

Bow Valley High School Council Meeting Minutes

Learning Commons Tuesday, February 12, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Kari Rose, Judy Heck, Susan Brauss, Valerie McCracken, Fiona Gilbert, Dan Swan, Jim Reilly (Principal), Scott Bloxham (Assistant Principal)

Regrets: Tracy Bruins, Jason Ness

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Kari Rose.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by Judy Heck, 2nd by Valerie McCracken.

3. Approval of Minutes of January 10th, 2019

The minutes of the January 10, 2019 School Council meeting were approved by Judy Heck, 2nd by Valerie McCracken.

4. New Business

- a. Parent/Teacher Interview Night - The next one will be March 6. Judy Heck will develop a SignUp Genius document to ask parents to participate in preparing a pot luck meal for the staff prior to the Parent/Teacher interviews on March 6. **Action:** Judy will get the sign up genius done and sent to Mr. Reilly/Mr. Bloxham the week prior to March 6, so that it can be circulated to all parents.
- b. Signing authorities (Buddies of Bow Valley) - The Buddies of Bow Valley bank account has been closed, the funds released and the committee dissolved. The \$2500 in the account was deposited into the Bobcat Support fund. A new fundraising committee will have to be created. **Action:** Mr. Reilly will send an email to parents/guardians asking for interested parents to participate in the new committee. He will highlight 3 funding need areas - redesigning the front entrance of the school to make it more welcoming; additional televisions for the school, and a new PA system. A new name will be needed for the school fundraising committee when it is recreated. It was suggested there be a renaming contest.
- c. School Trip Information - Deferred
- d. Lice Policy - Deferred

5. Report from the Board of Trustees - Fiona Gilbert

- a. Prince of Peace Lutheran School

RVS' Board of Trustees voted, Feb. 7, 2019, to postpone its deliberation on the future direction of the Prince of Peace Lutheran School until its March 7, 2019, Board Meeting to allow for the Board to properly review the latest lease offer from SAGE Properties received late in the day on Feb 6.

b. RVS class size report

Findings from the annual Alberta Education Class Size initiative suggests overall, RVS experienced a reduction in class size compared to the 2017/2018 school year. Based on September 30, 2018 enrolment numbers, RVS class size averages for all subjects were as follows: K – Gr. 3 = 21.4; Gr. 4 – 6 = 25.1; Gr. 7 – 9 = 26.2; Gr. 10 – 12 = 24.6.

There are a variety of factors that can influence class sizes, including but not limited to student enrolment growth, French immersion dual-track schools, the establishment of new programs and individual school student enrolment breakdown. Please note that these statistics reflect classroom teacher-student ratios only. They do not include support staff such as child development advisors, guidance counsellors, classroom assistant, literacy specialists, etc.

c. Westbrook School – donations approved for gym expansion

RVS' Board of Trustees approved to accept \$200,000 in donations from Friends of Westbrook Society and Rocky View County (\$100K each) that will be allocated towards expanding the gym in the new Westbrook School. RVS' initial plans were to construct a 430m² gymnasium, the provincial standard for a 250-student capacity school. However, feedback garnered from community stakeholders identified that the school and the community could both benefit from a larger gym, allowing for the addition of bleachers.

e. New name for Hillcrest community K – Gr. 8 school

After being presented with two recommendations from RVS' Hillcrest Area School Ad Hoc Naming Committee, Feb. 7, 2019, Trustees voted in favour of naming the school Northcott Prairie School. Two names had been put forward for consideration: Northcott Prairie School and Hillcrest Point School. The City of Airdrie's Community Development group put forward Northcott School as Northcott represents two prominent Airdrie families. The naming committee added Prairie to the name as it gives homage to the history of the school's location and recognizes the environmental features that will be included in the school design.

f. Infrastructure/Maintenance Renewal Project Recommendations

Each year, Alberta Education allocates dedicated funding to school authorities for Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) projects. RVS received just over \$5 million from the province for 2018/19 and had approximately \$3.3million in carryover from the previous year. This brought the total available IMR budget to just under \$8.5 million. Based on recommendations made by the Department of Business and Operations, the Board of Trustees approved the 2018/19 IMR budget on Jan 24, 2019. With its IMR funding, RVS will make upgrades to lighting, flooring, HVAC systems, roofing and washrooms. Funding also will be allocated towards Indus School's modernization.

g. Support for Alberta School Councils Association AGM & Conference

The Board recently announced funding support for school councils to attend the ASCA AGM and Conference in Edmonton at the end of April. The response from school councils was tremendous and while we were unable to fund everyone who applied, the Board is pleased to be able to fund 14 parents from around the division to attend. Locally, Glenbow and Elizabeth Barrett School Councils have both been awarded monies to attend. Resolutions will also be voted on at the AGM. Resolutions are or are not passed into policy at the AGM. School Councils can vote by proxy. **Action:** It was suggested that School Council review and discuss the

proposed resolutions at the March meeting. The Advocacy Resolutions Package 2019 is accessible online <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/documents/60662>.

6. Report from Administration

a. Modern Language Opportunities: Ms. Lauren Price, who teaches Languages (French & Spanish), shared information about the BVHS Modern Languages programs and some exciting opportunities for students to experience authentic language environments over the summer.

- Learn French this Summer in an amazing Immersion Program (nearly all expenses covered!) called *Explore* (a 3-Week Program For Students Ages 13-15; a 5-Week Program For Students Ages 16+). Deadline to apply: **February 15, 2019** <https://www.myexplore.ca/en/>. *Explore* is an intensive French-immersion program that is offered during the summer for students with any skill level in French (students do not have to speak French to participate). Participants are awarded a place and funding which covers tuition fees for the course, instructional materials, meals, and accommodation at various locations throughout Canada. They also discover another region of Canada while learning French in classes adapted to their language level. Through classroom instructions, workshops, sociocultural activities, and field trips, students improve language skills, discover the culture of a new region, and meet new people from across the country while learning the French language.
- The Alberta Education Exchange programs provide students with the chance to live and study in another part of the world. The exchange programs expose students to new cultures, languages, friends, and education systems. There are 10 to 12 week exchange programs available to Mexico, Spain and Quebec. The Student Exchange opportunity is for grade 10 and 11 Students in French and Spanish . Deadline to apply: **March 2019**. To find out more about this opportunity, visit <https://education.alberta.ca/exchange-programs/student-exchanges/> OR speak with Ms. Price, the language teacher, in room 1024.
- FACES (Facilitating Awareness and Character building Experiences for Students) facilitates 12-day camps throughout the summer months for grade 9 Alberta students in Pincher Creek or Nordegg. FACES creates an affordable opportunity for students to explore a new and exciting world, as they are challenged to see themselves and their situations with new eyes, and with changed hearts. FACES is an experiential opportunity to discover a participants inherent and infinite personal worth. It is also filled with opportunities to grow personal power. FACES participants can also earn high school credits. Deadline to apply: **April 11, 2019**. To find out more about this opportunity, visit <https://www.faceseducation.com/> OR speak with Ms. Price in room 1024.
- Yoga program: Ms. Price mentioned that there may be a YOGA program offered next school year.

b. Football Information: A football information session and parent meeting was held on Tuesday, February 12 at BVHS. The meeting was for those already committed to playing football next year and also those interested and wanting more information about opportunities for the team next year.

c. Timetabling for Next School Year: Mr. Bloxham discussed Timetabling for next school year. It will be different from this year. BVHS is currently running at capacity and anticipates having 50-60 new students next year. Admin is looking at creative ways to support students, incorporate new programs and enhance existing ones with input from staff, students and parents. P3 will be available at BVHS next year and the timetable will need to be adjusted for students participating in this programming. A Connect block will be integrated into the timetable. A PICK sheet will be sent home with students (grade 9-11) mid-March so they can make course selections for the next school year. A Waive form will also be distributed to applicable students. Mr. Bloxham also reviewed core courses and programs and sequencing for grade 10 to 12 with parents. Parents found this very helpful. This information is also available on pages 75-81 of The Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12

<https://education.alberta.ca/media/3772212/guide-to-education-2018.pdf>

d. Guidance Update: The Student Success Centre is open. Chill, Guidance and Learning Support can now all be found in one place, upstairs in the east wing, right beside the den.

e. Scholarships: It was suggested that there be an information session on scholarships and bursaries at our next school council meeting. **Action:** Mr. Reilly/Mr. Bloxham will ask Jan Higgins if she is able to present information on scholarships and bursaries to parents at our March meeting.

f. Assessment Break: Mr. Bloxham is looking for feedback about how students/parents found the exam week (now called assessment break). If you have any feedback, please send it to Mr. Bloxham.

g. Accountability Pillar Online Survey: Grade 10 students and parents/guardians will soon be asked to complete the annual accountability survey. As part of the Accountability Pillar, Alberta Education surveys teachers, students and their parents. The survey data helps to gather information on the quality of education provided by school authorities and their schools. Parents/guardians are encouraged to complete and submit the survey.

9. Next Meeting

The next School Council meeting will be **Thursday, March 14, 2019 @ 7 p.m.** in the Learning Commons.

Action: Agenda item for next meeting: Alberta School Council Resolutions Review (available online

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/documents/60662>)

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.