

**Springbank Community High School  
School Council Zoom Meeting  
Wednesday, February 16, 2022**

**Zoom Attendance:** Darrell L, Amal J, Ann P, Kara B, Monica W, Melanie S, Someya I, Tammy Y (8)

Melanie calls Meeting to order at 1:01pm.

**Approval of December Minutes:**

Motion to approve minutes: Monica W.

Second: Ann P.

All in Favor: Carried

**Chair Report:**

**Melanie S.**

We have received the money from the AB School Council Engagement Grant. Suggestion to use the funds for a guest speaker (Brooks Gibbs). Any leftover funds would be to purchase items to send home with the students if possible.

Amal J. makes a motion to spend \$500.00 on the Brooks Gibbs presentation.

Monica W. Seconds.

All in Favor: Carried

AB School Council AGM is April 24<sup>th</sup> via zoom. Let Melanie know if anyone is interested in attending.

SCHS Council Positions for next year: Treasurer, Grant Writer and CPF. Please let Melanie know if you are interested in any position for next year.

Joint Council Board Meeting: March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Principal's Report:**

**Darrell Lonsberry**

**Principal's Report to School Council**

*February 16, 2022*

Tolerance and Anti-Racism Week at SCHS

With the upcoming Pink Shirt Day (February 23, 2022), SCHS will be going beyond bullying and focusing on meaningful inclusion. As our school community becomes more diverse, we want to embrace and celebrate it in a beautiful way. We are taking advantage of this opportunity to raise awareness and build knowledge in our students regarding some complex issues. In the coming week, SCHC students will be participating in various activities around Anti- Racism, Allyship, Diversity & Inclusion.

- Monday's Advisory – Presentation by Akeisha Lari, Inclusion Coordinator from the Ontario Tech University
- Wednesday Flex Block - Anti- Racism Summit for any students who wish to share their thoughts, feelings and experiences as well as to ask any questions they may have in a safe environment. Guest speakers Ricardo Morales (Director) and Fleeha Ahmad (Schools Outreach Coordinator) from Calgary Catholic Immigration Society will be leading the summit.
- Thursday Flex Block – Individual teachers design a Flex on inclusion.
- Friday – Pink Day, where people are encouraged to wear pink in support of inclusion

### Course Selection, Registration and Timetabling for 2022-23

It seems strange to be asking people to think about course selections for next school year when we've only just begun semester 2 courses, but here we are. We are sharing the course catalog with students and families this week in preparation for having them fill out a "Pick Sheet" during the week of Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. We will be handing out the pick sheets in Advisory on February 28, where teachers will walk students through the process of selecting classes for next year; students will take the pick sheets home to discuss with parents and have the sheet signed before submitting it that Friday, March 4. From there, admin determines the number of sections for each class and builds a timetable. Our goal is to finalize timetables for grade 11 and 12 students prior to summer break. If we meet that target we will be providing the grade 9 and 10 timetables to students the first day they return in September.

### COVID-19 Protocols Update

Masks are optional for students and many continue to choose to wear them in school. Capacity limits for spectators of athletic events have been lifted in RVS. All adult guests and visitors to the school will need to continue to wear a mask when they are in the school (this includes at athletic events and competitions). We will await the government's decision on March 1 about whether further restrictions will be lifted.

### Class Sizes

We were able to bring in a couple of additional staff members for semester 2 to address class sizes for some of our larger classes. We had some unanticipated carry over from the previous year and our enrolment was larger than the projections had suggested, which allowed us to hire for semester 2. For our core classes we have an average of 25-30 in a class. There are definitely exceptions to this (some Spanish, PE and Science classes are between 30-35 students, for example), but we are in better shape this semester compared to last.

### Foods Room Renovations

Rocky View Schools is renovating our Foods lab, beginning in May. Mrs. Klatt has adjusted her planning to move the hands-on labs to earlier in the course so the written and theory can be tackled mostly when we lose access to our foods room. The renovations will take part of the student gathering area in order to incorporate a classroom space as well as the cooking stations in the room. Renovations are projected to be complete prior to startup of 2022-23 (that's the plan for right now, at least).

### Feedback on RISE Scholarship

We will again be offering the RISE scholarship this year. We provided 2 scholarships of \$1500 each last year to students who were able to describe a financial need for that support and who were able to demonstrate the principles of RISE (responsibility, integrity, strength and excellence). We will continue to offer 2 scholarships per year until the amount of the fund does not allow this. The staff scholarship committee discussed the idea of allowing SCHS alumni of accessing one of the 2 scholarships if there is not the interest or qualified candidates from our current student population.

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

The second semester parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for the last week in March. I welcome feedback from School Council on what the conferences might look like moving forward.

Tolerance and Anti Racism Week – students came up with the next steps, posters in the building, more guest speakers, cultural audit (see what cultures are in the building), create a student diversity committee.

Flex focus Thursday will be on diversity. Friday is Pink day – wear pink and we will send everyone off with pink lemonade/cupcakes/kindness.

Rise Up Scholarship Application – students can explain why they have a financial need to access the scholarship (Circumstance of Application). Characteristics of RISE are leadership, on going contributions. Students are not expected to have perfect attendance - attend classes but absences and lates are explained and excused.

Q- Is there any consideration given to a student who might not be as articulate in what they are trying to say? Would not like to see someone who was not as expressive as someone else not get approved.

A-Focus is more on clarity, not like writing an English paper. There is an opportunity for the student to engage verbally with someone and receive help with what they are trying to say.

We have 2 scholarships (\$1500.00 each). The staff committee talked about keeping 1 for current students and one for alumni who was not able to attend University as they needed to take a year off to work to pay for university.

Q- Is it offered to 1 current student and 1 Alumni? Or should we say Alumni is eligible but the committee will decide. If there are no alumni we hand out to 2 current students. Is there a timeline for Alumni to apply?

A- We would need to implement a timeline.

Last year was the first year we used the RISE scholarship. Summary – the scholarship committee will decide, possibly put a parameter of 1 year after graduating High School.

Q- With the province opening up how is the school handling Parent teacher conferences?

A- There is a meeting this afternoon to find out. Darrell asks what council would like to see happen for Parent teacher interviews. Comments: if we could do both that would be great, nice having the option of virtual, saves a lot of time. Darrell will send out a survey to parents to see if they want virtual or in person. It will help with a decision.

Comment: We only have “meet the teacher” in September, it would be nice to have a “meet the teacher” in the second semester.

Q- There is nothing on the calendar on the website, is there another one that we should be looking at for information?

A- That is the calendar you need to look at. The information is sent out in the “week at a glance”. Darrell will ask Anton to add more significant events on the google calendar.

Comments: We used to have the athletic tryouts and events on the calendar but after the athletic representative council position was removed the information was not posted. It is nice to see events in the calendar so it is a “one glance look”.

Q-Power school schedule does not reflect the kids’ schedule. Where can I view the kids schedule if I need to book an appointment?

A- There is a glitch with the power school, we want to have a schedule that shows their schedule next year. There is timetable under daily schedule / weekly timetable that show the “day”.

Comment: There is outdated information on the website.

## **School Trustee Report:** **JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER, TRUSTEE HUNTER WARD 5**

**Judi Hunter**

### **Happy New Year, May 2022 see the back of COVID**

Students are entering their second semester. High School Students will be writing diploma exams; however, the Minister of Education had reduced the impact of the exam to 10% given the interrupted learning over the past two years.



The Minister of Education has also indicated that there will be changes to the new curriculum resulting from feedback received by School Boards, parents, students, and teachers.

#### **Students Build Second Free Food Shed**

Students in the Cochrane Building Futures program are constructing of a second Free Food Shed for the community, in partnership with Helping Hands Society of Cochrane and Area, Kingsmith Builders, Big Hill Electric and Bow Valley Baptist Church.

The newest shed is located at Bow Valley Baptist Church and is smaller and more efficient than the shed built last year. The new shed contains a fridge/freezer combo and extra pantry space to store food for community members in

need. Students planned, designed, and built the entire shed and are currently working on insulation, shelving, doors, siding and electrical. Great job supporting your community!

This is a fascinating report on the future of biodigital convergence and its implication for society: laws, health; education

<https://horizons.gc.ca/en/2020/02/11/exploring-biodigital-convergence/>

Education Minister LaGrange stated in recognition of the unique pressures the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on students, teachers and families, we are making changes to curriculum implementation timelines. New curriculum in three subjects will be the focus of province wide implementation in September 2022: English Language Arts and Literature, Mathematics, and Physical Education and Wellness.

December 7, I attended a zoom presentation offered by the Prairie Mountain Health Division on Ant-racism, Diversity and Inclusion. Each of the speakers below offered information on that their organization was doing to address the evening's topic.

- Marni Panas, Program Manager, Diversity and Inclusion - Alberta Health Services
- Katy Doucette and Inspector Avril Martin, Calgary Police Service - CPS' Anti-Racism Action Committee§
- Jeanie Godfrey, Settlement Services Supervisor - Town of Banff

The virtual discussion touched on

- How public organizations are creating spaces that are emotionally and culturally safe.
- Why understanding gaps in cultural values is important knowledge.
- What can you do to support the conversation.

## **Trustee Hunter Ward 5 February 2022 Newsletter**

Much has happened since my January Newsletter. Omnicron took front and center for the month of January leading to a delayed start, the government's decision to supply masks for each student and Rapid Covid 19 tests to all families with children in school.

The Board continues to seek middle ground in the polarized environment on masking and vaccinations., following the advice of the Chief Medical Officer while we are still considered to be in pandemic status. Currently over 95% of RVS staff is vaccinated. There continues to be restrictions about attendance at student athletic events, but at least our students are now allowed to play. This a link to a parent's story and concern for her children.

<https://www.macleans.ca/society/the-cruel-ridiculous-reality-of-virtual-learning/>

For almost two years our students have been through a lot: in and out of in person learning, banning of sports activities, disruption to learning, masking, removal of normal childhood interactions and development. As a society we have witnessed rising family violence incidents, suicides increasing, mental health issues at crisis levels, financial impacts to families, loss of loved ones, increasing intolerance not only around masking and vaccinations but also general lack of civility. Since April 2020, there has been ten times as many under ages 45 addiction deaths, we have witnessed governments vilify the unvaccinated and so allowed a public looking to place to lay blame, treat people who were only before this pandemic our friends, our family and our neighbors as second-class citizens

Decisions have consequences, decision makers need to balance carefully, one set of needs against another. The need to support our hospitals and health care workers against the negative outcomes for children, families, our economy has consequences. It has been abundantly clear to me in watching our COVID 19 policies evolve, that the media has been complicit in the evolution of outcomes. Fear sells – reports no longer just give the facts but provide personal bias or commentary and use value laden vocabulary. Take for example a Texas mother who put her son in the trunk of the car in order to isolate him from her while in transit for testing. Did fear or limited analysis play a role?

We also are witnessing a collapse of the democratic process and freedom of speech which should be a concern to all of us. This democratic interruption comes when a pandemic is declared. Our elected government defers the Health Department whose job it is to keep the population safe. That small group of experts is not accountable to the public nor to the government it seems. In fact, calls for transparency or input are neglected. As the pandemic comes to an end, I am sure there will be many books and research papers written about how policies were developed, the role of the media and fear played in the population's understanding of and response to the virus, the lack of transparency in models developed, who counted as a COVID death and who did not, how our seniors were treated.

The world is a much smaller place than it was prior to the internet, communication and expertise is world-wide and immediate. The opportunity to engage world experts in the debate is critical for informed decision-making, yet it seemed any debate contrary to the health narrative was banned and those offering alternative ideas were discredited. Open debate is the hallmark of a democracy.

Many countries, provinces and states developed policies different from those of Alberta. Outcomes are informative – did masking mandates, vaccination mandates or isolation mandates work?

### **OPERATIONAL UPDATES DUE TO CHANGING PROVINCIAL MANDATES**

For all details visit [www.rvs.ab.ca](http://www.rvs.ab.ca)

Jan. 7 update includes information on:

- Masking;
- Medical-grade masks and rapid test kit distribution.
- January Diploma Exams are cancelled.
- Portions of January PAT have been delayed.
- Changes to case notification process/outbreaks.
- Temporary shifts to at-home learning

#### **Beginning Jan. 3, 2022:**

- RVS will require proof of full COVID-19 immunization, or a negative rapid COVID-19 test result for all adults (including staff) who are NOT RVS students to enter our schools or facilities.
- Field trips: Teams, extra-curricular groups and school field trips for curricular activities can attend a site in Alberta participating in the Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) only if the teacher/coach/sponsor agrees to go to the site and demonstrate proof of immunization/testing, and that ALL students participating in the event, regardless of their age, are exempted from showing proof of vaccination/proof of a negative test.
- Grade 12 Diploma Exams January diploma exams have been cancelled. A decision by the province will be made later in 2022 regarding April and June diploma exams. More information is available on Alberta Education's website.
- The weighting of diploma exams will be temporarily reduced to 10 per cent for the 2021/22 school year only.
- Grade 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) The administration of PATs will resume and are mandatory in the 2021/22 school year, as required by government. Portions of the January Grade 9 PATs have been delayed later into January.
- Grade 3 Student Learning Assessments (SLAs) RVS is considering piloting select Grade 3 classrooms to engage in this new provincial assessment process. Details of which classrooms are participating will be communicated to selected classrooms.
- Activities Extracurricular Activities These optional activities will be offered where teacher volunteers and community volunteers are available.
- Temporary Shifts to At-Home Learning for Kindergarten – Grade 12 classes
- With changing testing available across the province, AHS will not be providing specific case data to schools and RVS. As such, the former process used this fall about shifting a K-6 class to at-home learning when there are three AHS confirmed cases in a class in five calendar days will need to be eliminated. School divisions are now required to look at data such as availability of staff to maintain instruction, student absenteeism, operational challenges and local data if available.

- The Superintendent has the ability to shift a class or a grade in a school to temporary at-home learning for up to 10 calendar days.
- The decision to move an entire school or all of RVS to temporary at-home learning is a decision of Alberta Education. Should RVS believe this is necessary we will need to provide data to government related to staffing challenges, student pg. 8 Rocky View Schools – 2021/22 Return to School Operational Plan absenteeism, operational challenges, current classes and grades moved to at-home learning already, and other relevant local data. Information about Kindergarten – Grade 6 temporary at-home learning can be found in this guide and Grade 7 – 12 temporary at-home learning guide.

### **NEW E-TUTORING HUB**

Minister LaGrange announced a new e-Tutoring Hub to support student learning in Grades 4-9, specifically in literacy and numeracy.

- There will be no cost to students or school authorities for access to the e-Tutoring Hub. This service will be provided by Alberta Education free of charge.
- There will be new resource videos, developed by Alberta Education certificated teaching staff, which will be pre-recorded and short. Alberta Education expects a modest launch next week with only 4-5 videos total, but with more videos developed in the coming weeks.
- Currently it will support Grades 4-9 in all subjects. Over the coming weeks, support will extend to all Grades in K-12 in all subjects as possible, based on capacity within Alberta Education.
- Live tutoring will be offered in the coming weeks by Alberta Education staff. All tutors will be certificated teachers from Alberta Education, and videos can be accessed free of charge. More information will be released about this in the coming weeks.
- This resource will be a supplement to support student learning and will begin as a modest resource. This is not intended to replace the great work happening in classrooms.
- The e-Tutoring Hub will be available week of January 17 and will be announced when live.
- Alberta Education will seek feedback from school authorities for topics to include and how to best enhance this service.

### **High School Redesign Podcast**

Below is a link to a podcast about how our thinking about high school education might change. This podcast speaks to many of the innovations already part of Rocky Views schools learning environment: project-based learning, real-world applications, making learning relevant and visible, school culture, student voice. It is lengthy but interesting

[Like a Sponge podcast: Radical rethink | GreatSchools.org](#)

### **School Culture**

Below is a link to the importance of positive school culture to student learning.

[The power of positive school culture Video | GreatSchools.org](#)

### **Chancellor Murray Sinclair named to Order of Canada**

The Honourable Murray Sinclair, C.M.S.C. (LLD'19), 15th Chancellor of Queen's University, has been named a Companion of the Order of Canada. Chancellor Sinclair was one of 135 appointments to the Order of Canada, announced Wednesday, Dec. 29, by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada. Chancellor Sinclair has had many



accomplishments throughout his career, including being appointed as Manitoba's first Indigenous judge. He was the former chief commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and recently retired from the Canadian Senate.

#### **National Indigenous Scholarship Program 2022/23**

Western University's National Indigenous Scholarship Program is available to three incoming Indigenous undergraduate students studying full-time at Western's main campus. Recipients must meet the minimum academic averages for admission to their selected program and will be selected on the basis of academic achievement, creative and innovative thinking and previous or intended contributions to Indigenous communities. The deadline to apply is March 14. More information is available [here](#). Please share this information with any students who may be interested!

**MindUP** is a scientifically oriented and evidence-based program universal social-emotional training program.

Cost: Free. March 7 virtual 8:30 – 4:00

Open to public, register at:

<https://register.rockyview.ab.ca/>

For more information, please contact Jodi Neetz at [jneetz@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:jneetz@rockyview.ab.ca)

## **Committee Reports**

### **a) Grad Representative**

**Kim B.**

Grad Committee update: Gowns should be in beginning of March. We don't have to use them for pictures like last year so we are ahead of the game, so students will need to store them in a safe place until grad. Pictures are starting March 8<sup>th</sup> and all students need to sign up. The information has been in the newsletters for almost a month now. We only have 75/161 signed up so far. There is a sitting fee for grad portraits that is on top of our school grad fee – this is for the photo session. They set up a professional setting and spend 30 minutes per student, giving them different poses and props. So, it is basically the payment for the photographers time. The student grad committee are choosing who they would like to speak and participate in their special day. They are working on whom they would like to invite as guest speaker. The plan is a go for Winsport, right now size wise is 500 people so that would basically be a grad and parents, with changing restrictions, we will just see. The student committee wants to have a Graduation Week leading up to grad on June 4<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a week of "all about them" so a grad/spirit clothing day, wear their gown day, formal day, tnt and their skip day. We have made it very clear



that the school does not support a camp out day on school property and police will be informed and called if students choose this activity on school property. Grad fees need to be paid on school cash ASAP. Baby pictures need to be sent in by the end of the month preferably. We only have about 25 so far submitted. Grade 12's are doing the bottle recycling. Money will be used towards a legacy project – they have been asked to bring ideas for a legacy project to the next grad meeting.

Q- Are there still cap and gown through the school? Is the sitting fee for cap and gown or casual photos? Will need to follow up with an answer.

**b) Volunteer Coordinators**

**Arlene A./Amal J.**

Staff Appreciation – last year worked well, can we do the same as last year? Darrell says it is good to do the same as last year.

Darrell asks for parents help for the Foods room Reno - moving items. Darrell will send Amal an email with the dates to set up sign up for parents.

**c) CPF Representative**

**Vacant**

No report. We need to fill this position.

**New Business:**

No new business.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:50 pm