

Minutes for Elizabeth Barrett School Council

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

School Learning Commons:

1) Attendance

Amanda .S.,
Melinda .V.,
Laura .W.,
Natalia .P.,
Tiffany .H.,
Jennifer .R.,
Susan .F.L.,
Erin .R.,
Brittany .O.,
Sheri .W.,
Bri .L.,
Michelle .E.,
Fiona Gilbert,
Elisa Korver,
Gerry Gaudet,
Heather Derksen (Co-Chair),
Michelle Balmer (Co-Chair),
Renata Lambden (Secretary)

Regrets: Vanessa .V.

Meeting called to order at 6:34pm

- 2) Additions to agenda – none, Adoption of agenda – Susan .F.L. motioned to approve, Bri .L. seconded, motion carried
- 3) Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 2019 – Susan .F.L. motioned to approve, Michelle .B. seconded, motion carried
- 4) Welcome and Introductions
- 5) Role of School Council – advocate voices of parents/guardians, communication between parents/guardians and government, etc.
- 6) Administration Update – Gerry Gaudet
 - Welcome to Elizabeth Barrett Elementary School, Elisa Korver, new Assistant Principal.
 - Breakfast Program
 - Breakfast Club of Canada grant
 - Donations from local businesses and charitable organizations such as Cobbs Bread, No Frills and the Cochrane Activettes
 - Providing toast, fruit, milk, etc.
 - Ever-increasing amount of kids participating in the Breakfast Club

- Hoping for parent volunteers to help speed up the process
- Enrolments:
 - Totals: 213 English (PIP & Kindergarten included), 301 French (Kindergarten included)
 - Discussed class sizes and increased classes sizes and demand for resources across Rocky View County
- Parent Information Session by teachers Thursday, September 19, 2019 6:30pm & 7:00pm. Training on Real Time Reporting, etc.
- Terry Fox Run on Thursday, September 26, 2019 from 11:45am -12:30pm and includes Elizabeth Barrett, Manachaban and Cochrane High School.
- School-wide Peanut-free Policy – new this school year

7) School Board Update – Fiona Gilbert (report submitted prior to meeting)

School Council Trustee Report September 2019

Welcome and Welcome Back

School Councils are such an important part of our education system. They are so important that it is a requirement in the Education Act that all schools have a School Council and RVS Board of Trustees is committed to being part of each school council as a way to connect with and hear from parents. We believe that school councils enhance student learning by engaging parents, staff and community members to advise the Principal and the Board on matters concerning school improvement planning. The Division views each School Council as a means for parents and community members to work together with the school to support and enhance student learning.

School Start Up

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.

Meeting with the Minister of Education

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.

Budget

As reported earlier this year, the Government of Alberta will table the provincial budget sometime in the Fall 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, likely in late October.

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>

Education Act and New Regulations

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.

Transportation

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.

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.

Feedback Requested - School Calendars

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>

Looking Ahead

The next Board meeting takes place on Thursday September 19th which will also include the annual Organizational Meeting of the Board. This is the time when the board elects/appoints members to serve as Chair, Vice Chair, various Committee memberships and Board representatives for the year.

8) Old Business:

Updates from Council Officers and Committee Co-Ordinator(s):

- A. Hot Lunch Co-Ordinator: Training in progress – no update
- B. Co-chairs – Heather Derksen and Michelle Balmer – no update
- C. Volunteer Coordinator: Training in progress – no update

9) New Business:

- A. Joint Board/School Council Meeting in Airdrie on Thursday, November 7, 2019 – Michelle Balmer to attend on behalf of EB.

B. Finalized 2019-2020 EBSC Meeting Dates:

- i. October 16, 2019 at 6:30pm
- ii. November 20, 2019 at 6:30pm
- iii. January 15, 2020 at 6:30pm
- iv. February 26, 2020 at 6:30pm
- v. March 18, 2020 at 6:30pm
- vi. April 22, 2020 at 6:30pm
- vii. May 20, 2020 at 6:30pm (AGM)

10) Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 16th at 6:30pm in the Learning Commons

11) Adjournment at 7:41pm, Susan .F.L. moved to adjourn