

East Lake School Parent Council Meeting MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, September 20th, 2023

Time: 6:00pm

SC Executive members Present: Janelle Savage Jen Collins	School Administration Members Present: Jordan Fenton, Principal Susan Noble, Assistant Principal Leslie Waite, Assistant Principal
In-Person Attendance: 16 Attendees	
Zoom Attendance: 4 Attendees	

1. Welcome and Call to Order

6:07pm

2. Approval of Agenda

Selena Sommerville

3. Approval of April 2023 Minutes

Debbie Gill

4. Chair Report – Janelle Savage (Chair)

-Request for Parent Input: what would parents like to learn about this year? Ex: Hour Zero, Zen Den, Teacher presentations, different programs (French/Christian).

Debbie Gill – Would like to hear more about the new curriculum

Shali Baziuk – Parent council can request that school admin share about certain topics.

Jordan Fenton- Madison Cameron will be returning this October to teach about social media and digital safety.

-School Council End of Year Parent Survey Results are in.

-Robyn to post survey results on School Council Facebook Page, approved by Jordan as long as no personal information is shared. (Survey was anonymous so no personal info was collected.)

5. RVS Trustee Report – Shali Baziuk (Trustee -Rocky View Schools Board of Trustees & Vice President -Alberta School Boards Association)

ENROLMENT

-Enrolment in RVS Schools Climbs 3.8 per cent

-Students returned to classrooms across RVS the week of Sept. 5 – early enrolment numbers indicate an additional 1,052 students joined the division.

-RVS is required to submit its enrolment total as of Sept. 30 to the Government of Alberta. Total enrolment as of Sept. 6 is 28,664; however, it is important to note this number will continue to flex both up to and after the Sept. 30 deadline.

-We welcome all new students and those returning to our schools this September.

-While enrolment growth is positive, it continues to pose significant challenges in two vital areas: - space in already full to over-full schools while we wait for new schools to be funded and built and for more modular classrooms

-inequities created by the Weighted Moving Average funding model, which underfunds growing school divisions. For RVS, this funding model means around 800 students will not be funded by the provincial government this school year.

More information on these advocacy priorities is available on the RVS website.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

RVS will host a school grade and boundary configuration consultation on October 17th in Langdon. Chestermere families are welcome to attend and/or provide feedback through the RVS Engage link that can be found on our Web site.

RVS will host a school council orientation on Sept 27th at 630pm via zoom. Link is attached here.

SCHOOL SITES

An update was received from Travis Fillier, the Director of Planning at the City of Chestermere regarding the high school site. Travis is confident the high school site will have title transferred to RVS within 2 months. I relayed my thanks for the information but that with so many previous missed deadlines we will wait to receive confirmation from land titles and not assume the work is complete.

Don't hesitate to contact me anytime.

Shali Baziuk
403 850 5758
sbaziuk@rockyview.ab.ca

-Trustees meet every second Tuesday. The public is welcomed to join in person or on Zoom. Shali likes to let us know ahead of time if anything Chestermere related is on the Agenda.

-New High School Site: Once the title gets transferred to the City from the developer RVS can apply for a new school. There are 61 school boards in Alberta, and all are applying for schools every year. Last year 17 schools were approved AB wide.

-4 portables are being added to the middle school this fall. Rainbow Creek Elementary can have up to 2 more portables, ELS is maxed out, middle school is no maxed out, and Prairie Waters has portables not even attached to the main school.

-New Langdon jr/sr high: Boundaries and grades still need to be decided. RVS suggested all schools k-7 and new school 7-12. This was not received well. They didn't want grade 7s with grade 12s.

-Approx. 300 students from Chestermere High will move to the new Langdon school, but we aren't gaining space because of the high numbers of kids in middle school replacing them.

-All are welcome to attend the Langdon school consultation. If you cannot attend in person, please provide feedback online!

-If there is enough interest from Chestermere students wanting to attend the Langdon High, a bus could be arranged from Chestermere.

-Too early to tell what options will be provided in the school.

Q1- is there an option to move programs of choice there? ie: French Immersion, Christian, etcetera.

A1. Shali asked the RVS Board and they feel it would be a program killer to move programs. There would need to be higher numbers enrolled.

Q2- How can parents advocate for FI in High School?

A2- weigh in on the Langdon consult, if there is enough interest the board will have to look at it.

Q3- Where can we recruit FI teachers?

A3- In the past, out east.

-A K-8 school is slated for Dawson/Waterford. That site is being worked on and city stated by Christmas they should have title.

Selena – The grade 8 FI class is the biggest class yet. This would be a good time to push.

Shali- You also need to have teachers and space to continue the program. It's more likely now, but it will take many parents coming together to advocate.

***Can send an email to Shali from the FI parents and she will take it to the board.

-If you have any comment, questions for Shali, please call, email or text!

6. **School Admin Report** – Jordan Fenton (Principal)

Announcement: Jordan will be at ELS until the end of January 2024 and starts Feb 1st at the new Langdon jr/sr high to open it for Fall 2024. Amanda Schultz will be coming as principal at ELS.

-This is the 10th year for the East Lake School building!

-800 babies were born in Chestermere this year. They will be entering the school system in a few years!

Enrollment / Staffing

- We are just under 900 students at this time. This number counts kinder students as half students as they are only at school part time. There are so many kinder students this year that we had to open another AM Kindergarten class in English. There are now 6 kinder classes, and 3 full time kinder teachers.
- We welcomed Joty Das as the new teacher for the FI grade 1/2 split last Friday
- Looking to support our large grade 5 class sizes by adding one more class.

Highlights

- Terry Fox – we raised over our goal of \$1800, see totals in the next News from the Nest.
- This week was skating at the rec. centre for grades 2/4/6. We wanted to give students the opportunity to skate in the fall instead of spring so that they have the opportunity to take what they have learned and skate in the winter.
- The Starlight family came in to share Tipi teachings with all students as part of our Truth & Reconciliation education. Other guests scheduled for orange shirt day at school.
- Grade 5s & 6s had the option to join X-country running. The team will be competing on Friday. (This is the only extra-curricular activity that grade 5s can participate in).
- Volunteer orientation – We had 170 people come to the first 2 orientations.
*We are looking at creating a shortened 'refresher' orientation for returning volunteers in 2024

Upcoming

- Madison Cameron is returning to work with our older students, talking about social media and digital safety. Madison talks to students about their online experiences and gives them space to open up. Madison works for CTIP (Center for trauma informed practices) and coaches University level Mens basketball. She was a valuable resource last year. Shannon Edeburn will be attending as well.
– Madison will be presenting similar material at our school council meeting on October 18th for parents and caregivers. You will not want to miss it!

-Outside food – questions around the safety. We have reached out to RVS for guidance and want to reach out to parents for their opinions. It used to be common practice for some parents to send baking/treats etcetera to share on special occasions but there lots of food

sensitivities, allergies, and cultural practices that have to be considered. Also, with the recent e-coli outbreaks, we want to be cautious.

*If you have thoughts on this, please email school Admins or stop in person to weigh in.

Sheila Q– Where do Chestermere Schools rank?

Shali A- AERR Annual Educational Results Report (public info) - shows where we are within the system. School Admin shares this in October/November. The only 'rankings' are provided by Fraser Report

Lauren- Fraser Report provides false information (Lauren researched this thoroughly in her recent Master's degree program). Private schools always rank highest because they exempt coded students. They are just manipulating results in favour of private and chartered schools. Often these schools do not even accept students with learning disabilities or anything else that would lower their scores.

Jordan – for 2 full years during Covid there were no provincial achievement exams, so results are not accurate to date. Even without that, exams are only a snapshot of that day. A student's grades can be good but have a bad exam day.

7. Student Council Update – Susan Noble (Assistant Principal)

-The first meeting will be in the week of October. Grade 5/6 students are able to join. Meetings will be every Tuesday at lunch. They can purchase a student council shirt for \$5 to show council spirit and unity.

8. School Technology and Expectations Overview – Susan Noble (Assistant Principal)

-Overview of MyBlueprint, Google Classroom, PowerSchool, etcetera.

-Hand out given to show all school platforms, who, what when, where, why? This will be sent out in the News from the Nest as well.

-My blueprint can be accessed through a student account OR parent account (links to be sent by teachers in the next couple of weeks). Parents can volunteer to help students in younger grades post to their MyBlueprint.

-Contact office staff if you are having trouble accessing any platforms.

Q- Which platforms are mandated?

A- PowerSchool (outcomes) & MyBlueprint (evidence of learning). Google classroom is not mandatory but is widely used. Admin has asked teachers to send regular weekly emails.

9. New Business

-Field Trips – What is planned for the year?

Teachers have to link all field trips to curriculum. They request approval from school admin. They have been asked to spread out field trips this year.

Selena – Also, more notice would be great for parents to be able to volunteer (1-2 months preferably as 1-2 weeks is not doable for many working parents).

-Are there more volunteer orientations coming? Yes.

*City of Chestermere has decided to charge starting this year for RCMP security checks. The fee is \$40 with no letter or \$10 with a letter from the school. Also, RCMP says you need one for each school but RVS will accept at multiple schools if you have a valid one from any RVS school.

-The grade 6s are going on a field trip in October. Sadly, the City of Calgary has shut down a lot of options for us. RVS has a list of approved sites for our students to attend.

-Staggered Entry –**Q**- What is the rationale to continue staggered entry and how is planned? It can be extremely challenging for parents with multiple kids or kids in multiple grades.

Jordan A- It dates back to before Covid. The main reason for going to smaller groupings, is that when a school has over 900 students, it can be very overwhelming for students, parents, and schools to have them arrive at the same time while navigating where they need to go. The students' first introduction is calmer this way and reduces unnecessary anxiety.

-Reason for ELS – gives all grades time to find their entrances and makes it easier to support parents in finding where they are going. It works to calm anxiety. We chose classes instead of last names so that full classes will start together on the same day.

Parent Comment: Some parents were extremely stressed out about the staggered entry and didn't receive the communication until 4 days before school (Could it be communicated earlier or individual emails earlier).

Another Parent Comment: It was also in the last NFTN at the end of the last school year in June 2023.

-Busses at the end of the day are one of the most anxiety inducing things for kids. Staggered allows them to navigate the school without the craziness of all students.

-Shali will take it back to board to for a discussion. Shali- when it is a new school for students, ex: grade 7 or 10, it is more comfortable to figure out how to navigate the school with staggered entry.

Q-Could school do an orientation/sneak a peek for students before classes start?

Lauren- Our school in Airdrie did this and it was chaos! It is more beneficial to have a student-centred lens.

-It is difficult for full time working parents.

-**Jordan** – Recesses have also changed, like staggered entries. This year there are 3 groups for recess. Grades 1/4, 3/6, 2/5 are paired for recess – Reasoning is that it is easy to tell the difference between grades, and it also relieves issues with soccer at recess. Helps with the flow of students. Lunches have changed as well.

Q- is 20 mins enough time for lunch? **A**- Yes, if they don't finish it is usually because they are talking.

Q-how do split classes work for recess? **A**- 3/4 split goes with 3s because the 4s will still have one recess with other 4s etcetera.

-in the couple weeks we have been doing it this way, it has reduced conflicts noticeably.

-because our school is unique, there aren't always best practices to compare to. We welcome feedback, but always make student centred decisions.

10. Election – School Council Secretary -School Admin

-Any nominations for Secretary?

-Not at this time

11. Next School Council Meeting
AGM Wednesday, October 18th, 2023 at 6:00pm

Note: Friends of East Lake School Society (parent volunteer run): Enriching education and school experiences for all of our students through school fundraising and volunteerism.

*Please See *Friends of Chestermere East Lake School Society* Facebook page or email: eastlakeschoolsociety@gmail.com for upcoming opportunities and meetings everyone welcome!

Adjourn
7:50pm