

Minutes for Elizabeth Barrett School Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

School Library, 2:00 pm

Present:

Leah Pearce (chairing)

Susan Lowry

Lisa Preston (secretary)

Shannon Stevenson

Neil Comba

Kelitie Mandolakas

Lisa Harbinson

Vannessa Vetterl.

Amanda Soraka

Susan Parker

Fiona Gilbert

Regrets: Tara Courte

Call to order 2:05

- 1) Approval of Agenda Motion made by Susan Lowry and seconded by Shannon Stevenson
- 2) Approval of Minutes: Motion made with correction to inversion of words in section 7)a)i) by Leah Pearce, Seconded by Susan Lowry
- 3) Trustee Report – Fiona Gilbert
 - a) Budget received last week from NDP government: the funding level looks to be status quo. Grant levels stay the same, although our division is growing, with 800 more kids anticipated for next year. School Fees are still present in next year's budget. The new Carbon Tax will have negative impact on RVSD bottom line as busses use diesel and schools use carbon (for heating etc.) as well. The promised Hot Lunch program is not in place in this AB budget.
 - b) Capital projects that are funded in the AB budget are the new K-8 in Airdrie, and modernization of George MacDougall in Airdrie.

- c) There is a new Deputy minister of Education – Dr. Curtis Clark (previously experience in the Department of Corrections).
- d) RVSD Board Superintendent Don Hoium is retiring at the end of August. The Board is in the preliminary stages of CEO/superintendent search, in hopes of overlap between outgoing and incoming Superintendents.
- e) The contract application process for construction of the planned school in Fireside closed in the past week.
- f) The ASCA conference and AGM is coming up on Thursday this week.

4) Administrator Update – Susan Parker and/or Neil Comba

a) Physical literacy training:

- i) Training for Teachers is needed to enable students to learn the physical skills that they don't develop intuitively. The hope is to bring in all K-4 schools to develop skill based physical literacy curriculum. Ever Active Schools and Sport for Life, have been supporting this current work towards this process.
- ii) Brief presentation by Ms. Tasha Royer (one of EB's Phys. Ed. champions).

(1) In a school context there are 14 fundamental physical literacy skills. Studies were completed last year, and by the time students reached grade 4, very few students were competent in all 14 skills. Factors that influence this decreased development include an increase in structured activities for children and a decrease in physical activities during a child's free-time. The 14 skills are prerequisites to participating in lifelong physical activities. Confidence in these skills corresponds to classroom confidence.

(2) A \$5000 grant (that must be spent by mid-October 2016) has been received from Ever Active Schools toward developing these fundamental skills in EB students. An application is being made to the Royal Bank for an additional \$25K to fund physical literacy development during the remainder of the 2016-2017.

(3) Multiple Cochrane schools are involved with this physical literacy initiative, including schools that are in other divisions.

iii) Thoughts for next year:

(1) It might be appropriate for EBSC to organize a presentation on physical literacy for schools on the Westside of RVSD.

(2) Build Our Kids Success (BOKS) is a Canadian program – spearheaded by parents, getting kids moving in gym or outside. (Crossfit is an adult parallel to BOKS). If EB had a parent who would be willing to organize and facilitate the BOKS program, Tasha Royer would be willing to be the school's liaison/support for the BOKS program. It would be helpful if the EBSC could help look for a parent to coordinate the BOKS program.

b) The Preschool Intervention Program (PIP) for young students with higher learning needs will be joining EB in 2016-2017. The PIP program is moving from its current location in Glenbow. Plans are to locate the PIP program in the room across from Mrs. Candi's room.

c) A timetable change is planned for 2016-17. This change will impact Friday recess and lunch by moving them earlier in the day. This change allows for meaningful teaching time after lunch. This change also enables the school to set aside an hour of time, either at the start or end of the school day, for community time. This community time will alternate between am/pm to allow both the morning and afternoon kindergarten classes to participate in community activities.

d) Stream of dreams delayed for a year... money to go towards environmental projects instead.

5) Reports from the Board

a) Co-Chair – Tara Courte - none

b) Treasurer Report – Susan Lowry

i) See attached financial statements – At this point the EBSC has ~\$16000 (net). This is about \$2000 ahead of this time last year, perhaps since pizza costs less / slice than last year, but may not be completely accurate comparison, as it is helpful to compare the finances from the end of one hot lunch session in consecutive years. Some costs to still come out of the remainder of the school year include the hot dog lunch, and the AGM in Edmonton.

c) Healthy Lunch Program – Shannon Stevenson

i) Volunteers are getting difficult to find as the year goes on. Lisa Harbinson to send out a request for more volunteers from the general volunteer list.

ii) At this point ~1/3 fewer hot lunches are ordered than in the last session (about 100 fewer orders per pizza lunch).

d) Volunteer/Social Committee – Lisa Harbinson &/or Keltie Mandolokas

i) Hot dog lunch – upcoming on Right to Play Day. Prices for this have ranged significantly in the past. The year where we paid for the majority of stuff the hot dog lunch cost \$1200. In years where the vast majority of supplies were donated, the hot dog lunch cost as little as \$25.

ii) Picture retakes are coming up: 2 volunteers are scheduled to assist.

- iii) Secretary – need to make a plan to manage the school council mailbox, as it contains mail from many months ago. Susan Parker pointed out that the RVSC joint council meeting includes school council best practices. This information may help us establish a plan.
- iv) \$200 to grandparents program – Lisa Preston to pass on to Susan Lowry to coordinate the payment with JoAne Barron.

6) Old Business

a) Alberta Association of School Councils Conference

- i) Susan Lowry is going solo as no one else indicated they were interested in going.
 - (1) Credentials were signed to designate Susan as our Representative.
- ii) Discussion of Resolutions to be voted on at the ASCA AGM:
 - (1) Bylaw revisions – administrative
 - (2) Advocacy Issues such as
 - (a) Consent being added to AB sexual education curriculum. (We agreed to support this motion.)
 - (b) Visual Resources related to provincial assessments...
If a student is currently using visual aids in a class then those students are currently being excluded from provincial achievement test (PATs), due to learning challenges. Adding visual resources during provincial assessments would be able to allow students to participate in the PAT. During our discussion, a question raised around reason for this motion at the upcoming ASCA AGM. Discussion that followed indicated that if a student has accommodations all year in class, then accommodations should be used during

the PATs too. HOWEVER, if a student has an IPP that means they are not working on the grade 3 curriculum then they should not be tested on grade 3 curriculum and should not participate in the PAT. (Consensus: Our council to abstain from voting on this motion).

- (c) IPPs and ISPs – there should not be delays in developing these in the school year – We acknowledge that this is the ideal, however, it take time for teachers to get to know their students well enough to write an IPP.
- (d) LGBTQ access to information – motion is that ASCA to put together a toolkit on diversity, specifically gender diversity.
- (e) Modular classrooms – having them present for the start of the school year.
- (f) Transfer stations (bussing)– motion to advocate for government to fund them when new school is built

We discussed the approach Susan should take to the motions that we did not specify a response to: In general the EBSC wants Susan Lowry to ask question to try to understand the motivation behind a motion before voting, and she may choose to abstain from voting if she feels that is the best fit for our board.

b) School Joint Council Board Meeting

- i) Best Practices of School Councils is a topic. Susan Lowry and Susan Parker and Tara Courte are going.

7) New Business

- a) We need to decide on meeting dates for next year at AGM.

8) Next Meeting (AGM) Wednesday, May 18, 6:30 pm.

9) Meeting adjourned at 3:22 pm.