

Elizabeth Barrett School Council Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2019, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Mme Crawford's Classroom

1. Attendance:

Shannon .S.
Deborah .C.
Gerry Gaudet
Scott .R.
Laura .W.
Chantelle .R.
Natalia .P.
Susan Flynn Lowry
Melinda .V.
Elisa Korver
Michelle Balmer
Heather Derksen
Fiona Gilbert

Regrets:

Renata Lambden

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm

2. Adoption of Agenda - Susan L-F motioned to approve, Heather D seconded, motion carried
3. Approval of Minutes - Heather D motioned to approve, Michelle B seconded, motion carried
4. Welcome, Introductions
5. Update from Volunteer Coordinator (Chantelle R)
 - a. Staff Appreciation Dinner was last night and was a success. 28 volunteers filled 33 spots.
 - b. Ice Baggie Volunteers are still arranged until March 2nd with 22/42 spots for the year
 - c. Recycling Volunteer spots are filled until the new year
 - d. Library Volunteer spots are filled approximately 3-4 volunteers/week
 - e. We are going to have parent volunteers help out with Breakfast Club. We will be sending out an email to volunteers by the end of the week with spots open starting the week of November 25. They will be in a helping aspect, prepping, serving of food and clean up each morning (1 volunteer shift 8-930/day) and slicing bread 1x/week (either on a Monday or Tuesday during the school hours)

6. Update on Fundraising (Jennifer R)

Art cards are being delivered and yielded \$3300. Please support EB Merchandise and raffle baskets at the student led conferences. Pink shirts will be available for sale in January.

We are happy to support a Dare to Care parent session organized by the school. We are working on getting playground equipment in each of the classrooms.

Surveys requesting feedback on what parents and EBSFA funds spent on are available. The link is in the Friday Fan-out. Please take 5 minutes and participate.

7. Update from Co-Chairs (Heather D)

This Saturday Nov 23 is ASCA Online Member Engagement from 1-4pm. EB will be hosting other school councils from around Cochrane. The session is hosted by ASCA with guest Minister of Education.

The government of Alberta has a survey "Alberta Government Choice in Education Survey" for parents of students in the public schools to complete. Survey available until Dec 6. Discussion on best way for EB to disseminate this information to parents.

8. Update from School Administration (Gerry Gaudet)

Began by thanking parents for Staff Appreciation dinner and fundraising committee for setting up the sway merchandise. Commented about Real Time Reporting, asking parents if it is more user friendly this year than last. My Blueprint technology is having some technical snags with the school iPads due to their age and not cooperating with current ios, having swapped with newer ones and working on integrating those ones to improve the use of My Blueprint. Discussion on budget began with appreciation to the board and the school is still working through the implications of the budget and how to deal with it. Upcoming events include an Assembly the next day from Earth Rangers for the school, Grade 1 concert Dec 12, Dare to Care (which is working through conflicts in 3 steps (1) role play with the students, (2) Parent info night on Jan 16 (3) Staff PD Day). Discussion on the parent night and how to get parents enticed to attend. Early Kindergarten registration on Jan 13 and FI information meeting first week in Jan 9 hosted by Glenbow. Gerry then shared about the Playbook which is a 4-year plan for Rockyview and goes over Student engagement, Inclusion, Instructional and Making Learning Visible questions which help with strategies for the next 4 years. The staff are still figuring out ways to document the success of these strategy questions. The Satisfaction Survey shows EB is doing well in all areas but work preparation (which is application of work to life).

9. Update from RVS Board (submitted by Fiona Gilbert after meeting)

**Trustee Report
November 2019**

Student Enrolment Numbers

Rocky View Schools' (RVS) official September 30 enrolment count revealed the jurisdiction grew by 923 students or 3.73 per cent over the previous year for a total of 25, 637 students, with Airdrie and Cochrane showing the largest growth overall and Crossfield and Beiseker also experiencing increased enrolment. Utilization rates are at 85 per cent across the jurisdiction with

Cochrane and Chestermere area schools averaging 89 per cent and four schools with utilization rates over 100 per cent.

Modular Unit Request

Rocky View Schools' (RVS) annual modular submission to Alberta Education requests the relocation of seven modular classrooms to Westbrook and Indus and the installation of 21 new modulars at schools in the City of Airdrie and Town of Cochrane. Three have been requested for RancheView, 2 for Bow Valley High School, and 8 others TBD dependent on community discussion re accommodation. Anticipate that approvals will be announced in the winter 2020.

Cochrane Accommodation Consultation

Although Cochrane saw the opening of two new schools in the last three years, utilization rates are anticipated to climb to 100 per cent by 2022, prompting the Board to launch a community consultation to identify alternative accommodation strategies for the Town's students and schools. With recommendations to be tabled with the Board by April 23, 2020, the consultation will get underway shortly with affected families receiving a letter detailing public engagement dates.

Budget 2019

While anticipating a status quo provincial budget, an initial review of provincial grant rates released with Budget 2019 has determined Rocky View Schools (RVS) will need to find \$10 million to balance its books for the 2019/20 school year. An unanticipated outcome of the budget being felt by most boards in the province is the reallocation of Alberta's class size grants and school fee/transportation replacement grants to fund growth. In RVS, these grants amounted to \$15 million, which the government will offset by a one-time transition grant of \$5 million.

Dedicated to providing the best education RVS can afford its students, the Board directed administration to address the budget shortfall by:

- Utilizing system and school reserves, while striving to maintain levels at 3.5 per cent of operations, a reasonable limit recognized by the Auditor General as sound fiscal management;
- Avoiding mid-year staffing reductions, recognizing reductions are likely in 2020/21; and
- Introducing additional student transportation fees to offset the loss of the government's Transportation Fee Replacement Grant.

RVS' budget will be tabled with the Board of Trustees, Nov. 28, 2019, for consideration

Additional Transportation Fees

To offset a \$1.4 million shortfall in the student transportation budget, resulting from the province's reallocation of its Transportation Fee Replacement Grant, Trustees voted in favour of introducing additional student transportation fees of \$308/student applicable to riders who attend their designated school and live 2.4 km or further from that school, who for the last few years have not been required to pay bus fees. Those families who have already paid a fee this year, are not being asked to pay more.

Funding Framework Review

The Board is participating in the government review of the funding and assurance frameworks and the expectation is that there will be a new model on place in the spring just in time for Budget 2020.

To stay up to date on what's happening, you can subscribe to Board Highlights at http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/board_policies/board-meeting-highlights

10. Old Business

- a. Reminder - ASCA engagement opportunity November 23, 1-4pm; EB Learning Commons
- b. Joint Board/School Council meeting - Nov 7, 2019 - was attended by Michelle B and Renata L; next meeting will be Mar 26, 2000.

11. New Business

- a. Alberta Government Choice in Education Survey (as above)
- b. Report from April 2019 ASCA Conference (Michelle B) (see Appendix A)
 - a. 2020 ASCA Conference (April 24-26, 2020) - deadline for funding application Jan 17, 2020. Michelle B commented it is a great opportunity as there is a conference with breakout sessions on Friday and Saturday with lots of opportunity for networking and Sunday is the AGM where councils are able to advocate for parents on "resolutions" which are discussed then voted on.
- c. Our next EBSC meeting is on Wednesday, January 15th, 2020 at 6:30pm in the Learning Commons.

12. Adjournment- Motioned by Heather D, Seconded by Chantelle at 8.15pm

Appendix A

Report to EB School Council re ASCA Conference/Annual General Meeting April 27 – 29, 2019

Three members of the 2018-19 EBSC executive:

- Susan Flynn Lowry (Co-chair),
- Renata Lambden (Secretary); and
- Michelle Balmer (Treasurer) attended the annual Alberta School Councils' Association ("ASCA") Conference in Edmonton to represent the views and concerns of the families in our school community.

This is an annual event comprised of:

- keynote speakers,
- education themed sessions and discussions,
- networking opportunities, and;
- Annual General Meeting including voting on annual resolutions to direct the association's goals for the following year.

Between the three of us we attended conference sessions regarding (information regarding those sessions attached in **Appendix A**):

- Bridging the Gap: Navigating the Education System
- Inclusion in the Second Language Classroom
- Together for Students
- What is Self-Regulation and Why is it Important?
- Second Language Learning

There were also keynote speakers: Dr. Jody Carrington, Dr. Phil McRae, and a performance by Prince Charles School fiddlers. (CVs of the keynote speakers attached as **Appendix B** and Prince Charles School Fiddlers in **Appendix C**).

We also had opportunity to meet parents from other councils in Cochrane and Rocky View and surrounding areas, suburban/ rural boards that had some commonalities with us along with many other concerned and involved parents from all over Alberta.

We are grateful for the support of RVS Board in funding 2 members to attend the conference.

We have voiced concern for the fact that this conference is always held in Edmonton (less likelihood for Southern Alberta Schools to be represented). There are now semi-annual online meetings to accommodate a wider audience, which is beneficial.

Prior to the AGM, we presented the resolutions to the EB parents that attended council meetings and collectively voted on these resolutions. At the AGM, we voted on the Advocacy resolutions according to the majority wishes of the EB School Council that we had previously collected. Here is a link to the results of the resolutions carried at the ASCA AGM:

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/files/86058>.

This was a great way to learn about the issues in education in Alberta and we would encourage parents to consider becoming involved, attending and using their acquired skills and knowledge to benefit our school communities in Cochrane and beyond.

APPENDIX A

Bridging the Gap: Navigating the Education System

Greta Gerster

Strategic Alliance for Alberta Students with Learning Challenges: How to effectively advocate for your children in the education system.

This session will cover parts of the School Act to help you understand your rights and responsibilities as the parent/guardian, your child's rights and responsibilities, plus the Principal's and school board's responsibilities. This session will help you figure out where you need to go to next, should you be experiencing difficulties at the school level. Greta Gerster is the Executive Director of Strategic Alliance for Alberta Students with Learning Challenges. She has been advocating for her two children who have been diagnosis with learning disabilities in reading, writing and math along with ADHD and anxiety for the last 8 years. She has been an active member of school council in various roles for the past six years, as well is a member of CASA's Family Advisory Council. Greta believes strongly in helping parents become educated on how they can effectively advocate for their children's needs in a collaborative fashion with educators and administrators, while making sure children have what they need to be successful.

Inclusion in the Second Language Classroom

Michael Tryon Canadian Parents for French (CPF) Alberta Branch

Inclusion is now the norm in most of Alberta classrooms, but serious issues still remain for students in second language programs who have challenges. This session will focus on a success story from both the perspective of a parent and a teacher who has worked with this student. We will talk about challenges and opportunities. This session is a "best case" example of how inclusion should work in a second language classroom. Information will be provided on advocating for testing, partnering with the school for inclusion and adaptation of the curriculum, access to internal and external resources, and how to ensure your student's success. Michael Tryon has been the branch Executive Director of CPF Alberta since 2009. His involvement with CPF commenced in 2008 as a member of both the CPF Edmonton Catholic Chapter and as one of the organizers of the annual Gala D'art Oratoire, sponsored by this chapter. Michael has taught French and English in Japan, handled all Japanese inbound tour logistics for Quebec tours, and taught in both core French and French immersion classrooms. Michael

holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a minor in French, a Diploma in Post-Secondary Education, and a Bachelor of Elementary Education, all from the U of A.

Together for Students

Pat Cochrane

Alberta has changed. We're not the same province we were a century ago. Alberta funds more educational systems and boards than any other province in Canada. Services are duplicated and inefficient. Communities are becoming fragmented. Funds are diverted, meaning students end up with fewer learning opportunities instead of more. Together for Students believes we need to start a public dialogue about the escalating costs— financial, social, and educational—resulting from our multiple education systems. We need to work together to offer students the best educational experience possible, since tomorrow's Alberta depends on how we educate our children today. Pat Cochrane served as a trustee with the Calgary Board of Education for 14 years, 10 of which she acted as Chair of the Board. She has served on other boards in the notfor-profit and arts sectors in Calgary, including: Child and Family Services of Calgary and Area; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Calgary; Education Matters, Calgary's Public Education Trust; and Sage Theatre Company. Pat recently completed a Master of Arts in Leadership Studies and takes great pleasure in facilitating positive conversations for groups and working to guide boards towards stronger governance practices. Pat continues her volunteer commitments in the community and chairs the board of the Calgary Sexual Health Centre.

What is Self-Regulation and Why is it Important?

Julie Smith

The MEHRIT Centre Ltd.

Recent advances in developmental neuroscience are dramatically altering attitudes towards the possibility of maximizing the educational potential of every child. Scientists now understand that the better children can self-regulate, the better they can rise to the challenge of mastering ever more complex skills and concepts. But what exactly is self-regulation, how does it develop, why do some children struggle with it, and what can we as parents, caregivers and teachers do, to enhance its development? Using Shanker Self-Reg ®, a powerful method for understanding stress and managing tension and energy, this presentation will provide an introduction to, and discussion on, Self-Regulation. Julie Smith was with Pembina Hills Public Schools for 35 years. She began to facilitate Self-Regulation learning for her staff and students in 2016. A school Administrator, and her role as school counsellor allowed her opportunities to coregulate with students and help them understand the brain body connection. Along with her teaching career, Julie raised three children and partnered with her husband building a farming operation. Julie's retirement coincided with her completion of courses with the MEHRIT Centre Ltd.

Why Second Language Learning is Beneficial

Cheryl Dumont

Alberta School Board Zone 2/3

Why Learning another Language is Beneficial for our Children:

A PowerPoint and video presentation and discussion on why learning another language is so important for our children. The session will include data and talk about the benefits regarding brain development and employment opportunities for students. Handouts will be distributed as well. The Language Committee is made up of seven School Trustees and former educators from across the province who have a background in and/or an interest in language learning and brain development. Chair of this Committee, Cheryl Dumont is a School Trustee in her third term. Cheryl is also the Executive Director for St. Albert & District Further Education Association. The Association specializes in English Language learning and helping those 18 and over learn French, Spanish, Cree, Michif and American Sign Language, among other areas of education.

APPENDIX B

Dr. Jody Carrington

The Power of Relationships

Dr. Jody Carrington is a Clinical Psychologist who has spent most of her career working with children and families who have experienced trauma. Growing up on a farm in rural Alberta, Canada, and after 13 years (!) of post-secondary education, she took her first job on the Mental Health Inpatient Units of the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary.

It was during those 10 years that she learned the most about kids, families, relationships, and the vital importance of connection. Today, she is back living in a rural setting, managing a private practice, raising a family, speaking around the country about relationships, connection and her new book, "Kids These Days". Jody passionately believes in the power of the relationship with the people we love, lead, and teach. Her favourite thing on the planet to do is to speak with educators – they have the power to change the trajectory of a life every single day. It's time, she believes, that we need to start focusing less on kids these days, and more on those of you who hold them every day.

The core of everything she speaks and writes about comes down to this: we are wired to do hard things. We can do those hard things so much easier when we remember this: we are wired for connection.

Dr. Phil McRae, Ph.D.

Alone Together: Connecting in an Age of (Hyper)Connectivity.

Dr. McRae will share how growing up in our digitally saturated era is impacting our habits of mind, bodies and sense of community. He will share highlights from the research findings of the Growing Up Digital (GUD) Alberta study, being conducted in partnership with Harvard Medical School and the University of Alberta. This research study surrounding children's consumption of media, examines media's social, learning and health impacts within the population of Alberta K–12 students. It focuses on knowledge creation and resulting considerations for regulation and policy for teachers, parents, students and school authorities.

Dr. Phil McRae is Associate Coordinator, Research with the Alberta Teachers' Association, and Adjunct Professor within the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta where he earned his Ph.D. McRae was the Director of the internationally recognized Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISi) at the University of Alberta from 2005-2009, and taught several graduate courses in the Master of Education in Educational Studies program. Phil has worked in many secondary and post-secondary educational contexts while living and teaching in the Middle East (United Arab Emirates), Asia (Japan), Europe (Spain), and in Alberta, Canada with the Lethbridge Public School District and at Red Crow College with the Blood Tribe (Kainai First Nation). The Blackfoot honoured him with the name Ápapomm, which means lightning.

APPENDIX C

Prince Charles School Fiddlers

Prince Charles School is an elementary school that celebrates First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture. One aspect of the culture that is celebrated, is fiddle music and dance. Students who choose to participate in the fiddle group, begin in grade 4 and may choose to continue in grade 5 and 6. The group today includes students from grades 4, 5 and 6. These students practice at recess time, at home and on Fridays with Garry Lee and Judy Gatto. We have a lot of fun making music together and we have many memorable experiences performing at festivals, conferences, universities, schools, seniors' homes and for families. Honing their skills on fiddle, working together as a group, learning how to perform in public are just a few of the skills that come from participating in the group.