

EMMS Parent Council Meeting Minutes, March 25, 2019: 6:30 pm

Meeting called to order at 6:38pm by Tara Courte.

1. Present: Jason Helfrich; Katt Hryciw; Jenn Yersh; Trish R. Anne Kromm; Lisa Preston (recording minutes); Leah Pearce; Fiona Gilbert; Tara Courte
2. Approval of Minutes from February 2019: motion by Leah P, seconded by Tara C., motion carried
3. Approval of Agenda Motion by Lisa Preston, seconded by Leah Pearce, motion carried
4. Trustee Update (As written, submitted and presented by Fiona Gilbert)

Manachaban Middle School Council Trustee's Report March 25, 2019

Approval of RVS' 2019-2023 Four Year Plan

Trustees approved the goals, outcomes and design principles identified in RVS' DRAFT 2019 – 2023 Four Year Plan, Innovation by Design. The new plan is based on the hopes and desires of multiple stakeholder groups who provided direct input into the development of a learning narrative and the plan's goals, outcomes, design principles and strategies during an extensive 10-month consultation process.

Goal 1: Connect to passions, interests and people

Outcomes:

Students engage in real-world, hands-on learning experiences that matter to them.
Students demonstrate ownership of their learning.

Goal 2: Achieve their potential

Outcomes:

Students are literate, numerate, and acquire core competencies.
Students meet high expectations and learning outcomes, tailored to their individual capabilities.

Goal 3: Navigate successfully as global citizens

Outcomes:

Students are healthy, safe, resilient and value diversity, cultures and traditions.
Students make a positive difference in their life, school, community and the world

Over the next five months, RVS will identify performance measures for the plan with the intent to find a balance between required provincial measures and local measures that will chart the jurisdiction's progress towards achieving the plan's outcomes. The full plan will return to the Board Table in November 2019 for final approval and submission to the Ministry of Education.

2019/20 Budget Priorities

Students continue to be the primary focus of RVS' Board of Trustees, as evidenced by the 2019/20 budget priorities, which emphasize direct classroom instruction, inclusive education, mental health supports and balanced literacy and numeracy skills. Approved by the Board March 7, 2019, the budget priorities are driven by the goals and strategies of RVS' Four Year Plan, to foster innovators in their learning journey while supporting the operational needs of the jurisdiction. RVS' complete 2019/20 budget will be presented for approval in the spring.

Prince of Peace School

Board of Trustees voted, March 7, 2019, to accept SAGE Properties' five-year lease agreement with an 18-month termination clause, subject to approval of the lease by SAGE's Directors. Although this allows RVS to maintain the program for the near future, a long-term solution is required given that the property owners intend to eventually sell the building. Trustees also voted to begin managing the number of students at Prince of Peace, given that Chestermere's current schools are full. Effective immediately no new non-resident students will be accepted.

Memorandum of Agreement

Rocky View Schools Board of Trustees and ATA Rocky View Local 35 have recently ratified the local bargaining sections of the collective agreement for September 2016-August 2018. Central table negotiations are currently ongoing for the next central table collective agreement.

ATA Induction Ceremony

Congratulations and welcome to the 71 teachers who were inducted into the Alberta Teachers Association Local 35 on March 7, 2019, many of them from Cochrane schools. These are recently graduated new teachers on their first teaching assignment or new to RVS teachers who have not been a member of the ATA Local 35 before.

Modular Approvals

Back in November, the Board approved the request to the Government for 39 modular classrooms to support the growing enrollment needs across RVS. RVS has recently been notified that only 7 have been approved for use across the division. Administration is currently working on a plan on how best to use these moduls to accommodate students for the 2019/2020 school year.

Northcott Prairie School temporary accommodation plan

RVS' new school in the Airdrie community of Hillcrest will be ready to welcome students in January 2020. Given this mid year opening, the Board of Trustees approved a temporary accommodation plan that aims to minimize the impact on all students and families and keep peer groups together as much as possible. All students will move into Northcott Prairie in January 2020, once construction is complete.

Capital Reserve Spending - Technology

To place the most up-to-date technology in the hands of educators, Trustees approved the use of \$250,000 from capital reserves to fund the begin replacement of an aging fleet of teacher-assigned laptops. These funds will be used to replace approximately 205 MacBooks that are between seven and eleven years old.

Edwin Parr Award nomination

The Board announced Sarah Hawley as its nominee for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award presented annually by the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) to six outstanding first-year teachers from across the province. Hawley is a teacher at Cochrane Christian Academy who has demonstrated a natural aptitude for teaching in her Gr. 4 class where she has implemented planning, instruction and assessment practices that are commonly seen in more seasoned educators. The Edwin Parr Teacher Award was established in 1964 to honour long-time Athabasca-area school trustee Edwin Parr, who also served as president of the Alberta School Trustees' Association (now the ASBA) from 1956 until his passing in 1962.

Joint Board School Council Meeting

Up to 3 members of School Council are invited to attend the Joint Board School Council meeting on Thu Apr 4 from 5:30-7:30 and the RVS Education Centre in Airdrie. A great opportunity to network with other council members from across the division. Agenda will include discussion on community opportunities in the new four year plan, education and the upcoming election, and conversation around effective school councils. RSVP requested.

Provincial Election

It is official that Albertans will be going to the polls on April 16, 2019 for the provincial election. I strongly encourage you to get informed about the candidates running in our area, specifically regarding public education, and the views and campaign platforms of each of the political parties. Cochrane is in a new riding, Airdrie-Cochrane, so we have new candidates. The Board approved four non-partisan questions specific to education which stakeholders are encouraged to ask candidates. These questions, presented in a postcard format, will be distributed to schools and school councils shortly.

If elected, how will you ensure:

- that every school board in the province is funded equitably?
- the mental health of students is supported?
- supports exist for increasingly complex and diverse classrooms?
- new schools are built for growing jurisdictions?

5. Admin Update

a. **Student Orientation to School Questionnaire (SOS-Q) 2018-19 presentation.** The SOS-Q survey was conducted in the school at the end of January.

i. **Summary of SOS-Q** data is summarized below. The values recorded in the minutes are approximate. When interpreting the data, a larger reported value indicates a more positive orientation to school. Where 2 values are reported for a group of students, the first number represents responses from girls & the second number represents the responses from boys.

1. Feelings about school

- a. Grade 6's: average score ~4 out of 5
- b. 7 & 8's decreased to 3.5 and 3.7 out of 5

2. Safe and Caring School (perception of adults caring about student): 6s, 4+; 7&8's 3.5/3.7

3. Self Confidence: 6's ~4+; 7&8's ~3.7 /~3.9

4. External resilience: Grade 6's 4 /3.9; 7&8's 3.6/3.7

5. Internal resilience: reflects internal emotional and mental balance: 6's, 3; 7&8's, 2.3/2.8

6. Peer relationships: perceived ability: 6's 4+; 7&8's 4+

7. Extracurricular Activities (participation and perceived value): 6's N/A; 7&8's 3.4ish

8. Utility of school: 6's not questioned; 7&8's 3.7
9. Handling work school pressures: 7&8's ~3.5
10. Work and school integration: 7&8's 3/3.5
11. Overall Average for grade 6's 4; for 7&8's 3.5

ii. SOS-Q Data is used to:

1. determine elements that are most valued by students;
2. How functional capabilities are assessed by different students;
3. Identify the proportion of potential at risk students who might need interventions.

iii. The SOS-Q data supports a variety of school improvement initiatives such as safe and caring schools.

iv. The SOS-Q data supports the ongoing use of the Chat room: Mrs. Styles, and building strong relationships with teachers and support staff.

v. To sum up: **relationships and building self confidence are key**. Once these are in place, the academics will follow.

6. Staff Update

- a. Start of term 3 is today, March 25. Biggest changes will be noticed by grade 7&8 students whose options and literacy/numeracy/health changed. Further changes require written note from parent.
- b. Sports: grade 7&8 badminton is underway, with practices for students who made the team. A couple tournaments will take place in April, with the hope that students will qualify for zones.
- c. Renovations! Learning Commons is open, and students are using the space. There is a student redesign team working on what the space should look like. Books and shelves will follow.
- d. Special events: Bamfield trip is underway for WILD program.
- e. Many special events and field trips have taken place in the school over the past month including:
 - i. Grade 7s: Louis Reil Musical;
 - ii. Band Camp;
 - iii. "Be Brave" Hitman Game (a Manachaban student was one of the Junior Sportscasters at the game);
 - iv. Grade 8s at French for the Future Forum at the Ranchehouse;
 - v. Some Grade 7s' went to Heritage Park;
 - vi. P3 program brought in hockey players for P3 players and female Hockey players;

- f. Front Office staffing: Susan Price has been working as temp secretary, Mrs. Benoit is also filling in as a secretary and there is a new temp assistant to take Susan's place, as both Secretaries are ill and off work at same time.

7. Parent Council Executive Report

- a. Trish R from Canadian Parents for French: The French for the Future Forum took place in March. The function went well at the RanchoHouse. They are hoping to make it a grade 7/8 event in future years, as well as a separate, more exclusive, event for High School Students (many HS students will skip). Thanks to sponsors, (Staples, Town of Cochrane, and CPF)

8. New Business

- a. Trish R. reported on a program that Staples offers for school supplies. Staples can make a kit that includes a grade specific, complete list of school supplies, compiled in a bag, for each grade, if requested by the school. If Manachaban participates in this program, Staples will donate 1bag for every 15 purchased.
- b. Joint Board/School Council Meeting at 5:30 on April 4 in Airdrie at RVS Learning Centre: Leah, Tara, Lisa to attend.
- c. Fundraising: written report to be submitted to minutes (As follows, submitted by Leah P.)

MSFS Report - for March 25th meeting:

The MSFS, with all Executives new to their roles at the start of this year, have been working hard at finding their feet in the first half of this year. The first order of business was to get up to speed on the balance of funds remaining from the September 2017 Casino in order to determine where the funds can be allocated so as to best benefit the Manachaban student body for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 school years as the next Casino is slotted for Q4 (O/N/D) 2020.

Feedback on areas of need for our students were solicited from Administration and the "Wishlist" was referenced back to the ALGC guidelines for the "Approved Use of Funds" to compile a list of expenses which for 2018/19 which so far has included covering field trip bussing (December), technology (classroom computers-TBD) and equipment (PENDING).

Our President, Raffle Chair and devoted band mom, Tara Courte, led our first Raffle at the Band Concert in December. The raffle was held in support of the 2019 Band Camp and raised \$572 to be allocated to Band Camp bussing in March.

9. Next meeting: 6:30, April 30; Tuesday.

10. Motion to adjourn by TC at 7:55 pm