



George McDougall High School

School Council Minutes

September 13th, 2023

6:30pm

Attending: Kelli E, Kristal F, Darcy M, Scott B, Gladys B, Erin Q, Riley, Shera-Lee L, Branda R, Arooj F, Lisa Ety

Via Zoom: Todd B, Carrie C, Wendy, Darren K, Vicki P, Melanie G, Anita M, MDP

1. Call Meeting to Order - Kelli called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm
2. Land Acknowledgment - Kelli read the RVS Land Acknowledgement statement
3. Approval of Agenda - Darcy motioned to approve, Kristal second
4. Approval of June 14th, 2023 Meeting Minutes - Erin motioned to approve, Darcy second
5. Special Presentation - Leadership (Riley)
 - helped with grade 9 orientation
 - Week of Welcome has been a success of far. \$170 was raised selling chocolate bars at lunch, Where's Waldo at lunch on Wednesday, Tacky Tourist day on Thursday and a bbq on 15th (all supplies donated by Co-op). It will be \$3 for hot dog.
 - starting to plan for Halloween events
 - starting mentoring at Ecole Edwards in the coming weeks
6. Administration Report - Scott Bloxham
 - course changes has finished up. It was done a little different this year, please send any feedback on the process to admin and guidance. With 1057 students is was tricky to get a timetable set. It has been a bit of clunky with lots of puzzle pieces to fit together.

- there have been changes to We Connect so there are less opportunities available to us this year
- our school population has grown as expected. We are sitting at 1057 students, with new students trickling in.
- the new portable arrived today, they are in the process of connecting it and getting permits for occupancy. End of October is the estimated ETA for classes to start in that space.
- new staff: Mr. Nguyen, Ms. Wenaas, Mr. Smith, Mr. Overguard, Shelly Spencer
- there was a large intake of complex learning students this year
- assemblies took place last week with guidelines expressed to all students about expectations, academics, attendance, late slips and vaping/smoking consequences discussed (expulsion, non return of vape confiscated). Students are clear that if they see vaping to report it. This is challenge for every high school in AB. Students who are late will have to check in at the office.
- there will be a university fair at the BMO Centre in Calgary on Sept 27
<https://www.studyandgoabroad.com/calgary/>
- we are working on our SEP (school education plan). This is a strategic plan to help improve student learning, connect with community, education plan (advancing numeracy and literacy skills to build future ready students), creating inclusive engaging healthy learning opportunities for all students

Advancing student numeracy/literacy skills - we are highlighting the pieces that are working well right now and looking at what areas have the most area for growth. One observation has been that students who have chosen to take a lower academic level class(-2) are having the biggest struggle to upgrade to a higher academic level (-1)

Building future ready students - we are building on dual credit courses (ex. welding at Olds, university level psychology). We want to leverage them as much as possible to help our students. We are looking for more of those opportunities, expanded option courses

7. Trustee Report - Todd Brand

- Please see attached the Board Meeting Highlights from May/June
- Todd Brand will be our trustee rep next year

- If you have any questions or concerns please contact Todd at tbrand@rockyview.ab.ca

8. New Business

- School council email: georgemcdougall-schoolcouncil@rvschools.ab.ca
- Parent concerns over guidance issues to start the year, emails were not answered or still have not been answered, parents have called the school but would not be put through to guidance, students had to fill out form with course changes they wanted before school started. This decision made because the 100 new registrants took up all the in person appts available.
- RVS is doing school council orientation via zoom Sept 27th @ 6:30
- Parent concerns over vaping in the bathrooms during lunch. Can a parent be hired to walk the halls at lunch to keep this from happening? This is an HR question and the school is not comfortable putting a parent of a student in that position.
- Elections: Darcy puts her name forward for vice chair, after asking three times no one else put their name forward, Darcy will continue as vice chair for the 2023/24 school year. Erin put her name forward for this position treasurer, after asking three times no one else put their name forward, Erin is proclaimed new treasurer for the 2023/24 school year. Secretary position is vacant, Jocelyn L put her name forward for secretary, after asking three times no one else put their name forward, Jocelyn is proclaimed secretary for the 2023/24 school year
- learning commons has been closed during lunch, students are wondering why?
- can instagram posts go out earlier than the day of an event? This is student run by leadership, it will be discussed with the communication team.
- grad banquet committee meeting was last night, Katie Heaven is chair
- Oct 5 there will be a convocation meeting at the school followed by a parent banquet meeting

9. Next meeting date is October 11th, 2023 at 6:30 pm

10. Adjournment - Kelli adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

Sept. 7, 2023

Supporting the Leaders of Tomorrow

- With a mission of empowering students to deepen their sense of self and broaden their network of connections, the Rocky View Schools Leadership Academy (RVSLA) allows students to work together on projects, honing their communication, problem-solving and collaboration skills.
- In 2022/23, students in year 3 of the RVSLA planned the Rebooting Student Leadership event, featuring leadership speaker and author Drew Dudley. The students presented on this process including what they learned to the Board of Trustees (the Board) of Rocky View Schools (RVS).
- Students in the RVSLA have also organized a leadership conference for middle schoolers, volunteered in their communities including at the Calgary Food Bank and the Drop-in Centre and developed an Alumni Advisory Committee.
- Current and former students from the RVSLA program shared their experiences with the Board, recounting how the leadership program has impacted them and set them up for success.
- The RVSLA offers a full-year five-credit course for RVS students in grades 10, 11 and 12.

Enrolment in RVS Schools Climbs 3.8 per cent

- Students returned to classrooms across RVS the week of Sept. 5 – early enrolment numbers indicate an additional 1,052 students joined the division.
- RVS is required to submit its enrolment total as of Sept. 30 to the Government of Alberta. Total enrolment as of Sept. 6 is 28,664; however, it is important to note this number will continue to flex both up to and after the Sept. 30 deadline.
- We welcome all new students and those returning to our schools this September.
- While enrolment growth is positive, it continues to pose significant challenges in two vital areas:
 - space in already full to over-full schools while we wait for new schools to be funded and built and for more modular classrooms, and
 - inequities created by the Weighted Moving Average funding model, which underfunds growing school divisions. For RVS, this funding model means around 800 students will not be funded by the provincial government this school year.
- More information on these advocacy priorities is available on the RVS [website](#).

School Facility Improvement Update

- RVS takes pride in its high standards for the maintenance of its schools and facilities ensuring they are positive and welcoming places to learn and work.

- The Operations department completed several significant projects during 2022/23, including replacing the roof at Indus School and replacing heat pumps, portable roofing or corridor flooring at a number of schools.
- The largest project was a renovation of the school on Powell Street in Cochrane over the summer to ensure the building was ready to welcome the Cochrane Christian Academy (CCA) to its new home in September 2023. The renovation included new flooring and painting throughout the building, replacing the roof, adding new exterior windows and upgrades to the washrooms.

Board Strategic Plan up for Community Engagement Award Through ASBA

- The Board has submitted its 2022-2026 Strategic Plan engagement process to the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) for an award as an exemplary example of community engagement.
- The Community Engagement Award is given annually to a school board that has engaged its community during the previous school year.
- The Board is proud of its commitment to best practices in community engagement and believes the strategic plan engagement process demonstrates its dedication to this important work.
- Awards are presented at the ASBA's Fall General Meeting.

Board Approves Self-Evaluation Report

- The Board approved their annual self-evaluation report and made a commitment to monitor priorities and suggestions agreed to and bring items forward for the Board's consideration as appropriate.

Organizational Meeting Set for Sept. 21

- An organizational meeting has been set for 9:30 a.m. Sept. 21.
- The Board chair and vice-chair for the upcoming year will be elected by trustees during this meeting.
- Committee appointments will also be determined during this meeting. A regular meeting of the Board will follow the Organizational Meeting.