

## EAST LAKE SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024:

**Date:** Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Executive Members Present:**

- Jenn Collins (Vice Chair)
- Shannon Duque (French Immersion Parent Rep)

**School Administration Present:**

- Amanda Schultz (Principal)
- Susan Noble (Assistant Principal)
- Karen Hanks-Craine (Administrative Assistant)
- Lori Lew (Administrative Assistant)
- Rhonda Baptiste-Lacasse (French Immersion Teacher)

**RVS School Board Members:**

- Shali Baziuk (Trustee for Chestermere)

**In-person Attendance:**

- Kate Haddad
- Namrata Mangu
- Bonnie Brisebois
- Jenn & Geoff Standish
- Ashwani Kumor
- Gurwinder Dhadda
- Nav Dhundol
- Rola Moussa
- Rob Cooks
- Larissa Lees
- Laima Nosery
- Mona Brar
- Mai Jomaa
- Claudia McGowan
- Kyla Simms
- Sydea Abbas
- Syed Jafri

**Zoom Attendance:**

- No attendees via zoom.

**Welcome and Call to order:**

- @ 6:07 pm.

**1. Approval of Agenda & Minutes:**

- Agenda and previous AGM minutes approved unanimously.

**2. Chair Report:**

- Jenn Collins (acting for Janelle) introduced the Parent Council and Welcomed Trustee Shali Baziuk.
- Council email for contact: [Eastlake-schoolcouncil@rvschools.ab.ca](mailto:Eastlake-schoolcouncil@rvschools.ab.ca)

3. **AGM Results:**

- New Chair: Janelle Savage,
- Vice Chair: Jenn Collins,
- FI Parent Rep: Shannon Duque.
- Secretary and Christian Program Rep positions remain open for the next meeting.

4. **French Immersion Update by Shannon Duque:**

- Advocate for the interests and needs of French Immersion (FI) students
- Serve as a liaison between FI parents, teachers, and parent council
- Ensure FI curriculum and student experience are considered in decision-making
- Communicate with FI families about concerns and suggestions
- Support FI events and activities
- Promote and maintain a strong FI program at the school
- Background in French Immersion and fully bilingual in French
- Contact for FI program-related questions and concerns
- Email available for contact: [Fiparentrep@gmail.com](mailto:Fiparentrep@gmail.com)

5. **Rocky View School Board Update by Trustee Shali Baziuk:**

- Rocky View School Division (RVS) is the 5th largest in Alberta with 29,350 students enrolled by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- **Modular Classrooms:** The Alberta Government approved 12 new and 12 relocated modular classrooms to address enrolment pressures. Affected schools include those in Airdrie, Cochrane, Springbank, Chestermere (not at ELS), and Crossfield. These units will be operational by the 2025/26 school year.
- **Ward Boundary Review:** A consultant is reviewing RVS ward boundaries due to a 32% population increase since 2016. Public consultations have been conducted, and the Board is now reviewing the consultant's report.
- **Future Schools:**
  - A potential new high school in Chelsea (1,200 student capacity) is awaiting approval.
  - A K-9 school in Dawson is in the funding stage.
  - Several school sites are in the planning stages in Chestermere, but there are concerns over the timeline (4-6 years to build a new school).
- **Capacity Issues:**
  - East Lake School (ELS) is over capacity and facing challenges with modularity and space.
  - Chestermere Middle School is also facing bottlenecks, with new school sites and boundary reconfigurations needed to manage enrolment.
- **French Immersion (FI):** A shortage of FI teachers is a significant issue. There is potential for a new FI program at Horseshoe Crossing in Langdon and discussions around an online FI high school program.
- **Parent Questions for Shali:**
  - **Dawson K-9 School:** Timeline is uncertain, but RVS is trying to expedite the process.
  - **Capital Priorities:** Chestermere ranks 2nd, 3rd, and 7th in priority for new schools.
  - **Busing Policy:** Boundaries are set to change from 1.5 km to 1 km, but bus driver shortages prevent immediate enforcement.
  - **ELS Capacity:** As a Public-Private Partnership (P3) school, ELS cannot turn away students despite being over capacity. RVS is exploring creative solutions to manage enrolment.
  - **Residential Development:** Developers are not held accountable for building schools, which impacts school infrastructure in Chestermere. Parents are encouraged to pressure City Council to limit residential development until enough schools are built.
  - **School Construction:** Shali suggests reaching out to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Rick McIver, to push for new schools in Chestermere. While some schools can be built in 18 months, the average is 4-6 years.

**6. Admin Report by Amanda Schultz:**

- **Current Enrollment:** As of September 18, 2024, East Lake School (ELS) has 981 students and 70 staff members.
- **Leadership Update:** Alexis Gross is the new Assistant Principal (French Immersion).
- **Class Sizes & Staff Training:** Class sizes have increased since last spring, but staff were prepared for the influx of new students through prior training. Book study -staff tool.
- **Staggered Entry:** A staggered entry system by grade helps manage the busy mornings with all 981 students.
- **Attendance & Transportation:** Attendance is taken at 8:30 to account for late buses, with delays from ongoing road construction factored in.
- **Safety Measures:** Ensuring end-of-day safety is a priority due to the large number of students.
- **Professional Development:** Staff are participating in learning days focused on building classroom models across all subjects.
- **PBIS Program:** ELS follows the Positive Behaviour Instructional Supports (PBIS) approach, which promotes social and communication skills while preventing problematic behaviors.
- **Grade 5 French Immersion Teacher:** An update on a temporary plan will be emailed tomorrow as a replacement is being sought for the vacant Grade 5 French Immersion teacher position.

**7. Student Council Update by Susan Noble:**

- **Attendance:** The first Student Council meeting of the year saw participation from 50-60 students in grades 5 and 6.
- **Meeting Structure:** Meetings occur every Tuesday during lunch, where students review the role of the Student Council.
- **Student Participation:** Students are encouraged to make suggestions and share ideas for activities. One proposal was to have an end-of-year field trip to Calaway Park as a reward for Student Council members.

**8. New Business:**

- Picnic Tables outside: \$ to be discussed at the Friends' meeting, following this one. Meant to be an outdoor learning area, as opposed to an outdoor eating area (but small snacks are okay).
- Goal: build the school's Teepee soon. We have all the materials, we just need an Elder to guide us on how to build it properly and mindfully, and with the right intentions.

**9. Executive Positions for Review for Next Parent Council Meeting – Lori Lew:**

- Secretary – a couple of people expressed interest: Sydea Abbas (Ph # 403-466-9444) and Nav Dhundol (ph # 403-889-6648).
- Bonnie Brisebois – possible Christian Program Parent Rep?

10. **Next Parent Council Meeting will be on:** Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. (Neither Janelle nor Jenn are able to attend – Kyla Sims to step in).

**Adjourn @ 7:33 PM.**

- Next Up: Friends of East Lake Society – Volunteering and Fundraising.