

**Springbank Community High School
School Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 21 2022**

Attendance: In person: Darrell L, Pam V, Melanie S, Someya I, Amal J, Lucie C, Raquel C, Arlene A, Tammy Y (9)

Attendance: Zoom: Monica W, Cameron S, Mike A, Sara R, Judy H, Tamara W, Ann P (7)

Approval of October Minutes:

Pam V. motions to approve the October minutes.

Amal J. seconds.

All in favor. Carried.

Chair Report:

Melanie S.

a. Alberta School Council Engagement Grant

- Looking for ideas.

Judy will give Amal contact information for presenter.

b. ASCA Conference and AGM

- If anyone is interested in attending or being nominated you can go to the ASCA website for more information.

Q: Is RVS still supporting financially?

A: RVS supports attendees, Judy is not sure of the amount. (Likely cover the cost of the registration fee of 1 person)

c. School Messenger (Safe Arrival App – coordinates all messaging and power school)

Q: How is this working?

A: Spending a lot less time in the office now with the Safe Arrival App.

Comments: Since the change, you can no longer select leaving and returning (daytime appointment)

- “Late” – can only select “late” as a reason

- When absent for school related reason (field trip with one class), why is this not entered into the system beforehand. Parents are getting notifications of absence when student is “at school”

Darrell will look into.

If any parents have any feedback, please let Judy know.

d. Indigenous Canada

- a 12 lesson Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from the Faculty of Native Studies at the U of A that explores the different histories and contemporary perspectives of Indigenous peoples living in Canada. You can register at no cost. (12 weeks, ~ 2 hours/week (videos, readings, quiz)

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/indigenous-canada#about>

e. School Councils Stand for Education Hopeful Conversations

- The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) is asking all school councils to participate in the Stand for Education public engagement process to gather input from parents, educators, and others in the school community. Share a hopeful vision for public education generated by discussions in advance of the 2023 provincial election. *Share your wisdom and create a hopeful vision for public education in Alberta!*

They want to hear from school councils about the top changes they would like to see the Alberta government make to improve education!

ASCA is working with the Alberta Teachers' Association to collect and analyze public feedback. Based on the input received, a bold, hopeful vision for education will be developed, shared publicly, and used to engage all political parties in the lead-up to the provincial election in May, 2023.

ASCA is asking school councils to include a short, facilitated discussion (15 - 20 minutes) at an upcoming school council meeting to gather parent/guardian responses to the question –

Q: "What are the solutions you would like to see the Alberta government implement to improve education for your children and/or school?"

A: Better funding for mental health. There seems to be more addiction issues on the rise, more conversations with parents asking them to follow up with physicians. Staff need support as well.

Q: Is that Covid related? War Related?

A: All of the above. Need to do more to deal with the implications of the pandemic. Students are feeling pressure because they are busy people. Social interactions have been interrupted.

Q: What do you see working to help?

A: We have an addiction councillor assigned but she is not working directly with students so we are making referrals to community based programs.

Q: What qualifications do you need for an addiction Councillor?

A: Psychology degree.

Comment: An in-class social worker might be useful as well. High School kids have lots of catch up to do with sports and studies.

Q: Is there a budget to pay for this?

A: We do not have the budget. As a board there is a budget but we still need the people to be there to hire. We have hired a CDA (Child Development Advisor) - she has been helpful supporting students. Funded out of our money.

You can also visit the ASCA - Stand for Education Hopeful Conversations webpage (<https://bit.ly/3ufwBqg>) and provide your input directly by the February 3rd deadline.

To learn more about the Stand for Education campaign, please visit www.standforeducation.ca

f. **Grad 2024 and Beyond**

Q: Will there be school organized graduation banquets for the graduating classes of 2024 and beyond?

A: No. If you want a banquet it will need to be parent run. School will do the ceremony but will not be responsible for the banquet.

Q: What is the rationale for this?

A: It is expensive, it limits kids who can participate. There was also push back from staff who say it is not in their job description.

Comment: Students and parents look forward to their graduation where it is a celebration of their accomplishments of successfully completing 13 years of education.

Comment(Judy): There was an email that was sent out in September. There is also the insurance side of it, which is a concern for senior Administration.

Comment (Darrell): There is concern about the exposure for RVS when there is a large banquet like that. If there is a bad decision made, RVS is labelled.

Q: How is that different from Basketball?

A: More likely to happen at a banquet.

Q: Are the city schools moving away from Grad?

A: There is a movement across North America to remove the parties. Insurance companies are making it difficult.

Comment: Having the school involved or not, will not change anything. The nice thing about the school organizing the event is that everyone is included.

Q: Would the school help communicate the information of the event?

A: No. There would need to be a separate contract signed by parents.

Q: Can the school say “ Grade 12 parents, if you want a GRAD, contact this #”?

A: Yes.

Q: Where would the fee assistance come from?

A: When we did the Grade 8 Farewell there was only 1 student who needed fee assistance.

Melanie and Monica will look at AGLC at a later date.

If you have any concerns regarding the 2024 Grad please contact the superintendent.

g. Addiction Treatment Facility – has been approved in Commercial Court. There was a lot of concern with the 3 schools in the community. Melanie attended the meeting she feels we do not have much to be concerned with. It is for short term stays, people choose to stay there - they check themselves into the facility. They have another facility in Calgary, with homes all around

and have had no issues. It is private and costly to attend - people are there at their own free will. Everyone is screened.

Principal's Report:

Darrell Lonsberry

Principal's Report to School Council

December 2022

A-Block Changes

A-block is the 42-minute period just before lunch each Monday to Thursday. The class continues after lunch for 76 minutes, which means that there is a total of about 2 hours for that class. We have a tumbling block schedule, which means each subject a student has in the week will have one extended class in the week. The time was intended to be an opportunity for additional support for students, plus time to address new curriculum when required. It is not living up to expectations, so we are taking a look at how best to reallocate those 42 minutes of instructional time to be more useful.

January Re-assessment Period

Just a reminder that our January Exam Break will allow students to have the opportunity to come in and be reassessed on one significant assessment in each of their courses. Teachers work with students to determine which assessments are available to be re-done and when they might come in to do the work.

Emergency Response Drills

We have resumed our normal suite of emergency response procedures, including:

- 6 evacuation drills
- 2 lockdown drills
- 1 shelter in place

There are a number of other protocols that can be brought to bear, but we don't necessarily practice each year. For example, a hold and secure is used if there is a threat that is external to the building (for example, police action in the area), where we secure all external exits and hold students in the school until the all clear. We have used "on alert" in a couple of instances where EMS has had to respond to the school and we want students to stay out of hallways until the situation is addressed. Regardless of the particular emergency protocol, our staff is trained and well prepared to initiate them if required.

Diploma Exams

The diploma exam schedule has been shared via the Phoenix Flyer and is on our website (the Google calendar). Teachers work with students to review material before the exams, and there are privately offered exam preparation programs available to families

who would like an even more intensive review. Students will be writing exams in the Learning Commons.

Course Change Requests

In anticipation of semester 2 that starts on January 30, we will be inviting our grade 12 students to submit any course change requests right after we return from the break. We will handle the grade 12 requests before opening it up to grade 11, then 10, then grade 9.

MADD Presentations

We are excited to again host MADD presentations, sharing information about the consequences of impaired driving and the responsibilities that each of us has in preventing this. We understand that some students will find the material very difficult and are allowing students to talk with one of our counselors if they feel they should not attend the presentations.

June 2022 PAT Results

SCHS Province						
	Participation	Acceptable	Excellence	Participation	Acceptable	Excellence
ELA	93.8%	89.6%	23.8%	81.5%	69.6%	12.9%
SS	95.3%	81.3%	29%	83.5%	60.8%	17.2%
Math	95.9%	75.6%	21.8%	83.1%	53%	16.7%
Science	96.9%	87%	30.6%	82.8%	68%	22.6%
FLA	75%	57.5%	0%	92.6%	73.5%	9.9%
ES	100%	87.5%	12.5%	94.5%	74.2%	19.5%

Notes:

Percentage of students meeting acceptable standard includes those meeting the standard of excellence. ELA and SS includes FI students

Darrell: We have the feedback from the teachers on their ideas on how to use A block better, we now want feedback from parents.

Comment: Let's do what the teachers feel is best, they are dealing with the students.

Email Darrell if you have any ideas or comments to share.

Darrell now does weekly announcements via Zoom streamed in to all classes.

Q: Are there issues happening in the washrooms? (vaping)

A: We have told students not to loiter in the washrooms.

Comment: Heard there was a fecal incident in the washroom.

A: It has happened, but does not happen often.

Comment: What about using hall passes? It seems like there is a fear of reprimanding. It seems like now there is a fear of the parents reprimanding the school. It used to be the students who were scared to get into trouble when they got home. It is disrespectful of the students and unfair to the people who have to clean up the mess. There are also students who are not using the washrooms because of the students who are misusing them.

Darrell: We need a workable approach. We are taking the approach of no loitering.

School Trustee Report:

Judi Hunter

November 2022, Newsletter Trustee Hunter

Schools are well into the swing of learning. For the most part there is a return to a normal school year. An exception would be travel outside of the country. Rocky View Schools will not approve out-of-country travel this year. Travel within Canada will continue.

Rocky View School District continues to grow by about 1000 students per year. The Board is in dire need of new schools and portables to accommodate the rise in student population. The Board met with Minister LaGrange to advocate for new schools in Rocky View. The Board will actively be engaging with communities to highlight the extreme need for student accommodation in Rocky View schools.

In its effort to support school councils and the work that councils do in support of students and parents, the Board hosted a by-laws workshop for school councils October 6, and on October 27, 2022 held the joint School Council/School Board meeting, its first in person meeting in over 2 years.

Alberta Education Minister Adriana LaGrange has appointed lawyer Julia Sproule as the province's first teaching profession commissioner. Her five-year contract begins January 1, 2023. Sproule will oversee a new complaint process for the province's 46000 teachers.

Tuesday, October 11, Rocky View Schools enabled SMS/text messaging service to parents, which will be used to disseminate timely information, such as school closures from both RVS and the schools their children attend.

Alberta Education has awarded \$4 million in dual credit start-up and enhancement funding to 43 school authorities for the 2022/23 school year. RVS schools received a 50 000 grant to assist students enrolled in dual-credit programs. Below are the institutions that RVS high school kids are enrolled in:

- 2 SAIT pre-employment
- 3 second year welding at Olds College
- 12 online at Olds College in various courses
- 11 online at SAIT in various courses
- 28 in Turning point which is a trades exploration course
- 32 in Tech for Ag at Olds College
- 5 in Vet Tech Assistant course at Olds College
- 40 females will be taking part in "Jill of All Trades" (planning still in progress)

This funding enables school authorities, public charter and accredited funded independent (private) schools to provide students in Grades 10, 11 and 12 with learning experiences to earn both high school credits and credits that count toward a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree, including a journey person certificate. These learning experiences will be developed in collaboration with an eligible post-secondary, business and/or industry partner.

Education continues to see educational options for parents, and school boards are trying to meet the needs of families. A remote island in British Columbia is an example.

A recent article in the Edmonton Journal gives some interesting information about the indigenous population in Alberta. Rocky View schools has set Truth and Reconciliation as a focus area, the article sets out the need for continued work. Link to article <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/indigenous-population-in-edmonton-area-continues-to-grow-statistics-canada-says-1.6624253>

Mental health continues to be in the fore front of educational decisions. Parents, teachers and students are advocating for greater mental-health supports. The recent “Support Public Education” rally in Edmonton spoke this issue in a list of others. A recent immigrant youth summit also focused on mental health support needs. <https://calgarysun.com/news/local-news/immigrant-youth-wellness-summit-builds-much-needed-peer-leadership/wcm/756e242b-35e3-4686-9567-2b096527e47f>

December 2022 Newsletter, Trustee Judi Hunter

Best wishes for our winter break and for the new year.

Good news ... The Board has received \$908 000.00 to expand the Stepping Stones mental health program that is currently operating in our schools. This funding will provide more service in all our schools with grades 5 to 9. Thank you to Lori Meyer, Sherri Black, and Jodi Neetz for their successful application!

The funding is in addition to:

- \$1.4 billion in Learning Support funding to meet the specialized learning needs of students and provide them with additional supports, such as student wellness programs.
- Alberta’s recent announcement of \$87 million over three years to help support the development of a school-based services model to integrate and expand access to addiction and mental health services for children and youth from elementary to high school.
- The expansion of the Integrated Schools Support Program to provide children and youth with prevention and early intervention supports that improve their health, wellness, and quality of life by building strength and resilience.

It is encouraging to see, government ministries working together. The ministry of Health link contains many connections to education [Child and Youth Well-being Action Plan](#) I would encourage community groups and schools to read this plan as there maybe opportunities for funding local initiatives.

Rocky View Schools applied for and received \$384 306 learning disruption funding to provide between 12 and 16 weeks of targeted programming during this school year. School authorities will have the flexibility to design this programming to best meet their local needs.

At the recent Alberta School Boards Association, Minister of Education LaGrange announced that the first option for new school builds will no longer be Public, Private Partnership(P3s). This news was welcomed by Boards across the province.

Congratulations to the Springbank Robotics Team



The team participated in the First Robotics Competition. One of the school's three teams garnered 2nd place which puts them in the #2 spot for all of Alberta! In addition to their technical expertise, the teams are to be recognized for their leadership and cooperation with other teams. The teams arrived early to assist in setting up the competition ring, but they problem-solved and helped other teams. Well done!!

Springbank High School Drama presents "The Three Musketeers" November 30 to December 2.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-three-musketeers-tickets-474232531267?utm-campaign=social%2Cemail&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-source=strongmail&utm-term=listing>

Canadian Parents for French appreciates all parents who supported the "Cheese Fundraiser". Funds will be used to support French culture week and French language activities for immersion students.

Rocky View Schools now has a "Give" button on its home page. Donors can select the school or program to receive the donation. A tax receipt is given. Once the donation has been made, the donor can then call the school and indicate where they would like the money to go.

Congratulations to Westbrook school on establishing an outdoor education program for their 7 and 8 students.

a) Volunteer Coordinators

Arlene A./Amal J.

We had a lot of parents help with the hot chocolate lounge.

Amal asked Darrell to let his new teachers know to reach out to Amal and Arlene if they need volunteers and they will send out a sign up genius.

b) Grad Representative Pam V.

We met this week and meetings will be more regular starting second semester. Hoodies have been handed out to most of the kids who ordered them. We will take over recycling of bottles in the school in Feb and with that money we will think of a legacy project. Baby photos can be submitted anytime – I have received 2. Please email your graduate photos (age 1-3 years old) to SCHSGradYYC@gmail.com and include "Grad Baby Photo and your students name" in the subject line. This will start Feb 1, 2023 and photos are accepted until May 1, 2023. Grad pictures are scheduled for the beginning of March. Grad gowns will be ordered the beginning of the second semester too.

New Business

Students driving in the parking lot.

Darrell: It is always an issue with the parking lot. We will follow up if we are given a license plate number. If the issue is on the surrounding roads, you will need to call the non-emergency line at the Cochrane RCMP detachment.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:49 pm

Next meeting February 15, 1:00pm