

EAST LAKE SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA



Date: Wednesday, November 15th, 2023

Time: 6:00pm

Executive Members Present:

Janelle Savage
Shannon Duque (French Immersion Rep)

School Administration Present:

Jordan Fenton, Principal
Susan Noble, Assistant Principal
Leslie Waite, Assistant Principal

In-person Attendance (Learning Commons):

15 attendees

Zoom Attendance (Zoom Meeting ID):

3 attendees

- **Welcome and Call to Order**
 - 6:10pm
- **Approval of agenda and approval of October 18th, 2023, Minutes**
 - Robyn W and Debbie G
- **Chair Report – Janelle Savage**
 - Council Executive Positions available: Secretary
 - French Immersion: Advocate for French Immersion at the new Langdon High School, presented by Shannon Duque
 - French Immersion consultation has been completed by RVS, 30 students are required to continue offering Program of Choice, RVS sees 25% attrition rate when students transition from Jr High to High School.
 - Shannon and parents will start FB group and communicate via email on go forward basis.
 - Hard to find balance for all parents and all groups and to meet the needs of the greater population (relating to all Programs of Choice)

RVS Trustee Report – Shali Baziuk

ENROLMENT

Total enrolment across the division as of Sept. 30 is 28,602 for the current school year, up 990 or 3.6 per cent from 2022/23. This is consistent with the existing trend in the division which sees enrolment increase by 750-1,000 students per year.

Rising enrolment is occurring at all grade levels and in most RVS communities.

The overall utilization rate of all RVS schools is 93 per cent, up from 87 per cent in 2022/23

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

MODULARS AND SCHOOL SITES

To help mitigate the ongoing space crisis in RVS schools in the Board will submit a request to the provincial government for 22 additional modular classrooms, as well as the relocation of 12 classroom units and one washroom unit.

The units are requested for schools with expected utilization rates of more than 100 per cent, based on accommodation changes and projected enrolments.

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In March 2023, RVS received 10 new modular classrooms and two classroom relocations; RVS' request was for 32 new units. In addition, five surplus modular units were awarded to RVS on Oct. 24 which the Province will pay to deliver and set up.

If approved, these modular units will help mitigate RVS' enrolment issues in the short term but will also increase the stress on core school buildings which will have more students than they were built to accommodate.

SCHOOL SITES

Here is an excerpt from my Facebook post in response to the City of Chestermere's school site announcement.

I would like to take this opportunity to share some information with all of you in light of the recent post from the City of Chestermere regarding title to our much anticipated and needed high school site.

Unfortunately, the title we were given is for 8.95 acres, on a total high school site of 15.96 acres. The City has confirmed the remaining 7 acres has not been transferred and their best estimate is that it will take another 2 months. RockyView has been very clear that the high school site needs to be ready. A partially ready site is not a ready site. The outstanding 7 acres is the status quo we have been living with for years now.

The school board will submit a capital priorities list to the province at the end of November, along with the 61 other school boards in Alberta. Although we cannot indicate the site as being ready for construction, and therefore will not be considered for construction funding, we will advocate strongly for design, planning, or pre-planning funding, which are the province's capital priority categories.

To clear up any confusion, the projects that make the top of the list are the ones that are site ready for construction, or close to it based on discussion between RVS planning, developers, and the municipalities. As such, other sites in RVS are listed above the Chestermere high school site. The rationale that RVS not prioritizing our high school site is why the site is not being readied by the municipality is not accurate. When the site is ready, the site will rise on the priority list, not the other way around.

I am also in receipt of a K-9 school site land title. I have thought it prudent to ask the RVS planning team to verify that this title makes up the entirety of the school site and I will communicate that information when it is received.

Your help in advocacy is still needed. Chestermere is in desperate need of schools and we cannot get funded for a school without a site to put it on. More information on what is needed and how you can help is available on the RVS website.

- **School Admin Report** – Jordan Fenton (Principal)
 - RVS Satisfaction Survey, results presented and are based on Spring survey (Grade 3 and up students and parents).
 - Participation in the survey is very important to accurately reflect satisfaction levels.
- **New Business**
 - Custodial services, cuts to budget, classroom cleanliness
 - RVS has spent reserve money, they are now less than 1% and should have somewhere

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between 1-3% reserve, everyone is feeling the pinch with the cost of living and compounding issues

- Write to MP's, Stackholders and the City!! Contact information provided within "Share Your Story" attached

- Safe Talk – Suicide Alertness Workshop (November 25th from 10-230) at Lifepath Center for Community Leadership, cost is \$10pp with lunch and refreshments – see poster for QR code if interested

- **Next School Council Meeting**
 - No December meeting
 - Wednesday, January 17th, 2023, at 6:00pm
- **Up next, Friends of East Lake Society Meeting**
- **Adjourn**
 - 7:21pm



Share our Story!

Rocky View Schools (RVS) needs more space for students.

RVS is urgently in need of more Space for Students in several of our communities. Many of our schools are running out of spaces for students. We need the provincial government to build new schools in RVS and provide more modular classrooms while these new schools are built. We need to be heard by the government, so they prioritize funding for schools in our most critically impacted RVS communities. Parents/guardians have an important voice about the space needed for their children to do their best in school. We need your help to share our story. Together, we can help to ensure our voices are heard.

What steps can you take?

RVS has created this Share our Story guide to give you some ideas and tools to help you advocate for Space for Students. If you have questions on advocacy, please contact your local trustee.

Share Space for Students Infographics

RVS has produced infographics to highlight our need for space division-wide and in the highest needs communities of Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere. These can be shared electronically or printed in hardcopy.

Tell your Friends, Family and Others

Talk to those around you about the need for more student spaces in your community. Talking about how your children are impacted by overutilized schools with decision-makers and influencers can be very effective. Provide them with key information and ask that they reach out and share with people who can positively influence.

Contact Municipal and Provincial Governments

Write a letter, send a personal email to politicians, pick up the phone and call about your concerns and personal stories about how your child(ren) are impacted by crowded schools.

Consider reaching out to your local councillor and mayor asking them to prioritize getting schools sites ready. Without school sites, RVS cannot even ask the provincial government for new schools.

Send your personal story and Space for Students infographic to your Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Minister of Education, Minister of Infrastructure, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Premier.

Share RVS Social Media Posts

Follow our RVS Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds and reshare our Space for Students posts to help us reach as many people as possible.

Watch our Website for Updates and Information

We are focused on advocating for Space for Students and will continue to share updates and information. Check back often!

Tips for advocating for more Space for Students in RVS

RVS recommends when advocating to individuals to always keep the message positive and personal. Whether speaking, emailing, or using social media platforms, we encourage active and respectful dialogue. Use the data provided along with personal stories and impacts you see with your own child(ren) to provide a personalized, impactful message to key decision-makers. Ensure they know you are invested in this issue and that it is an important community-wide issue. We also do not recommend online petitions as an effective and positive means of advocating.

Stakeholder Contacts

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