

**Manachaban Middle School**  
**Parent Council Minutes**  
AGM and Business Meeting  
Sept. 30/19 6:30pm

1. Welcome & Introductions
  - 1.1 Present: Tara Courte; Jennifer Yersch, Katt Hryciw, Jason Helfrich, Leah Pearce; TR (guest from CPF); Fiona Gilbert; Mary McGee; KP.
2. Approval of Agenda
  - 2.1 JH requested Addition to Agenda: Honour roll
  - 2.2 Agenda Accepted with changes Motion Made by: LPreston Seconded by: LPearce
3. Approval of Minutes from Meeting on May /19 Motion to accept, LPearce, 2<sup>nd</sup> JY.
4. Parent Council Executive Annual Reports
  - 4.1 Co-Chair Report
    - i Hosted the Staff Appreciation lunch in June
    - ii Had representatives participate in both Joint School Board /Council meetings in Airdrie.
  - 4.2 Treasurer Report
    - i Walkathon was moved to the school's purview, and would put back to the school, since we closed the bank account and all SC \$ are in school cash online. Suggestion of treasurer's role to show a breakdown of walkathon funds and how they are spent.
  - 4.3 Secretary Report
    - i Minutes are posted on the EMMS website for the previous year.
    - ii Annual Report sent to RVS in July.
5. Review of Executive and Election for Open Positions
  - 5.1 Co-Chairs: Jason Helfrich and Tara Courte
  - 5.2 Secretary: Lisa Preston
  - 5.3 Treasurer: Leah Pearce

***Motion to accept slate of executives as above. No nominations from the floor. TC made motion, LPreston 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.***

## 6. Trustee Update

### 6.1 School Start Up

i The 2019/2020 school year is underway and off to a great start. RVS has welcomed over 900 new students across the jurisdiction, which is about 300 students more than anticipated, which brings enrolment numbers to about 25,562 students (as of Sep 3). This number will continue to fluctuate throughout the month and official numbers will be calculated as of September 30th. This is an important date as provincial per student funding is calculated based on this official number.

### 6.2 Meeting with the Minister of Education

i The Board met with Education Minister Adriana LaGrange on Mon Sep 16th as part of her commitment to meet with as many school boards as possible throughout the legislative summer break. After a tour of RancheView School, the Board had the opportunity to discuss with the Minister our top three advocacy priorities of equitable access to funding, new schools for growing jurisdictions, and a provincial review on inclusion.

### 6.3 Budget

i As reported earlier this year, the Government of Alberta will table the provincial budget in October so final funding amounts are not known at this time, which makes it extremely difficult for the division and schools to properly allocate resources as we don't know what resources we will have once the budget is announced on Oct 24.

ii Keeping with the budget theme, the GOA has released the recommendations from the MacKinnon Report on Alberta Finances and included in the 26 recommendations on how to curb government spending, there are two that directly impact K-12 education.

<https://www.alberta.ca/mackinnon-report-on-finances.aspx>

### 6.4 Education Act and New Regulations

i With the implementation of the new Education Act and corresponding regulations (replacing the School Act), effective September 1 all Alberta schools are now following a new set of rules

and guidelines. While similar in a lot of ways, there are differences, and these will be addressed over the coming months by the Board and our administration by reviewing and adjusting current policies and procedures where needed to make sure that we are in alignment with current legislation.

## 6.5 Transportation

i Transportation and bussing are always hot topics at the beginning of the school year and maybe more so this year as we are seeing more the impacts of changes to services levels as we have looked to manage the transportation portfolio. This has resulted in adjusted bell times, longer rides for some, shorter ones for others, and busses running at full capacity wherever possible. RVS transportation is working very hard to adjust routes and timings as needed. As an FYI, between Aug 15 and the first day of school, RVS transportation received over 1000 new registrations for bussing which has required some tweaks to the routes.

ii The new transportation regulation allows boards to again charge fees for those choosing to ride the bus. For RVS, the Board approved its transportation fee schedule for the 2019/20 school year on April 4, 2019, in accordance with the then legislated School Act – Student Transportation Regulation and continues to gather information about the impact of the revised regulation.

## 6.6 Feedback Requested - School Calendars

i RVS is asking for parent feedback on draft school calendars for both 2020/2021 and 2021/2022. All parents should have received an email outlining highlights of the calendar and providing details on how to provide feedback. Deadline for providing feedback is Oct 11, 2019. More information can be found at <http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/news/draft-calendar-feedback-wanted>

## 6.7 Organizational Meeting

i At the Annual Board Organizational Meeting on September 19th, the Board elected a new Chair, Fiona Gilbert, and a new Vice Chair, Melyssa Bowen. Committee appointments were also made at this time. A full listing of these appointments can be found at [http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/board\\_policies/board-committees](http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/board_policies/board-committees)

## 6.8 Question from TC to FG:

- i Cochrane Heights residents received info about Tri-school fields and upgrades re: artificial turf.

- 1 A group approached CHS about creating a society to raise funds to revamp the football field (vision: artificial turf, bleachers, lights, club house). RVS board needed to approve venture and voted to do so in June/19. Parameters required by RVS included community consultation and w/ EMMS and EB. Town would need to be involved in parameters too as per bylaws.

6.9 Q from KP, re: curriculum review that has changed w/ governments. Panel exists, but School Boards have been asked to give feedback.

## 7. Admin Update: Mary M.

7.1 Happy to be here at Manachaban! Looking forward to building community as she gets

7.2 No bells – have heard feedback from students as they adjust to the new bell-less schedule. MM has spent 7 years w/out bells between classes. Kids are getting into the rhythm, and it takes adjustment, is starting to feel more comfortable.

7.3 September has been a great month. Fantastic Jody Carrington presentation for staff at CHS w/ EB too. The PL day was self-directed so staff participated in a variety of learning activities.

7.4 The school's over APORI results were presented. General trends were positive. The one area the results in concern was how parents reported feeling heard/involved in decision making in the school. The conversation that followed suggested that perhaps the shift to RTR had frustrated parents and affected that score.

## 8. Staff Update - Katt H.

### 8.1 Staffing update

#### i New staff

- Mary Magee (Principal)
- Bonnie Branton (Secretary)
- Meagan Dillabough aka Dilly (Grade 6 Eng)
- Sunita Bhardwaj (Grade 6 Eng)
- Ginger McManus (CDA, CHAT room)
- Vanessa Vetterl (Grade 8 Eng)

#### ii Farewell

- Mr. Taylor retired! Named the wing after him. Thank you for 30+ years!

## 8.2 Past events

- i Open house (Aug. 30)
- ii Staff to Jody Carrington (Sept. 4)
- iii Meet the staff (Sept. 12)
- iv Major trip meetings (Sept. 12)
- v Pancake breakfast (Sept. 13)
- vi Terry Fox (Sept. 26)
- vii Cam Adair presentation (Sept. 30)

8.3 Perhaps looking to eliminate one of the two open house / meet the staff events early in the school year: a lot of the same people just came twice, seems redundant.

## 8.4 Sports

- i Grade 6 soccer: Sept 20 tournament
- ii Cross country: huge group! Race on Tuesday.
- iii A volleyball (7s and 8s): underway now

## 8.5 Upcoming Sports

- i Grade 6 volleyball
- ii B volleyball

## 8.6 Big trips

- i Bamfield: all full!
- ii Quebec: deadline has passed, two busses

## 8.7 Walkathon

- i Major fundraiser for the school year – October 18
- ii Info letter went home today
- iii Pledges due October 16
- iv Big parent volunteer event!

## 8.8 Real-Time Reporting

- i So much better this year!
- ii Parents should be able to see their child's actual assignments, comments
- iii Not sure about the actual look of the report card just yet: will let you know when we know!
- iv Nov 13/14 likely a sit-down Parent Teacher Interview, spring will be more of a Student Led Conference, celebration

## 8.9 GSA: article that features EMMS student in Huffington Post

## 9. Canadian Parents for French Update: Trish Rognvaldson from CPF

- 9.1 Request for associate membership: EMMS okay until 2021.
- 9.2 Family memberships and events (i.e. pumpkin carving, skating, and magic show)
- 9.3 French for the Future was also hosted by CPF, EMMS was invited. This year will be 2 events: grade 7 and 8 at Cochrane Ranchehouse (Wed. March 25) and a high school event potentially at U of C (grade 9-12) on March 26. Both will be no-cost for students. Sponsors needed.
- 9.4 Sponsored awards at Manachaban for French.
- 9.5 Pumpkin carving will happen again Oct 23 at EB.
- 9.6 Other events, French entertainment and dinner evening is possibly in the works.
- 9.7 CPF Alberta is working on lobbying provincial gov to continue support for French in schools. As well CPF Alberta organizes the French Family Fun weekends, (Canmore is coming up).
- 9.8 Request for sponsorship (from MSFA) for French for Future forum, for one of the workshop providers \$200-250. (Average cost/student is \$60, includes lunch.

**ACTION ITEM:** Leah to send form to TR to request funding.

## 10. Honour roll: JH

- 10.1 Concern expressed re: impact on student emotional health. An example was cited of a Snap Chat group that is only open to honour roll students.
- 10.2 Questions raised re:

- i rewarding thinking outside the box instead of “doing what is expected”.
- ii What is the purpose of the honour roll in today’s society and emphasis on 20<sup>th</sup> century learning?

10.3 Discussion of different ways of recognizing students, how some students are motivated by HR, most improved and/or effort awards.

**ACTION ITEM:** Mary will put out an invitation for a focus group of invested parties (parents, students, staff) to discuss Honour Roll and if it should be evolving.

## 11. New Business

11.1 Meeting Dates for 2019-20. Some discussion re: changing to first Monday of the Month. This is the same day as the Manachaban staff meeting and Cochrane High School Council. Decision made to stay with the last Monday of the month at 6:30. Dates are posted on Manachaban website

- September 30, 2019
- October 28, 2019
- November 25, 2019
- January 27, 2020
- February 24, 2020
- March 30, 2020
- April 27, 2020
- May 25, 2020

12. Adjourned @ 8:27 - Next Meeting October 28, 2019 at 6:30

Announcements: Manachaban School Fundraising Society (MSFS) will meet immediately after the EMMS Parent Council Meeting.