



APPROVED MEETING MINUTES OF THE BOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER, 14, 2023

SC Executive Members Present:

Susan Brauss, Vice-Chair
Nadine Hof, Secretary

School Administration Members Present:

Shane Dempster, Principal

Bobcat Backers Present:

Wendy Renneberg, Chair
Andrea Pinter, Treasurer

Regrets:

Tracy Brooker, Chair (Regrets)

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair, Susan Brauss called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. Rocky View Land Acknowledgment

Read by Susan Brauss

3. Welcome and Introduction

Parent sign in sheet circulated

4. Approval of Agenda

Parent, Wendy Renneberg declared the agenda approved as circulated

5. Approval of October 12, 2023 Minutes

Parent, Wendy Renneberg declared the October 12, 2023 summary approved as circulated

6. Business arising from minutes

Vice Chair, Susan Brauss provided update as well as Secretary, Nadine Hof

a. Joint Council Meeting – Susan Brauss

i. RVS overcrowded

- Approval phase for K to Grade 8 school in Cochrane
- Five portables for RVS

ii. Presentation on Positive Behaviours & Initiatives

- Excellent place to exchange ideas, network, etc.

b. Speaker Series – Nadine Hof



i. **Bob Wilke – “I Got Mind”**



Event Date: To be determined in January.


- Tracy Brooker to follow up at next meeting.

Action

1. Tracy Brooker to reach out to Bob to determine next steps.

- ii. **Suzzy Anibueze, Rocky View School Division - Addictions and Mental Health Resource**
 Event Date: Monday, February 19th, 2024 (TBC)
Suggested topics of interest by Parent Council included:
 -  Vaping and drug use in schools and how parents can best equip themselves with conversations about these substances.
 -  Learn about the facts behind their health impacts.

- iii. **Constable Nathan Moore, RCMP - Community Liaison Officer**
 Event Date: March 14 (will need to confirm participant attendance one week prior)
Suggested topics of interest by Parent Council included:
 -  Sexting, texting, hidden apps, legal liabilities attached to smartphones.
 -  Illegal activities taking place around town and involving high school age students.

- iv. **Ashley Meagher, Stepping Stones to Mental Health**
 Event Date: May 9th, 2024 (booked)
 -  Session Topic: Adolescent Brain Development and Navigating the Parent-Teen Relationship
 Theme: Taco' Bout Mental Health – Ashley may be able to provide food as an incentive to caregivers to help increase attendance.

- c. **Parent Contact List from Jeanette** - A parent list from RVS Engage was shared with parent council to use to communicate with parents. When using must select the bcc (blind carbon copy) field first.

2. Nadine to follow up with Suzzy and the RCMP regarding session topics of interest to parents for March 14th session.

7. Administration Updates – Shane Dempster

Principal Shane Dempster provided update on the following:

a. Education Plan

Career Goals

- Many initiatives underway to expose grade 9/10 students to a variety of careers. Hopeful that by grade 11/12 students will have a greater idea of personal career goals.

Values of Respect, Resiliency and Responsibility

- Teaching positive behaviour through the 3R's
- Using a positive reward system (i.e. Golden Tickets)
- Resiliency is the weaker of the other R's

b. Literacy Testing

- Parents in attendance were asked to try out the TOSREC Reading Comprehension diagnostic test.
- Grade 9-12 students are piloting it this year
- Similar tests exist to diagnose reading fluency and decoding
- Provides interesting data for teachers to quickly and objectively assess students' strengths and challenges
- There might be numeracy testing in September for grade 9 students

c. Cell Phones

- Parents were asked by Mr. Dempster to share our thoughts on having cell phones in the school.
- Ultimately, it is a very complex issue; no consensus on how to handle smart phone in a school setting. Need a balanced approach.
- Majority of parents in attendance and BVS teachers would gladly have them banned from classrooms or even schools; most students have an opposite opinion

8. Report from Rocky View School Division – Fiona Gilbert

Highlights shared from October 14th board meeting:

a. New High School

- Opening of new high school (grade 9-12) in Langdon in September

b. Modulars

- Five new modulars have been granted to RVS from last year's request; yet to be assigned
- Request for 22 new modulars has been placed
- Six modulars would come to Cochrane (2 for CCA. 3 for Fireside, 1 for Cochrane High School)
- Asking government to move 12 modulars (cost \$220 000 per move)

c. Budget

- Budget adjustment needed
- Overspent on different areas last year (teachers' leaves, furniture & equipment, land purchase)
- Over expenditure is rolling into this year's budget which may have some impact on Bow Valley High School Reserve is down to \$4 million (1.2%)
- Government announced supplementary grants; anticipate receiving \$1.2 million but still under-funded

- Need to start thinking about what can be done to get through the next few years, until expansion is done

9. Bobcat Backers Fundraising Society Update

- Working on getting Casino in place (proceeds will be distributed where needed and not only towards Band's needs)

Roadblock: Not enough council members on board (need minimum of 15, currently have 3 including 2 executives)

10. New Business

- Brief impromptu discussion about shortage of substitute teachers

11. Adjournment

- Vice-Chair, Susan Brauss adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm

- **Next Council Meeting: Thursday, January 11, 2024, 7pm**