

**Springbank Community High School
School Council Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, September 15, 2021**

Zoom Attendance: Darrell L, Melanie S, Amal J, Monica W, Ann P, Judi H, Arlene A, Kara B, Celeste P, Kim B, Carrie, Constance, Jodi, Someya I, Tammy Y (15)

Melanie S. Calls meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Approval of June Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes: Monica W.

Second: Amal J.

All in Favor: Carried

Chair Report:

Melanie S.

2021/22 Executive:

Chair- Melanie S.

Secretary – Tammy Y.

Volunteer Coordinators – Amal J., Arlene A.

Vice Chair- Vacant

Treasurer- Vacant

Canadian Parents for French – Vacant

Grad Rep – Kim B

Grant Researcher Writer – Vacant

2021-22 Meeting Dates:

Sept 15

Oct 20

Dec 15

Feb 16

April 13

June 15

We will continue having the monthly Principal reports sent out by Mr. Lonsberry.

Melanie asks council if they prefer in person or continue with Zoom.

Feedback – Darrel is fine with Zoom. Amal says we can do in person as it goes faster but can still Zoom for those who can not make it. SMS records their meetings.

Financials: Funds in the school bank account - \$5,219.53, which are not under AGLC

ASCA

Due to the reduction in grant funding from Alberta Education, The Alberta School Councils' Association is no longer able to continue providing knowledge and skill development at no charge. Attendees will now be required to pay to participate in workshops hosted by ASCA. I have requested clarification on the fee structure but it seems workshops start at \$100 and go up from there.

Over 11,000 participants responded to the survey on the 2021-2022 School Year Plan. ASCA has decided they will not release the results as they believe the structure of the survey caused the responses to the questions to have very small variances of yes/no perspectives rendering the overall results to be inconclusive in terms of what the majority of Alberta's parents support. For more information on this decision and ASCA's plan going forward please see the following link: [ASCA 2021 School Re-entry Plan Survey Results](#)

School Board Trustee Elections – October 18th

[School Board Elections Information](#) - for more information on why you should vote, the role of school boards and information on nominations. The deadline to submit a nomination is September 20th at 12pm.

[School Council Political Engagement Package 2021](#) – information for those looking to get involved in election activities, including - Where to start and what to do? Political Action Planning Template, Questions for Candidates, Letter Writing Guides and connecting with candidates.

[Residential Schools Webinar Series](#) – begins today: This series is about learning and teaching the history of Indian Residential Schools in Canada.

[Truth and Reconciliation Week](#) – September 27 – October 1: a 5-day national event that will continue the conversations from Every Child Matters. Important conversations including the truths of the Indigenous treaties, First Nation, Métis and Inuit land claims, and the residential schools system. This online event will provide historical workshops, exclusive video content, and activities for students — all supported by artistic and cultural performances by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit artists.

Bilingualism, the Brain and Society

I attended the webinar this morning. It was attended by over 1600 participants from around the world. Some very interesting information on languages and brain development. The link to their website is: <https://knowablemagazine.org/>

Principal's Report to School Council

September 15, 2021

Startup

It has been a busy but great startup. Our timetable is offering us some challenges as we try to get everyone arranged into balanced schedules. Our total enrolment is just under 740 students, up very slightly from last year. We are down 1 person in our office staff (Linda Townes retired at the end of the summer) and so we have not yet been able to make lockers available to students, nor have we assigned student parking spots. We will be making lockers available to grade 9 students early to mid next week. For parking, students can park in any numbered stall in our main parking lot or in the lot beside the soccer pitches across RR33. We hope to have someone hired for our office support team in the next week or so and so will be able to assign parking spots to students by the end of this month.

Staffing Update

I want to welcome the staff who are new to SCHS this year, and I encourage parents and guardians to contact staff if you have questions or concerns. Welcome to:

Someya Inzinger – Assistant Principal (grade 10 and 12)

Sherry Lightfoot – French Immersion, Grade 9 ELA for our FI students

Eva Knight – Grade 9 Humanities, Drama 9-12

Josh Denison – Math and Science

Carol Smith – Phys Ed

Rob Elleker – Guidance and Counseling

We also have Meaghan Vornholt, who has stepped in for Mr. Martell temporarily. Additionally, we have 2 student teachers from the University of Lethbridge: Grant Bauer and Emma Greendale. Grant is working with Diana Rhys-Brown and Emma is working with Shawn Carder.

COVID-19 Safety and Student Well-being

While we are planning for a Fall where we can provide students with learning opportunities that we weren't able to last year, our staff is cognizant that we may again have to quickly adjust to new circumstances and new protocols. Rest assured, our primary focus is student safety and wellness. Toward that end, I encourage you to reach out to school administration and/or our counselors if your child needs support for the mental well-being. Some students may struggle adhering to the existing COVID-19 safety protocols, while others may feel like those protocols are not enough. What might be similar in both circumstances is the student may find themselves dealing with elevated levels of stress and worry. If we are aware of that we can better support the students when they are at school.

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic at SCHS

SCHS will host a vaccine clinic on October 1st for any student, staff member, parent or guardian who would like to be vaccinated. To be clear, students must present parental consent (a consent form was sent out by RVS already and will be sent again in upcoming Phoenix Flyers) in order to be vaccinated.

September 20 Election

Our school is a busy place, made even busier by the fact that we are a polling station for the Sept. 20 election. Elections Canada will be using our gym; members of the public will enter through our main entrance where they will be directed by an Elections Canada worker who will direct them where to go.

Truth and Reconciliation Day: We will celebrate/recognize the day. Pre teaching prior to the day is planned. Activities are planned.

Q- Are you following the recommendations of the government?

A -Judi responds - Yes we follow the Alberta Government recommendations, if those change, so will we.

Q- French Immersion students have FLA and FSS in one semester so they will have a 7 month gap between taking the classes and their grade 12 year. What will be in place to support those kids?

A -At the grade 11 level we are not too worried about loss of French Language Instruction or the Diploma side of things – this will be covered in Grade 12.

Q- Is this a new issue this year because of scheduling ?

A – Yes

School Trustee Report:

Judi Hunter

As we start this new year, our kids are looking forward to starting school as we would in any normal year. I hope that every family enjoyed this beautiful summer and time spent with family.

We were all excited when Premier Kenney announced that the Province of Alberta is “Open for Summer”. However, as the number of COVID cases in the unvaccinated rose, parents became concerned.

Dr. Hinshaw, the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) publicly stated that we need to learn to live with this virus. In her role she has further said that for us to move forward, it is important that we measure and manage the risk of harm against data of where we are with immunity and vaccinations, mental health issues and a multitude of other considerations. Dr. Hinshaw gave Boards the opportunity to increase her mandates. The two largest Board did so. Many others have not. Rocky View School Division has always followed the advice of the Chief Medical

Officer. This time was no different. The trustees are not medical experts. We trust that the CMOH and her team of experts have looked at the research and data to make their decision for the welfare of Albertans.

Masking has become a very divisive issue with strong opinions on both sides. Students can wear masks if they choose. However, many parents are terrified that their child will catch COVID if all parties are not masked. Some teachers also feel this way.

We (teachers, parents, government, the Board) will all be watching and evaluating. Please know that in the coming weeks if it becomes necessary to move to enhanced health measures, RVS will do so.

I would strongly suggest if you or your child are dealing with high anxiety due the masking issue that you work with your child's teacher; and possibly, the principal of your school.

This is also the time of year that you may want to discuss with your child's teacher how your child copes with stress or talk about your child's general temperament. I have attached a link to an article that you might find helpful

www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/temperament-in-the-classroom-helping-each-child-find-a-good-fit/?utm_source=gbg_4_aug2021_wk5&utm_medium=email&utm_content=8/31/2021

The next link is to an article about project-based learning and why it is so important. Rocky View Schools 4 yr Plan focuses on innovation and project-based learning is a component of this plan. [Understanding the power of project-based learning | GreatSchools.org](https://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/understanding-the-power-of-project-based-learning/)

I also invite you join a conversation about the Brain, Bilingualism and Society, September 15 live podcast.

Closure of RR 101 and Highway 8 – this has caused a lot of concern in the Elbow Valley Community. Transportation is looking to see if they need to add more busses.

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation – RVS is recognizing and schools are planning activities.

Rolling Average Formula – not as predicted last year as students stayed at home because of Covid. More to come on this.

Are parents concerned about students writing diplomas?

Feedback:

They should be ready but they will not be.

Difficult to implement diploma exams until mental wellness of students is addressed.

Grade 12 students have anxiety about taking the exams.

Committee Reports

a) Grad Representative

Kim B.

b) Volunteer Coordinators

Arlene A./Amal J.

Casino Sign has been sent out.

Foods sign up for Friday groceries has been sent to the class.

c) CPF Representative

Vacant

New Business:

Meeting Adjourned: 1:49 pm

Next Meeting October 20, 2021