

Minutes for Elizabeth Barrett School Council Meeting

January 20, 2016

School Library: 6:30 pm

Present:

Tara Courte
Susan Lowry
Fiona Gilbert
Susan Parker
Neil Comba

Tara Hornung
Vanessa Vetterl
Kiltie Wilkinson
Sara Perrin
Suzanne Easton

Melinda Darga
Alanna Thompson
Lisa Preston

Regrets: Keltie Mandolakas

- 1) Approval of Agenda; Motion: Susan Flynn Lowry; Kiltie Wilkinson seconded
- 2) Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Susan Lowry; Tara Courte seconded
- 3) Trustee Report – Fiona Gilbert
 - a) In December, RVSD cancelled all European travel. This impacted 8 RV schools, including Cochrane High and 1 student at Bow Valley. Of these schools, seven have found alternate destinations.
 - b) Also in December, Bill 8; The Public Education Bargaining Act was introduced at the provincial legislature. Teachers' current contract ends in August 2016. The Act makes negotiations with teachers a two-tiered bargaining process. This means some items will be bargained at provincial level with the Government of Alberta and some will be bargained at local levels. Preliminary discussions regarding what items will be discussed at each level are in progress.
 - c) In January the board approved the RVS Audited Financial Statements (note: the RVSD year end is August 31) and the AERR (Annual Education Results Report).

- d) Alberta Education published “Guidelines for Best Practices: Creating Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Gender Expression”. This document respects the spirit of Bill 10, and focuses on safe and caring schools. Bill 10 states “boards have the responsibility to provide welcoming, caring respectful and safe school environments that foster diversity and nurture a sense of belonging and positive sense of self”. RVS Board is looking to see if any changes are required for RVS.
- e) A committee has been created to determine a name for the new school opening in Fireside. A contest has been advertised in the paper (details are also online). The committee will create a short-list from the suggestions, which they will then take to the board. From these suggestions the RVS board will decide on the name for the new school
- f) Transition planning has been underway since August for the opening of RancheView School and the new Fireside school. Transition planning involves looking at multiple aspects of a new school: including students, staffing, and family considerations. A BBQ is being discussed to allow families to connect. Glenbow is looking like it will teach about 200 French Immersion and 200 English students. A shadow school council is in development for RancheView School.
- g) Plans are in the works for RancheView School and the Fireside school to have before and after school care provided on site by a third party operator.
- h) Dr. Wayne Hammond will be presenting on Building Resiliency in Children on February 4 at EB (for more details, see below).
- i) A question was posed regarding the possibility of running a bus from the school areas to Spray Lakes. This does not seem like a feasible option due to costs (\$50,000 a year for one bus), the challenges of other sites wishing to be included as a destination, and the lack of actual space for a new bus in the tri-school bus lot. Southland’s Ride-a-long program was suggested as an alternate solution.

j) Triple bussing may be required as new schools open, so start and end times of various schools may change as part of working with a feasible bus schedule. Triple bussing means each bus would pick up and drop off students for one school, and that bus then repeats the process for a second school, and then a third school. Southland currently uses a double bussing system in Cochrane. Triple Bussing is currently in use in Airdrie.

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

- a) Today was the Grade 2 celebration of learning. As part of the celebration, *O Canada* was sung in 3 languages (French, English and Inuktitut). Some of the technology used as part of their learning process was demonstrated, and the ongoing learning with Trickster Theatre was imbedded in the presentation. Project based learning was shared in different classrooms after the presentation in the gym.
- b) For this year, the Trickster Theatre process involves each class initially working with a Trickster facilitator 4 times. At a later point in the year a Trickster facilitator returns for 3 sessions. As part of this process the teacher is increasingly involved in the generation of action theatre. At the end of the second group of sessions, the teacher “graduates” and can independently work with their classes in similar processes in future years. There is a sharing of work created by the Larch and Birch Halls on Friday January 22.
- c) The next round of goal setting for individual students will take place on February 10 and 11 during the student led conferences. In future student led conferences, computer stations will be set up to help families complete RVSD surveys.
- d) Clubs are now running at lunch recess. For this round of clubs, 14 clubs are offered, with about 3 on each day of the week. Students can join at least one club over the course of the year. Clubs range from yoga, green screen, Lego, and lunchbox chat. Teachers facilitate the club. Students signed up in the past, indicating their first and second choices, and are part of at least

1 club over the year. There are multiple club cycles over the year, and each cycle lasts for about 8-9 weeks.

5) Reports from the Board

- a) Co-Chair – Tara Courte
 - i) No report
- b) Treasurer Report – Susan Lowry (see attached financial statement) –
 - i) School lunches are starting to pay out more than come in for one month, but this is a normal part of the school lunch cycle.
 - ii) The money EBSC has donated for Trickster Theatre and Streams of Dreams will be transferred to the school this month, and are not reflected in this month's financial statement.
- c) Healthy Lunch Program – Shannon Stephenson
 - i) No report
- d) Volunteer/Social Committee – Lisa Harbinson &/or Keltie Mandolokas – report submitted via e-mail, as follows:

We made \$300 + with the sale of the fabric holiday bags - money going to grade 4 EB Environmental projects. Lots of engaged, helpful volunteer parents and Gr 4 kids that help sell the wares at the Last Minute Holiday Market at Spray Lakes.

*New library volunteer schedule has been created as of Jan 2016
Next up is prepping for the staff appreciation dinner during student led conferences on Feb 10 + 11. More info to come on that - we usually have more offers for food than we need - lucky us!*

6) Old Business

- a) Public presentation: Dr. Wayne Hammond - Thursday, Feb. 4, 7 pm.
 - i) Topic: Developing Resiliency in Children

- ii) \$5 per person, payable through school cash on line (or if needed, at the door, cash only). All Cochrane Area and RVSD schools on the West side of the RVS division have been invited.
- iii) Thanks to communications at Education Office who made the poster.
- iv) Board attendees to help distribute posters and post on-line. Lisa will send digital version of poster out with minutes. Poster does not include the info re: cost and getting tickets through school cash online. To find the tickets on School Cash Online, select the Rockyview tab. Lisa will also include an attachment with this information with the minutes.
- v) Door prizes will be given. Ballots will be given at the door, attendees must be present to win at the end of the evening. Prizes will be books relating to resiliency.
- vi) Attendees need to bring their receipt from school cash online as their ticket. A master list of attendees will be printed from School Cash Online for reference at the door.
- vii) Snacks will be offered. Keltie and Lisa Harbinson will be asked to help organize snacks.
- viii) Wayne Hammond is being gracious enough to wait and see our total number of attendees before setting his fee.
- ix) Elizabeth Barrett School has also offered to help pay for Wayne, and other school principals have also offered to pitch in.
- x) Set up committee – the EB odd job crew will set up. Parents will be asked to help with putting chairs away afterwards, and the school will finish up the next morning.
- xi) Fiona Gilbert, Tara Courte and Susan Parker will introduce Wayne.

xii) Nametags for School Council members will be available at presentation. School Council members will welcome participants and take “tickets” (receipts). Neil offered to take tickets and get a petty cash box. ***EBSC members to arrive at 6:15 for set up.***

7) New Business

- a) Discussion around class reps – to help get the word out about the next meeting and beyond. School reps – try to get them firmed up.
- b) Fundraising meeting Thursday January 21, at 7. Major focus of meeting will be planning for for spring fling at school.

8) Next Meeting: Friday Feb 26, 9:00 am, on the stage. Coffee and snacks to be available at 8:45.