



# George McDougall High School School Council Minutes

February 12th, 2025  
6:30pm

**In attendance:** Jackie Vang Chatnelle Whetstone, Lise Reichert, Scott Bloxham, Erin Quiring, Vicki Pinette, Darcy McCurdy, Melanie Gaze, Sherry Miller, Kelli Ellingson, Jennifer Patterson, Malia.

**Online:** Jana Brigden, Jonah ?

**I. Call Meeting to order-**The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

**II. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement** - Kelli.

**III. Approval of agenda** - Melanie motioned to approve agenda and Darcy seconded. Motion passed.

**IV. Approval of January 10th meeting minutes** - Darcy motioned to approve minutes; Melanie seconded. Motion passed.

**V. Student Leadership Presentation** - Malia

Each meeting we have a member of the student leadership to give us an update of what they are up to. Here is a hi light reel of their upcoming events:

- Kindness week is this week . Leadership has cans of “Crush for your Crush” for sale!
- Monday kindness cards at lunch.
- Tuesday- Tues Treats
- Wednesday is movie day. This month showing 10 Things I hate about you
- Thursday - Friendship bracelets at lunch.
- Friday - Valentines day and sodas handed out.
- Pink Shirt day is on Feb 26th.
- Community-Mentoring with Big Brother/Big Sisters has ended leadership students will continue in Semester 2 with same program
- Cedar wood Station - students will pick a day that works to go and be with the seniors to play games and do crafts, etc.
- Parent question - Is there a budget for leadership? Scott answered- Yes - students bring budget requests to Scott. The money comes from Student Climate or Student Leadership funds depending on what they are trying to accomplish.

**VI. Teacher Presentation** -Chantelle Whetsone

- Ms. Whetstone spoke about the “We Connect” program that is offered within RVS, which is an online program for to assist students in providing courses when they have

scheduling conflicts and timetable restrictions. Students still attend their class within their daily block, but complete the course online.

- Courses are offered through Summit Trails
- Chantelle's roll is to offer student support and monitoring for the We Connect courses.
- Summer school is offered through GMHS as well. Students can begin to register starting March, but actual courses don't commence until summertime. If you are taking a diploma level course, you would be expected to write the diploma in August.
- Check Government of Alberta website for this info or contact your guidance counselor to register.
- 

#### Off Campus programs:

- GHMS offers different off campus work experience programs where students can work or volunteer to obtain school credits. Some examples are:
- Green Cert: students pick program, students get a study book and they complete three competencies and once complete receive a Green Certificate from the government.
- RAP program: Registered Apprenticeship Program is for students registered in a trade- usually this happens in grade 10.
- Dual Credit Program-partnerships with SAIT and OLDS to gain credits at HS and College level. Some programs are : accounting, med terminology, vet tech, welding, etc. Limited spots are available, but see Chantelle to learn more!

#### **VII. Teacher Presentation - Lise Reichert - English/Drama**

- Has taught for 17 yrs at GMHS . Teaches grade 9 English.
- Also has taught choir and teaches musical theatre.

Recently completed theatre production with students who have been with her for 3 years. Each year the students who are in the graduating class can present ideas of their choice for a theatre production.

#### **VIII. Administration Report- Scott Bloxham**

- Recent drama production went well, lights got to shine !
- End of Feb beginning of March- sending out course picks for the 25/26 year.
- Grade 9s will not be here next year.
- Numbers projections have us losing 10 staffing positions, which could change. All of the staff who know they will not be here next year have been informed. No official announcement yet as things can change. More info will come at end of year.
- March 6 is grade 10 orientation for open house.
- March 3 - "Commun I Tea" Indigenous community celebration-by invite only celebration
- Upcoming assurance surveys will be sent from the province to parents of grade 10 students. If you don't know the answer to a question please reach out to ask as answers marked as "don't know" get a neg result. Scott says he has seen great growth in the parent community. More opportunities to have a say in what is happening.

- The new mascot was introduced at a recent pep rally. Please stay tuned for the name the mascot contest.

## **IX. GMHS Trustee Report - Melyssa Bowen**

February 2025

Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting

Mechanics Training Program Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Partnership with Cam Clark Ford in Airdrie, allows high school students to work in a fully equipped shop while learning the mechanics trade through hands on instruction.

Mr. Teasdale and two past students shared the history of the program and what it has meant for them.

Board made a decision on how to better balance Chestermere's schools,

With a 262 per cent rise in population over the past two decades, RVS' schools in Chestermere are experiencing significant and sustained enrolment growth.

The changes will be shared out with the impacted families and school communities, notable change will be that Chestermere will now have a much needed second middle school.

Muriel Clayton Middle School Designation Adjusted to Address Utilization

The Board of Trustees made an important decision regarding school designations for students residing in the Prairie Springs neighbourhood to help address higher projected utilization at Muriel Clayton Middle School.

Beginning in the 2025/26 school year, students residing in Prairie Springs will attend:

- Kindergarten to Grade 9 at Windsong Heights School
- Grades 10 – 12 at W.H. Croxford High School

More information regarding the changes being implemented in September is available on the website. Communication of all changes were sent out shortly after this final decision

was made, to help prepare for 25/26 school year.

The Board received an update on the division's Education Plan, in year two of the plan, Goals of RVS' current division Educational Plan are to advance numeracy and literacy, build future ready students, and create inclusive, engaging, and healthy learning opportunities for all students.

Some things that were highlighted:

- Provincial government mandatory literacy and numeracy screening and assessment results were shared and there was conversation about
- Based on these literacy results, RVS is targeting government provided Learning Disruption

Funding to provide additional supports to 10 schools while other schools may reach out for additional support and each request will be considered.

- RVS administered a new numeracy assessment aligned with the curriculum for Grade 4 -10 students.

• I mentioned the OurSchool survey when I shared a bit about our approved 23/24 AERR. That was implemented for the first time in the spring of 2024 for Grade 4 – 12 students. It will go out again for 2025 with an intention to expand the survey to parents.

- A Career Learning Practice Guide has been developed which provides guidance to all schools for advancing career learning and planning for Grade 1–12 students.

- RVS is expanding and deepening positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS) Implementation across all schools and on school buses.

Trustee Orientation Ad Hoc Committee Created for Upcoming Trustee Election

An ad hoc committee has been created by the Board to guide development and delivery of the orientation process for new trustees following the election in October.

The Board received a letter from Minister of Education, Demetrios Nicolaides in response to its letter regarding the need for a more equitable funding model. The Board will continue to advocate for a change to the current Weighted Moving Average funding model to one which provides funding for every student each year.

School Councils Survey closed on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to those that were able to respond to the survey! The School Councils Committee will review the feedback provided and use the information to help determine how best to support School Councils in RVS going forward.

## **X. New Business**

a) Mascot - spoke about previously in admin report.

b) We are currently awaiting a quote for the purchase of picnic tables for the school. Possibly \$1000-\$1500 per table plus installation fee.

- *Melanie Gaze made a motion to purchase 1 picnic table using funds from the Pizza Friday sales; seconded by Sherry Miller. **All in favour, motion passed.** The picnic table will be installed in the courtyard.*

c) Kelli asked for ideas on how to use our \$500 provincial government grant from the province. Decision tabled until next meeting. Please bring ideas to council on how to spend this money.

d) Question from the community regarding the updating of the GMHS Signs? It looks like we may need an update, however Scott Bloxham advised this is not in the budget at the moment.

## **XI. Old Business - tabled.**

## **XII. Open Floor questions:**

- a) Regarding questions about academic awards for students vs athletics awards. Question - would GMHS would support an athletic achievement night for our students as there is a general feeling that athletics are more supported than academics. Scott- There is an athletic/academic award that is provided during the Night of the Mustangs. As a school, we do a presentation for our graduates with respect to academics. There are conversations within departments about trying to bring back some of the trophies. Scott is not opposed to this, however the awards require a passion person to maintain them. Scott is going to bring this up again at a department meeting to see if they need to revisit the way they present awards.
- b) Question from parent - is there a policy on late work without penalties? There is a policy and it is written within the course guidelines. Students have a

**XIII. Pizza Fridays-** Kelli read a heartfelt thank you message from parent council directed towards all of the Pizza Friday volunteers.

**XIV. Knights of Columbus donation** - The Airdrie Nights of Columbus made a \$300 donation to school. Historically this money is given to council and then council gives it to the school to be used for a grad scholarship.

- *Jen Patterson made a motion to donate funds from the Nights of Columbus to be used for grad scholarship; Darcy seconded. **All in favour, motion passed.***

Meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm

Next meeting to be held Wednesday, March 12th at 6:30pm.