Gilbert., Katt Hryciw., Anne Kromm.
2. Approval of Agenda - no additions were indicated
3. Approval of Minutes from Meeting on Nov. 26/18 KH, LP
4. Trustee Update (Fiona Gilbert; Written report discussed and then submitted as follows)

Manachaban School Council Report from Trustee Fiona Gilbert January 2019

Happy New Year! This report covers items from late November 2018 to now so is a bit longer than usual.

Audited Financial Statement (AFS)

RVS ended the 2017/2018 school year in a strong financial position, reporting a surplus of \$3.2 million that can be attributed to a \$600,000 operational surplus and the recognition of \$2.6 million from reserves to capital to purchase land for a future high school in the City of Airdrie. Revenue for the year rose to \$277 million – up by 7.6 per cent over the previous year, resulting from increased enrolments of 1,073 new students and funds received through the government's new Classroom Improvement Fund. Of the total revenue, 76.55 per cent was spent on Instruction, 14.07 per cent on Plant Operations and Maintenance, 6.41 per cent on Transportation and 2.98 per cent on Board Governance and System Administration. Transportation reserves were exhausted to cover funding shortfalls caused in part by the government's new restrictions on transportation fees.

Land Acknowledgment

RVS established a Wisdom and Guidance committee in 2016 to guide the collaborative creation of a Land Acknowledgment statement. A Land Acknowledgment is an act of reconciliation and meant to honour and respect both the land and the Indigenous Peoples in our local area. It also is meant to be an expression of gratitude and appreciation. Using the Wisdom and Guidance committee's initial draft, the Board made a few modifications and approved the following statement:

"Rocky View Schools acknowledges and recognizes 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, and all peoples, for future generations.” Guidelines on the use the Land Acknowledgment are in development.

Advocacy Priorities

This past November, the Board approved their 2018/2019 Advocacy Priorities which will be used when talking to provincial and municipal governments, and other education partners and stakeholders. The complete Advocacy Communique can be accessed at <http://trustees.rockyview.ab.ca/2018-19-advocacycommunique>

1. **Equitable Access to Funding** - Rocky View School District has been identified as one of the lowest per student funded jurisdictions in the province. The Board believes that the Ministry should engage school authorities in a collaborative process to evaluate and redesign Alberta Education’s funding formula to ensure equitable access to funding.
2. **New Schools for Growing Jurisdictions** - The Rocky View School Board is one of the fastest growing and 5th largest school boards in the province. The Board is asking the government for capital approvals that are transparent, predictable and in alignment with a provincial 4 year strategic program that clearly articulates the priorities in which school projects will be approved.
3. **Provincial Review of Inclusion** - With an increasingly diverse student population, the Board advocates for a provincial review of funding and supports afforded for the implementation of inclusive education.

Administrative Procedure Update

The Superintendent of Schools has made changes to 39 administrative procedures (AP) over the past year. The development or review of APs is typically initiated by the Superintendent, however suggestions for development or review can be made by any stakeholder through a formal request process. New and revised APs that may be of interest to school councils include: AP110 School Councils; AP112 School Societies and RVS; AP170 Kirpans in Schools; AP207 Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities & Gender Expressions; AP313 Student Concussion; and AP316 Administering Medication or Medical Treatments to Students. All APs can be accessed on the public website under Board/Administrative Procedures. Changes to APs also are communicated via Replay, RVS’ community newsletter.

Prince of Peace Consultation

As previously reported, the Board has initiated a School Closure Public Engagement Process for Prince of Peace (PoP) Lutheran School on the east side of the division as the building lease expires at the end of August 2019. The last public meeting will be on Jan 16th to provide an update on the consultation process, share the feedback received (board delegations and written submissions) and hear from stakeholders regarding how to best accommodate school/students who currently attend PoP if a lease agreement can not be reached with the building owner. The Board of Trustees will deliberate its decision on the future direction of the PoP on February 7, 2019.

Attendance Boundary Reviews

Due to continued growth in both Chestermere and Airdrie, the Board has initiated community consultations around how best to accommodate students within SE Airdrie and all of Chestermere. There will likely be a need in the next year or so to have similar conversations in Cochrane as growth in enrolment continues to outpace growth in student spaces as there are currently no government approved school builds or expansions.

Infrastructure/Maintenance Renewal Project Recommendations

Each year, Alberta Education allocates dedicated funding to school authorities for Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) projects. RVS received just over \$5 million from the province for 2018/19 and had approximately \$3.3million in carryover from the previous year. This brought the total available IMR budget to just under \$8.5 million. Based on recommendations made by the Department of Business and Operations, the Board of Trustees approved the 2018/19 IMR budget. With its IMR funding, RVS will make upgrades to lighting, flooring, HVAC systems, roofing and washrooms. Funding also will be allocated towards Indus School's modernization.

Support for Alberta School Councils Association AGM & Conference

The Board recently announced funding support for school councils to attend the ASCA AGM and Conference in Edmonton at the end of April. The response from school councils was tremendous and while we were unable to fund everyone who applied, I am pleased to report that Glenbow and Elizabeth Barrett School Councils have both been awarded monies to attend.

RVS Four Year Education Plan: 2019-2023 By Design

RVS has released a new draft of the Four Year Plan and we need your help with review and critique! In this latest draft introduces NEW design principles developed to help everyone move forward the great work already underway and NEW strategies to build synergy and advance the plan's goals and outcomes. For full details, log in to 2023byDesign.com and let us know what you think.

As always, please feel free to reach out with your questions and feedback.

Respectfully submitted,

Fiona Gilbert

RVS Trustee – Town of Cochrane fgilbert@rockyview.ab.ca

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5. Admin Update

5.1 School Annual Results Report (SARR) 2018: The entire report is on the website. Highlights include:

i Student Feedback:

1 Areas of strength include:

a Feeling welcome at school;

- b Students getting help when they need it;
- c Availability of quality technology;
- d Using technology to help do school work better; and
- e taking responsibility for learning.

2 Future priorities indicated from the students include:

- a Implementing relationship activities to foster a safe and caring environment;
- b Cross curricular instruction designed to increase engagement and
- c Increased learning activity variety;
- d Continue to develop school culture based on the WARRIOR character traits

ii Staff Feedback

1 Areas of Strength:

- a Staff feel safe;
- b Respectful environment;
- c Learning opportunities;
- d Good place to work;
- e Parental involvement;
- f Learner needs drive decision making
- g Developing good citizens;
- h Students are treated fairly;
- i Student enjoy learning;
- j A positive relationship exists between the school, parents and community;
- k Student centered;
- l Parents involved;
- m Assessment improves and informs instructions and improve performance; and
- n Students are learning 21st century competencies.

2 Future priority identified from staff feedback:

- a Opportunities to be involved in decision making;
- b Technology available to meet 21st century standards; and
- c IPP goals being met.

iii Parents feedback

- 1 Areas of strength:
 - a Feel welcome in the school;
 - b Reading and writing;
 - c Numeracy;
 - d Safe school environment;
 - e Caring atmosphere; and
 - f Respectful relationships
- 2 Future priorities indicated from the parental feedback:
 - a Provide training and support for teachers to make sure that students are meeting their goals outlined in their Program Plans (IPP).
 - b Focus on the needs of learners in the building to drive decision making both academically and social emotionally.

iv Accountability pillars:

- 1 Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) results: Manachaban out-performed the provincial average.

v Student Orientation to School Questionnaire (SOSQ) data:

- 1 Of the Grade 6 students who completed the SOSQ, 80% feel like Manachaban is a safe and caring school. The Child Development Advisor (CDA) and teachers look at the SOSQ data to see if/which students are in crisis to help provide support.
- 2 There is a drop in the safe and caring school numbers in numbers in grade 7 & 8; social media is playing a role in this decrease.
- 3 Looking at the 3 year rolling averages in PAT results: the school based PATs results are climbing in ELA, Math, SS and Science. Manachaban PAT participation rates are higher than the provincial rate.
- 4 Future priorities identified include:
 - a Social-emotional supports for at-risk students
 - b Inclusion practices

5.2 Staff analyzed grade 9 (from Cochrane High) and grade 6 data: from FLA, ELA, Math, Science, and SS.

- i The results helped support validity of the WILD program.
- ii Above average scores were noted on ELA, Math, Science, SS, & FI reading.

6. Staff Update (Katt Hryciw)

- 6.1 Mrs. Wiskar is currently on Maternity Leave (congratulation on the birth of her baby!). Mr. Peterson, who spent time in Manachaban as part of his university program, has taken on Mrs. Wiskar's position.
- 6.2 A French Language monitor has been recently been added to the school, to enhance French language and culture by working with students in the school. Welcome to Mr. Baccari.
- 6.3 The 'A' Basketball season just ended last week. Grade 6 Basketball in underway, with the tournament scheduled for February 8. B basketball will follow in March.
- 6.4 Active Living Day is soon! Wednesday January 30.
- 6.5 Many Christmas festivities occurred in the school including: share your Christmas, Reindeer Games (kids and staff), Door Decorating.
- 6.6 Other events that have occurred: The Grade 8s went to Spray Lakes Rec Center; there have been WILD camps; and band activities. Teachers try to avoid scheduling events on Wednesdays due to hot lunch day, but if needed, hot lunches that were previously purchased are refunded.
- 6.7 Traditional Parent-Student-Teacher conferences on scheduled for February 13th and 14th. (5:00pm - 8:00pm, and 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm, respectively)
- 6.8 February break is coming: No classes February 15-22.
- 6.9 Renovations are underway to shift the Library into a more functional Learning Commons space. We toured the construction area.

7. Parent Council Executive Reports

7.1 Co-Chair Report none

7.2 Treasurer Report:

- i Letter to close School Council bank account is near sending. Questioning the role of the treasurer in the future. Aim for a revised role for June.

7.3 Canadian Parents for French (Trish R.)

- i CCPF hosted Isabelle la Wonderfull workshop at EB on Friday. The workshop taught the 16 participants and their families how to make balloon animals and how to do some magic tricks.
- ii On March 20 Canadian Parents for French is assisting with the “French for the Future” forum at the Ranchehouse. This forum encourages students to continue their bilingual education. Three hundred high school and middle school students will participate in the day’s events for free. The 62 Grade 8 FI students from Manachaban have been invited. Similar events will be held in 15 different cities across Canada. 3 in AB this year. Calgary (Cochrane) Peace River and Grand Prairie. French for the Future provides \$5K for the forum. More money is needed through fundraising and sponsorship. Trish R. is requesting a donation from Manachaban school council for a donation to the event. Leah suggested asking employers who need bilingual employees to donate to event. After event Trish is asking for feedback from school.
- iii Since SC no longer has funds, the request will be sent to the MSFA. Anne indicated that a request for school funds is another possibility.
- iv Looking for volunteers for event too.

7.4 New Business - none

7.5 Old Business - none

7.6 Next meeting Monday Feb 25: 6:30 pm

7.7 Adjournment.... 8:00