

Manachaban School Council - September 28, 2020 6:30 pm via Zoom

1. Called to order 6:32 pm
2. Present: Tara Courte, Jen Yersh, Jason Helfrich, Fiona Gilbert; KW. Katt Hryciw; Brenda Valerio KB
3. Agenda approved by KH, second Lisa P
4. February minutes: Motion to approve by Tara C, seconded by Jason H
5. June minutes; Motion to approve by Lisa P, seconded by KW
6. Introductions: BV noted that she has enjoyed her transition to Manachaban.
7. Trustee Update: Fiona Gilbert
 - a. School start up has been like no other! Everyone has come together and been flexible. There are ~3000 RVS students learning online at home. RVS has about 25,500 total enrollment including online. This number is down a bit from projections as some parents have opted out of kindergarten.
 - b. RVS continues to tweak the re-entry plan as new information comes from the government and Chief Medical Officer of Health. i.e. Changes recently to choir, band (wind instruments).
 - c. Board elections were held last week: Fiona was re-elected to chair (congratulations); Ward 1 Trustee Shali Baziuk was elected as Vice Chair; committees were also assigned and are listed on RVS website.
 - d. Some policies have been updated:
 - i. include inclement weather policy. Safety of the students is the foremost consideration in this policy. The language was changed to not just include a temperature, and clarifies who makes decision about school closures. Not much difference will be noticed from a parent perspective as communications will be the same as previous years.
 - ii. An additional 12 policies were updated to replace “school act” with “education act”.
 - iii. The RVS Board also updated board advocacy priorities. This impacts messages to communities, government and stakeholders. The top 3 advocacy priorities are: increased space for learners, funding, and support for students. This is posted on RVS website if you want more details.
 - e. RVS will receive 9.3 million dollars from the federal government as part of the safe return to school class fund. Decisions to be made in the next month as to how to allocate this funding.

- f. Outbreak protocol: An outbreak will be declared if 2 cases occur in one school within 14 days. The school principal will communicate with families about any cases at the school, families do not need to rely on social media for information. If your child is a close contact, you will get a second letter outlining what to do and you will get a call from AHS.
 - g. To date, 4 COVID cases in RVS (since start up). Cases are expected to happen from community contact. The priority is to stop as much transmission as possible.
 - h. A learning session will be held for school council members (chairs, executive, others) on October 15. 6:30- 7:45
 - i. Question asked: What are priorities for the money from the federal government?
Answer: The money has not been designated yet. Possibilities might include online learning, increased staff (cleaning, teaching/learning) transportation , cleaning supplies. Thursday will likely be the day the board discusses the allocation of these funds.
 - j. Question asked: What is the “magic number” before a school is shut down / transition to a different scenario? How is that decision made? Answer: The shift to a different scenario is made by Education minister and school authority. For individual schools the regional Medical Officer of Health (MOH) helps make decision for each unique situation.
 - k. Question asked: If a child has symptoms, is it mandatory 2 weeks home for every school? Answer: It is the same for all RVS schools. There is a flowchart posted on the RVS website that shows pathways for different symptoms for students.
8. Administration Update: Brenda Valerio and Jennifer Yersh
- a. The Terry Fox run was different than usual, more information to come from Katt H.
 - b. There will now be bi-weekly email communications from the school via the Manachaban Messenger.
 - c. Kids have been really good at wearing mask inside, but it is trickier outside. There seems to be a perception seems to exist that COVID can’t be transmitted outside. There are lots of reminders from the staff to wear their masks anywhere on RVS property.
 - d. More doors have been designated for entry/exit to decrease contact between individuals and cohorts.
 - e. New school staff:
 - i. Amy Hay will join us from another board as the school’s Child Development Advisor (CDA). This role focuses on the social-emotional health of the students.
 - ii. Samantha Hutchinson is new full time (English) learning support teacher. Meagan Wamboldt will continue as part-time learning support teacher for French Immersion students)
 - iii. Matt Hodgson joins the grade 6 team,

- iv. Jasmyne Hazelwanter has started as the new band teacher;
- v. Nadine Benoit has joined front office staff,
- vi. Ms. Valerio is new too!
- vii. Wendy Glidden is now the school's librarian;
- viii. Ruban has joined the school as evening caretaker;
- ix. Festo is a new tech that will be at EMMS on Monday and Wednesdays. He is a familiar face in the trischool area as he has worked at Cochrane High for several years.
- f. The office has fielded lots of questions about cleaning and disinfection process and chemicals. Brenda Valerio sent home an email with information about the electrostatic spray used by RVS. This spray kills the COVID-19 virus in one minute. Lots of research went into the RVS decision about what disinfectant to use.
- g. Going home protocol: If a student exhibits signs or symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, runny nose) at school, then the student needs to spend 10 days at home OR stay home until symptoms subside once they a negative test result for COVID-19. After a student leaves the school, all their belongings are zipped up in giant Ziploc bags, the room is disinfected, and a thorough cleans take place between dismissal and re-entry.
- h. Question asked: Runny nose as a symptom: Does there need to be additional symptoms with it? Answer: the Student's baseline is a factor: if that individual always have the sniffles, that's one thing. Getting worse or adding more symptoms indicates need for staying home if the student's baseline is to have a runny nose.
- i. Question about Meet the Teacher? Answer: There won't be a face to face evening, but the school is looking at other options. Parents can schedule individual one on one meetings with teacher by request.

9. Staff Report: Katt Hryciw

a. **Back to School**

- i. The staff is THRILLED to be back at school
 - 1. So wonderful to be in person
 - 2. So great to be working with the students face-to-face again
- ii. Many changes this year
 - 1. Ex – No sports teams, many new rules, masks, illness protocols, sanitizer is everywhere, no lockers
 - 2. Kids are doing an AMAZING job, especially when you consider how much has changed
- iii. Teachers are providing materials in Google Classroom as well as in-person so students who are away for any reason can stay caught up

- iv. Our custodial staff has been outstanding
 - 1. Deep cleaning over the summer
 - 2. Regular cleaning and sanitizing throughout the day
- b. **Massive “Thank You”s**
 - i. Thank you to the custodians
 - 1. Keeping us all safe and all updated with the protocols
 - ii. Thank you to the parents
 - 1. For following the procedures
 - 2. For supporting teachers
 - 3. For supporting your children as they adjust!
- c. **Building Update**
 - i. Library is operational
 - 1. Mrs. Glidden has protocol for book sign-out, working in there
 - ii. Maker Space / Art Room
 - 1. New floor
 - 2. New cabinets in the Art Room
 - 3. Two new sinks in the Art Room, two new sinks in the Maker Space
 - 4. Two new windows in the Maker Space
 - 5. Storage for student work
 - 6. This was always going to happen in the spring... it was a lot easier for it to happen without all of us in the building
- d. **Events**
 - i. WILD Canoe Trip
 - 1. Wednesday – Friday last week (Sept. 23-25)
 - 2. Had certified canoe guides
 - 3. Camping and working and canoeing
 - 4. Good times had by all, everyone is very tired now!
 - 5. BV – the Wild program field trip was allowed with volunteers by superintendent permission. Had to abide by all COVID protocols – no communal eating, massive tents with very few kids in it, some chose to wear masks while canoeing.
 - ii. Terry Fox Run
 - 1. Took place on Friday last week (Sept. 25)
 - 2. Grade-by-grade instead of tri-school

3. Raised \$705 through the Terry Fox Foundation website
- iii. Orange Shirt Day
 1. Happening this Wednesday (Sept. 30)
 2. In recognition of the history of Residential Schools in Canada and the negative and lasting impacts on Canada's Indigenous peoples
- iv. Individual Photos
 1. Happening this Friday (Oct. 2)
 2. Students must take at least one photo without their mask, but can take one with their mask if they choose

e. FUN NEWS

- i. Mme Kara had her baby!
 1. Baby Graeme arrived on Thursday and he and mom are doing very well
 2. Big brother is proud as can be and everyone is home and happy and wonderful
 3. CONGATULATIONS to Mme Kara from the School Council!

10. Executive Reports:

- a. TC and JH- - none
- b. Treasurer report – Leah Pearce
 - i. There is no money in the school council fund, therefore there is nothing to report . She will give a brief Manachaban School Fundraising Society (MSFS) update instead.
 1. MSFS summary: Monies were allocated just prior to school closure (i.e. for number lines, scales, shirts for band, and other items). No cheques were given to the school due to COVID-19, so Leah will contact teachers to see if the items have been purchased. (JY – teachers are still looking to make the purchases! Some purchases ie: uniforms have been made).
 - ii. Discussion followed re: School Council and MSFS monies:
 1. Brenda noted that the school has some challenges re: lost or extra wear on equipment that is for DPA . Parent council has always supported purchasing these items in other schools, hoping that will be the case at Manachaban this year.
 2. Questino asked: Will the walkathon run this year? “School Council’s” money was from this event, and MSFS has a separate pot of money. Answer from Katt: the rules say it could happen without the group

food. Jennifer Yersh added that the school needs to sit down and figure out more of the logistics for cohorting at this event.

3. Tara C mentioned that school councils are not supposed to fundraise, therefore funds go directly to the school. Fundraising society is separate. MSFS was due for a casino this fall and have spent most of our money. Perhaps other fundraising avenues exist?
4. Brenda Valerio clarified that anything that doesn't require a gaming licence can be donated to the school's budget as school generated funds. This would exclude casinos, raffles etc.
5. Tara C. stated that a Bacon fundraiser worked well at last school, however, selling Chocolate was not good.

11. Elections

- a. Lisa Preston indicated that she is hoping to resign as secretary as her full-time teaching position makes it difficult to publish the minutes in a timely manner. KB indicated that she would be willing to join executive for next year, BUT NOT as secretary.
- b. Tara Courte requested that the school will assist in advertising school council meetings in school communications as a way to help recruit new members to take on the secretary role, or to help with transitions for next year as some of our members will be leaving the EMMS community.
- c. *Motion to re-elect*

Tara Courte and Jason Helfrich as co-chairs

Leah Pearce as Treasurer

Lisa Preston as secretary (with the caveat that we will search for a new secretary

Motion made by Tara Courte, seconded by Lisa Preston, Motion carried

12. Upcoming meetings to take place on the 4th Monday of the month, except in May due to Victoria Day. Note: the 4th Monday in November is a PL day. The meeting will stand this month.

- a. Jen to forward Zoom meeting links to the school.
- b. School Council Report to RVS to be completed by Tara C and Lisa P.

13. Next meeting will be October 6 at 6:30. Brenda noted we can meet face to face if desired. Decided to plan for Zoom in October.

14. Motion to adjourn at 7:54 (TC)