

George McDougal High School

School Council Minutes

October 9th 2024

6:30pm

In attendance: Darcy M, Erin Q, Melanie G, Vicki P, Scott B, Melissa B, Sherry M.
Online: Jonah/Monica

I. Call meeting to order - Darcy called meeting order at 6:30pm.

II. Land acknowledgment - Darcy read RVS Land Acknowledgment statement.

III. Approval of Agenda - Erin motioned to approve agenda and Sherry seconded. Motion passed

IV. Approval of September meeting minutes - Erin motioned to pass minutes and Sherry seconded. Motion passed.

V. Student Leadership Presentation: delivered by leadership student Casie.

- Recap of September WOW week September 16 - 20th and Terry Fox Monday September 27th.

September 16th Sweet Start - handed out suckers at front and back bus entrance. Student response was they loved it.

- Tuesday September 17th - Club day - leadership students made tri-fold posters about the clubs/sports GMHS offers and displayed them in the aux gym at lunch hour. It was a good opportunity to showcase everything that GMHS has to offer, but consensus is that this needs to be done at the beginning of the year.
- Wednesday September 18th - Where's Waldo - 1 teacher wore the Waldo hat, a second teacher wore Waldo's shirt and Casie wore Waldo's glasses. Students could one their guesses on slips in the learning commons.
- Thursday September 19th - Pancake breakfast and Ian Tyson - breakfast was a hit and they ran out surprisingly fast. Ian Tyson the motivational speaker, came to speak to the students they thought he was amusing.
- Friday September 20th - Just dance held in the main gym. Students loved it.
- Friday September 27th - Terry Fox run & BBQ. The bbq was a success \$730.00 was raised, ended up reaching the goal of \$1,500.00 which means Mr. Bloxham gets to have his leg waxed at the next pep rally. Overall the day was successful.

- September 16 - 27th Raffle. Tickets sold for \$2 for one ticket \$5 for three. Prizes were for Dudz, bubble tea brewers and pizza punch cards. Overall was a fun way to raise money.

October goings on

Halloweek [October 1 - 31st](#)

- Tuesday October 1st - Scare hunger - Competition against each grade to see who can get the most donations . So far grade 10 is in the lead.
- Saturday October 5th - Airdrie Bowl & Fill the Ford

GMHS won the football game. Cam Clark Ford let us borrow a truck for the fill the Ford at the football game . It was another opportunity for food donations. Black out was the theme.

- Wednesday 9th, 16th and 23rd - Movie Wednesday - watching Nightmare before Christmas in the main gym during lunch
- [Friday 25th](#) - Flannel Friday - wear a flannel
- [Monday 28th](#) - Swaeter weather and pumpkin painting - wear a sweater and pumpkin painting at lunchtime.
- [Tuesday 29th](#) - [Tuesday](#) treats - handout suckers at front and back doors
- [Wednesday 30th](#) - Fly on the Wall - Tape a teacher to the wall. \$1 for 2 pieces of tape and 1 food item buys 4 pieces of tape. To be held in the main gym during lunch.
- [Thursday 31st](#) - Costume contest, Kindy Parade & Scare hunger
- Costume contest categories - individual, pairs, groups and most creative.
- Kindy parade - the kindergarteners from Ecole Edward's come and walk around in their costumes and some teachers hand out candy.
- Scare hunger wraps up
- Haunted House - grade 10 leadership is running the haunted house this year. Will be set up in the cafeteria for grade 3s.

There will also be a pep rally TBD.

VI. Administrative Report - Scott B.

- Ms Wong & Ms Bartlett humanities temporary.
- Funding for a new learning assistant - new position also for general classroom support.
- School Education Plan (SEP) due today, asked for an extension and was granted. Key things are building off the list that was created last year and the wording.
- Literacy and Numeracy strategies for this year. Departments creating word walls using words that are frequently used in their departments. For example helping Math students break down word mathematics equations, and Science students with comprehension of scientific wording. The same concept will be applied to the Building Futures program. With word walls being used for building, job opportunities and trades.

- The lunch and learn presentations will be expanded to provide students with workplace opportunities as well as programs needed to meet the needs of the field they're interested in.
- Diploma results SEP - all departments will use data collected to expand better understanding and growth for students and success and maintain. Our numbers are better this year than the previous year.
- Completion rate of high school is 87% in 3 years learning and 92% for 5 years learning to earn diploma.
- There were 8 adult students last year to complete their High school equivalency.
- The Fraser Institute - GMHS has increased its points this year in comparison to last year (rated the lowest in Airdrie last year). St. Martin is currently tied with GMHS at 71%

VII. Trustee report - Melyssa B.

- September 19th RVS school board trustees elected are Ward 6 Trustee Fiona Gilbert elected as Board Chair and Ward 5 Trustee Judi Hunter was elected Vice-chair.
- Melyssa sits on current RVS committees: learning support, school board, audit, and transportation committees.
- Q3 Update Current projections for the full year are a net surplus of \$3.5 million resulting in a final reserve balance of \$7.6 million which is 2.5 per cent of operating budget.
- Government requires school divisions to maintain reserves between 1 and 3 per cent. The increase in reserves coming mainly from Maintenance and Transportation.
- There is a budget shortfall in transportation RVS has contracts with 2 bussing companies and current contracts to be renegotiated prior to their 5yr term due to cost of operations increases.
- Bus fees to possibly increase to help offset the current operating expenses.
- Approval of new modules for this year is 12 within Airdrie for the following schools: Herons Crossing, Ralph McCall, AE Bowers, and Heloise Lorimer.
- Consultation on Ward boundary review: The Board engaged the services of a consultant to conduct a review of the current boundaries of the wards within RVS. This process was undertaken in response to a population increase from 2016 of 32 per cent within RVS' communities. Board Policy 29 – Ward Structure requires a ward boundary review be conducted to ensure effective and equitable representation by population is maintained.
- Currently Airdrie population consists of 50% of student base of RVS with Cochrane as 2nd most dense student populations. How to balance urban/ rural boundaries?
- Airdrie population is big enough to support their own school division. City of Medicine Hat has their own division and less population base than Airdrie. Board looking and challenges/recommendations.

- Wards 2 & 4 had consultation to redraw their boundary/ward division lines.
- Student showcase: FI teachers and students presented to board from AE Bowers and grade 9 students from GMHS
- Balancing spaces in Chestermere is going on now until December 2024. Hoping to close on the decision by January 2025 and move forward with the decision.
- Support and Inclusion: looking for more information and data as trustees to support inclusion in the board.
- School calendar: week off in November? The opinions are split within the community from the survey from parents. To be discussed at the next RVS meeting.
- Advocating for RVS - space, support, funding for students public education. What does it mean for RVS looking for funding & planning from AB government. Budget meeting re: funding for new builds and planning.
- RVS superintendent to retire end of school year. Currently looking for replacement to start before elections next year.

VIII. New Business:

- FI will not be presenting in November, a different department will, most likely Social Studies. Other departments to follow suit in the future. Going forward all departments invited to attend council will be invited by Scott B.
- FI department meeting: discussing the introduction of morning announcements offered in French. And struggling to find FI in-school field trips to involve FI students and entice them to participate without losing class time in their core subjects.
- Staff appreciation **night November 6th** - Taco night Erin motioned to carry forward and Melanie seconded. Voted yes unanimously.
- Format of school Newsletter. Scott to reach out to guidance and sports department to add to weekly/monthly newsletters. Lunch and learns parent information asked to be included as well as student supports which can be found on our website on the learning tab.
- Breakfast Program - yes we offer one. Located in the kiosk serves fresh fruit, granola bars and yogurt. There is also lunch made available by Airdrie Foodbank which are sandwiches that are prepared here and also supplied to Ecole Airdrie. Our program has a healthy budget and is run by Jackie Vang. Parents looking to help out should coordinate with Jackie.

IX. Old Business:

- Closure of learning commons during lunchtime? Discussed and as per Scott the only time the commons has been closed over lunch hour has been if there has been a meeting/presentation or an organization has rented the space.
- Lunch and Learn - will have more opportunities throughout the year for bigger and more frequent events

- Announcements are done first thing in the morning as per student feedback this is preferable over the noon hour announcements

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm