

**BOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 5, 2017 - Learning Commons**

Attendees: Fiona Gilbert (Board Trustee), Rob Kimura (Principal), Valerie McCracken, Francine Wieliczko

Regrets: Karen Packer

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Valerie at 7:05pm

**2. Guest Presentation: Chestermere Therapy Dog Society (CTDS) – Lori Kent, Vice President and her dog Kibo**

- Dogs and owners receive no formal training
- Dogs/trainers undergo 3 part evaluation: 1) assess behaviour, listening/obedience and personality of dog and handler. Dog must remain in control under various situations, including unusual situations (e.g. reaction to sudden noise, touching sensitivity (paws, tail, fur)), 2) satisfactory vet check of dog, and 3) criminal record check of handler
- CTDS started 3 years ago in Chestermere in a library. Now also in Langdon and Strathmore
- have 3 different programs offered to children and seniors: 1) Caring Tails – 1 to 1 therapy for those experiencing anxiety during exams, transitioning difficulties, grieving, etc, 2) Listening Tails – 6 weeks, students read to dogs, and 3) Visiting Tails – geared for seniors
- Handler is “invisible”, dog is “therapist”
- Currently have 40 dogs and 36 handlers. Most are in Chestermere; some in Strathmore, Langdon, Calgary and Airdrie
- Mr. Kimura commented that there are probably about 20 students at BVHS that have high anxiety and could benefit from therapy dogs. BVHS is cleared to bring dogs into the school
- Action: **Parents** can contact Mr. Kimura if interested in becoming a handler and having their dog as a therapy dog

**3. Welcome & Introductions**

Everyone welcomed

**4. Approval of Agenda - April 5, 2017**

Agenda approved as circulated, by consensus

**5. Approval of Minutes of March 1, 2017**

Minutes of March 1, 2017 – omit “by April” under 8) Report from the Board of Trustees re: Cochrane Cares survey. Accepted as amended, by consensus

## **6. Old Business/Outstanding Items**

### **i) Parent Volunteer Form**

- Aim to have volunteer form implemented for September 2017
- Action: **Valerie** will finish the draft by end of June and give it to **Administration** to review at staff meeting

### **ii) Parent Support for Teachers during Final Exams**

- No high schools in RVS currently using parents to provide support for teachers during finals
- Possible to implement if parents receive training and are under the supervision of a teacher. Parents need to understand the exam guidelines
- Will not be possible to use parents this June. Administration will discuss using parents in the future. For now, will just use substitute teachers to provide support

## **7. Report from Bow Valley Administration**

- The RVS board nominated Joey Pihrag for the Alberta School Boards Association 2017 Zone 5 Edwin Parr Award. Mrs. Pihrag teaches French/Spanish at BVHS. The Edwin Parr Award honors six outstanding first-year teachers annually in the province. She will be away on maternity leave next year
- Mrs. Serhyenko will retire in June; Mrs. Karlson will retire after first term in November 2017. Mr. Verdais resigned and Ms. Melissa Smith is the new CTS teacher (previously was a substitute teacher at BVHS)
- March Madness well received
- 28 students and 4 teachers preparing to go to San Diego over Easter
- Band is preparing to go to Halifax
- Evening of Hope will be changing significantly this year. Students will be volunteering at businesses. More details to come

## **8. Report from the Board of Trustees**

- Board approved capital plan (available on-line)
- Board will be meeting with provincial government. Trying to get acknowledgement from Minister of Education – RVS is growing so quickly and therefore, requires capital funding. RVS will be in trouble in 3 years if no capital funding is received. Cochrane is the fastest growing community in Alberta and the 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest in Canada (Airdrie is 5<sup>th</sup> and Chestermere is 6<sup>th</sup> fastest in Canada). Need 1 school per year in Airdrie and 1 every 2.5 years in Cochrane and Chestermere

- Moving towards having K-9 schools rather than K-8 and high school from grades 10-12. Need a new K-9 school first. If denied, expansion will be needed at BVHS
- Starting budget process
- Bill 1 – reduces school fees. RVS determining impact of this on the division. Resource fees to be based on 2015 student population. RVS has grown by 2,000 students since then. RVS wants the formula to be based on current student numbers. Transportation fees – will be free for students living more than 2.4 km from their designated school. Board is consulting with the community
- School calendar for next year – RVS needs to extend the school year by one day in both semesters because of diploma exam dates
- Assistant Principal appointments: 1) Neil Comba moving from Elizabeth Barrett to Glenbow, 2) Kim Agnew moving from Glenbow to Springbank, 3) Judi Poole moving from Elbow Valley to Elizabeth Barrett
- Joint Board Council Meeting held March 30, 2017. Informal in nature and reviewed capital plan. Screened the movie documentary “Screenagers.com” (67 minutes). Well received

## **9. New Business**

### **i) ASCA Resolutions Review**

- Decision: School council members present decided not to provide comments on the 9 resolutions being put forward at the AGM as it was felt there were no major concerns/issues

### **ii) Staff Meal Hosted by School Council on May 11, 2017**

- Decision: Parents will host a meal for staff at the end of the year rather than on May 11. Date will be Wednesday, June 21, 2017
- Action: **Valerie** to coordinate email with Gemma to send out to parents

## **10. Adjourn**

Next meeting to be changed from May 3 to May 10 at 9am. Students/Teachers from the San Diego trip will do a presentation

Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm

**Future Meetings:** May 10 - 9am