

Manachaban Middle School
Parent Council Minutes
Feb. 25, 2019 6:30 - 7:30pm

1. Call to order 6:35 pm
2. Welcome & Introductions
 - 2.1 Present: Fiona Gilbert, Trish R; Anne Kromm; Tara Courte (chairing); Jason Helfrich; Katt Hryciw, Leah Pearce, Lisa Preston (secretary)
3. Approval of Agenda - no additions;
4. Approval of Minutes from Meeting on Jan. 28, 2019 TC made motion Leah P.
5. Trustee Update

Prince of Peace Lutheran School

RVS' Board of Trustees voted, Feb. 7, 2019, to postpone its deliberation on the future direction of the Prince of Peace Lutheran School until its March 7, 2019, Board Meeting to allow for the Board to properly review the latest lease offer from SAGE Properties received late in the day on Feb 6.

RVS class size report

Findings from the annual Alberta Education Class Size initiative suggests overall, RVS experienced a reduction in class size compared to the 2017/2018 school year. Based on September 30, 2018 enrolment numbers, RVS class size averages for all subjects were as follows:

K – Gr. 3 = **21.4**; Gr. 4 – 6 = **25.1**; Gr. 7 – 9 = **26.2**; Gr. 10 – 12 = **24.6**.

There are a variety of factors that can influence class sizes, including but not limited to student enrolment growth, French immersion dual-track schools, the establishment of new programs and individual school student enrolment breakdown. Please note that these statistics reflect classroom teacher-student ratios only. They do not include support staff such as child development advisors, guidance counsellors, classroom assistant, literacy specialists, etc.

Westbrook School – donations approved for gym expansion

RVS' Board of Trustees approved to accept \$200,000 in donations from Friends of Westbrook Society and Rocky View County (\$100K each) that will be allocated towards expanding the gym in the new Westbrook School. RVS' initial plans were to construct a 430m² gymnasium, the provincial standard for a 250-student capacity school. However, feedback garnered from community stakeholders identified that the school and the community could both benefit from a larger gym, allowing for the addition of bleachers.

New name for Hillcrest community K – Gr. 8 school

After being presented with two recommendations from RVS' Hillcrest Area School Ad Hoc Naming Committee, Feb. 7, 2019, Trustees voted in favour of naming the school Northcott Prairie School. Two names had been put forward for consideration: Northcott Prairie School and Hillcrest Point School. The City of Airdrie's Community Development group put forward

Northcott School as Northcott represents two prominent Airdrie families. The naming committee added Prairie to the name as it gives homage to the history of the school's location and recognizes the environmental features that will be included in the school design.

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- 5.1 Discussion ensued about average class size, student supports, and square footage and how these relate to actual fullness of the school, EA's and other support staff; principals have some discretion as to how to allocate some funds to meet the needs of their school.
- 5.2 A question was raised about real time reporting, and opportunities for parents to give the board feedback about that method of communication of learning.

6. Admin Update

- 6.1 Congratulations to Gerry Gaudet and his new principalship at Elizabeth Barrett! The new Assistant Principal has been determined. On March 25 , Jennifer Yersh from Ecole Airdrie Middle School will join Manachaban staff. In the interim, Mike McMillian will be Acting Assistant Principal and Matthew Dunn will be taking on Mike's role in the Phys. Ed. department.

7. Staff Update

- 7.1 Sports: Grade 7 & 8 B basketball teams are underway,
- 7.2 Badminton coming up
- 7.3 One of Manachaban's grade 7 students, Jasmine, has been diagnosed with leukemia. Two staff members indicated they would shave their heads if the school could raise \$5 000 to support Jasmine and her family. Multiple fundraisers were held including a silent auction that raised ~\$9 000, some community organizations donated ~\$3 000, and student events like bake sales, button sales, etc. raised and additional~\$ 3000. Phenomenal support!
- 7.4 Learning Commons renovations are approaching completion; the flooring and sliding glass doors are in, and the space looks really good!
- 7.5 The lockers removed from the hallway in front of the Learning Commons were donated to Lafarge, and as a thanks, Lafarge donated a button maker and a round paper punch to Manachaban. A variety

of buttons have been made so far, some by the GSA and some in support of Jasmine.

8. Parent Council Executive Reports

8.1 Co-Chair Report none

8.2 Treasurer Report none

8.3 Canadian Parents for French

- i CPF hosted an outdoor skating party held at Mitford.
- ii The French for the Future forum(FfFf) is getting closer! TR was just in Grande Prairie to assist with their FfFf. Future gatherings will shift to focus on grade 7 and 8 students as a way to address the attrition rates of French language learning. New forum will be called an X Forum. Areas outside urban centers are being more involved.
- iii Fundraising meeting was tabled until today, so we don't have any info for TR re: donation.
- iv CPF anticipates hosting one more activity this school year, perhaps a picnic.

8.4 Next meeting March 25.

8.5 Tour of LC

8.6 Adjournment at 7:55