

BOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2015 – Learning Commons

Attendees: Fiona Gilbert (Board Trustee), Rob Kimura (Principal), Valerie McCracken, Karen Packer, Kim Poulsen, Judy Senior, Francine Wieliczko

Regrets: Julia Grohn

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Valerie at 7:11pm

2. Welcome & Introductions

Everyone welcomed and individual introductions to the group made

3. Approval of Agenda – October 7, 2015

Add under New Business “iv” – ACSA/RVS

Motion: Francine motioned to approve the Agenda as amended. Karen seconded. Carried

4. Approval of Minutes of May 28, 2015

Motion: Karen motioned to accept the Minutes of May 28, 2015 as circulated. Francine seconded. Carried

5. Old Business/Outstanding Items

None

6. Report from Bow Valley Administration

- Hired 3 new staff members in September: 1) Darryl Korody (Part-time for Semester 1 & 2; from Bert Church), 2) Edna O’Mallach (Teacher Assistant; from Red Deer), and 3) Armella Karaja (10 hrs/wk in the front office)
 - Plus 4 new teachers hired in June: 1) Mr. Hooper (math/science), 2) Mr. Anholt (math/science), Ms. Howse (performing arts) and Ms. den Otter (student support/PE)
 - Spray Lakes football field – still need to complete some electrical work (currently can only be used in daylight hours). Hope to be done before winter or in spring. Sports teams (including Cochrane High) and PE classes use on a daily basis. A grand opening will be held in spring. RVS is responsible for maintaining the field
 - Sport for Life / Canadian Tire Jump Start – donated \$1,400 to BVHS to purchase equipment to engage inactive students. RVS has approved BVHS to buy some longboards and safety equipment and make a small track in the bus loop area
 - Professional Learning – focus on High School Re-Design
1. Building Futures – project-based learning. Relocated to a double garage classroom. Have started building a duplex and will start building a stand-alone house soon. Have 24 students

of which 8 are from Cochrane. Mr. Ness and Mr. Brooker presented the Building Futures program at a High School Re-Design conference in Red Deer and it was very well received

2. Embedded CALM – 3 credit course now embedded in core classes from Grade 9-11
3. Culture & Relationship Building – servant leadership, most notably BVHS Leadership Academy which has become well-recognized. There are only 2 in Canada (BVHS and one in Saskatchewan). There are 40 first year grade 10 students and 14 second year grade 11 students)

- Looking for sponsorship for some academic awards (letter attached)
- Have 539 students (vs 524 at end of June 2015) which is slightly fewer than expected

7. Report from the Board of Trustees

- School start-up across the Division went very well. As of September 25, RVS grew by 981 students to reach 21,574 students which is a growth rate of 5% and is one of the fastest growing divisions in Alberta
- Colleen Munro met with Minister of Education, Mr. Eggen to discuss funding based on growth
- Sunset school expected to open in September 2016. A school in Fireside received approval for 2017. Sod-turning for this school will be on October 23 at 9am. Expect to tender the construction in December and start building in Feb/Mar 2016. Over 100 projects in the province were delayed 6 or more months
- RVS Board held its organizational meeting last week. Colleen Munro remains the Chair and Todd Brand, the Vice-Chair
- Friday, October 16 – RVS long service and retirement awards. Mr. Billington will receive a 20 year long service award
- \$20,000 was given to RVS schools from Canadian Tire Jump Start. \$1,400 was awarded to each school in Cochrane

8. New Business

i) School Council Effective Practice Guide

- Murray Besenski sent an email explaining that a key action of the RVS Four Year Plan is to develop a School Council Effective Practice Guide to support councils in engaging parents in support of the learning program of schools. He asked councils to discuss the following and to share their ideas at the Joint Board School Council Meeting in November:
 1. Identify practices/activities that you have found successful in **engaging parents** in getting involved in council and council sponsored activities to advance student success
 2. Identify practices/activities that you have found successful in **supporting parents** for ongoing involvement in council and council sponsored activities to advance student success
 - BVHS Council members felt that having guest speakers talk on specific topics at the start of each meeting was a successful way to engage parents. Also, having a couple of morning meetings helped to attract some parents who find it difficult to attend evening meetings
- Action:** Rob Kimura to communicate these points to Murray

ii) Volunteer Coordination – Conference meals for staff (Thursday, October 15)

- Collaborative conference nights are October 15, December 10, March 10 and May 12

Decision: BVHS Council will prepare meals for staff on December 10 and March 10, and tentatively May 12 (TBC)

Action: **Valerie** will speak to Maureen Topp to ask if she would like to coordinate this

- Hard copies of the Volunteer Form can be found in the office

- **Action:** **Valerie** to design an on-line volunteer form

iii) Council Meeting Dates and Proposed Speakers / Topics

Decision: Council will meet the first Wednesday of each month. Meeting dates will be:

- November 4 – 9am

- December 2 – 7pm

- January 6 – 7pm

- February 3 – 9am

- March 2 – 7pm

- April 6 – 7pm

- May 4 – 7pm – AGM

- June 1 – no meeting

Some topics that are of interest to parents: Students to speak about ODL trips, CTS projects, Leadership Program, Building Futures, Sports Performance and QSA (Queer Straight Alliance). Teachers or RVS staff to speak about High School Re-Design, SOSQ, Trends Among Youth, and Scholarships & Bursaries

Action: **Rob Kimura** to schedule some speakers.

- Joint Council Meetings will be held on November 19 and April 21

iv) ASCA/RVS

- ASCA has started “Wednesday Webinars” – each Wednesday there is a topic relevant to school councils (occur in the morning and evening). Parents can sign up by clicking on the events tab on www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca. A list of topics is available on the website

- There is a School Council Resource Manual for 2015-16 on the RVS website:

http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/families/assets_parents/schoolcouncil-resourcemanual.pdf/view

- Insurance is available for councils that put on events – does not apply to BVHS Council

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm

Future Meetings: November 4 – 9am, December 2 – 7pm, January 6 – 7pm, February 3 – 9am, March 2 – 7pm, April 6 – 7pm, May 4 – 7pm (AGM)