

## BCSC Meeting Minutes for January 23, 2024

### **Attendance:**

#### School

Jennifer Gervais (Principal)  
Norma Lang (Trustee)  
Liz Schweizer (RVS)

#### Council

Terri-Lynn Finck (Chair)  
Melanie Lichtenberger (Vice Chair)  
Andrea Krill (Secretary)

#### Parents/Community Members

Terri S.  
Joanne W.  
David Ledoyan (Beiseker Mayor)

**Call to Order: 7:02pm**

**Modifications to Agenda: None**

**Review of minutes from last meeting:**

**Motion to accept minutes as presented by Terri, Mel seconds.**

**Student's Report: No Report Available**

**Teacher's Report:** Liz Schweizer, Off-Campus Coordinator for Airdrie, Crossfield and Beiseker  
In Beiseker on Monday mornings

Review components of off-campus programming: Work Experience 15-25-35, Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP), Green Certificate Program, Trades Exploration Program, CAREERS NextGen

**Trustee Report:** Norma Lang

### **CCA Reads Advances Student Literacy Skills by Encouraging Reading at Home**

- Students at Cochrane Christian Academy (CCA) are being encouraged to discover a love for reading through a program introduced at the school in the fall by the school's literacy team.
- CCA Reads aims to get students reading outside the classroom and to help them develop a love of reading by choosing books they are interested in, rather than books they are assigned.
- Students track how often they choose to read outside school hours. For every 25 nights they accumulate, they win a prize. A coveted prize is the ability to have Pizza with the Principal once the student has accumulated 150 nights.

### **New School in Langdon will Welcome Students in Grades 9 – 11 When it Opens in September 2024**

- The Board today made the decision to open the new high school in Langdon for Grades 9 to 11 in the 2024/25 school year and grow to include Grade 12 students for 2025/26.
- This decision was made after consideration of what the Board and Administration heard during a public engagement with community members, both in-person and online. The input collected through the engagement expressed a broad range of opinions, scenarios and ideas on which students should attend the new school and existing schools in the area. The Board believes this decision best serves all students in the community. Forward to celebrating the opening of the new school with the community next school year.

### **Supplemental Growth Funding Supports but Does Not Solve Instructional Funding Shortage**

- Each spring, the Government of Alberta announces the funding being provided to school divisions based on their projected enrolment, their previous two years of enrolment and the funding manual. This funding method is called the weighted moving average (WMA) model.
- For a growing district like RVS, funding based on the previous two years' enrolment and projected enrolment for the upcoming year does not keep up with the actual number of new students coming into the division.
- Despite having to educate 28,558 students in 2023/24, RVS' grants are based on 27,835 students. This means there are approximately 720 students not included in the division's base instructional grants.

- On Nov. 28, additional funding for student enrolment growth was announced as a one-time grant. Divisions will receive \$1,500 per student for actual enrolment growth between zero and 100 students and growth exceeding 100 students will be funded at \$2,000 per student.
- For RVS, this means the updated supplemental enrolment growth grant formula should generate an

additional \$1.2 million in revenue for RVS. These dollars are in addition to the \$737,000 of supplemental enrolment growth funding already anticipated for 2023/24.

- However, even with nearly \$2 million in supplemental enrolment growth grants in 2023/24, the WMA still results in RVS receiving \$3.3 million less than if every student was fully funded this school year.

The Board Budget committee will meet Feb 1 to determine if any further budget adjustments will be made.

#### **Premier Invited to Chestermere High School to Participate in Career Connection Programs**

- RVS has extended an invitation to Premier Danielle Smith to visit Chestermere High School (CHS) to see how students in the school's Cosmetology and Culinary Arts career connection programs are learning skills in those fields. The Premier recently indicated a willingness and desire to visit schools across the province and RVS is keen to be included in a tour.

#### **Jan 11, 2024**

Winter Market at Banded Peak School Builds Entrepreneurial Skills and Community

- In December, Banded Peak School in Bragg Creek hosted its third annual Outdoor Winter Market and Concert with students from all grades participating to make it successful.

- This event is designed to gather the community together during the busy holiday season to celebrate Banded Peaks' talented and creative students. If not selling their wares, students could still take part in the event by participating in an outdoor performance by the school's youngest attendees or by playing in the band.

- Young entrepreneurs in Grades 5 – 8 learned how to build a small business including how to produce, market and sell their products. Selling at the market required the students to use their numeracy and financial literacy skills. This year's market also included the telling of night sky stories from an Indigenous perspective.

#### **Division Education Plan Update**

- RVS' 2023-2027 Education Plan was approved by the Board of Trustees in May 2023 and implemented in the fall of 2023. The plan includes goals to have our students achieve, build and create within a future-focused system. Each school develops a School Education Plan aligned with the division's goals and responding to the unique needs of their school community.

- Highlights from the first four months of the 2023/24 school year include:

- o **Goal 1 of the plan is centred on advancing students' literacy and numeracy skills.**

- In response to assessment results which indicate improvements in literacy and numeracy are needed, schools developed goals and measures in these areas to guide their instructional focus and provide appropriate interventions for groups of students. Some elementary schools received ongoing learning disruption funding from the province based on assessment results and are using that funding to provide additional time for staff to work with students, engage in professional learning to enhance instructional skills and to purchase resources for use in classrooms.

- o **Progress has been made on Goal 2 of the Education Plan – building future-ready students.**

- Administration and teachers at 33 schools formed a Career Connections Strategy group which meets to discuss current practices related to career education planning and best practices for providing students in Grades 6 – 12 with access to initiatives intended to help build career skills development programs. This group will ultimately provide recommendations for the development of a Career Connections Practice Guide.

- o **Goal 3 focuses on creating inclusive, engaging, healthy learning opportunities for all students.**

- Schools are focused on teaching Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)-focused lessons in each classroom, expanding their use of 'catching kids doing good' and rewarding them in various ways for positive behaviour.

- **For the second half of the school year, the following initiatives will be launched:**

- o Begin the development of the RVS Math Assessment tool in the spring.

- o Implement the OurSCHOOL survey for students in Grades 4 – 12; this survey replaces the Education Plan Survey conducted by RVS in support of the previous Four Year Education Plan.

- o Continue with implementation of the new curriculum as well as the use of learning disruption funding to support our youngest readers and mathematicians.

#### **Principal/Assistant Principal Report:**

- School Update

- Update from December Activities

- Concert - went well, the couple changes

- School Activities

- 12 Days of Christmas

- Santa Visit
  - Storybook Theatre (Elementary)
- Diploma's and PAT's-Full swing
- Semester 1 done.
- Semester 2 January 31
  - Special Projects Options High School
    - CnC machine projects in Construction. May include Art Students as well.
- Junior Boys Basketball wraps up this week
- Senior Boys Basketball continues until March
- Curling Team
- What's happening in next/February?
  - Kindness week activities- Mrs Sheldon (CDA) Yvonne Paschalis (Councillor)
  - Grade 11 Course review
  - Be Brave Hockey Game- Grades 4/5 and 6 - Feb. 28th (Surprise!)
  - Student Council
  - February 16th Self-Directed Professional Learning
  - February break 16th-26th
  - Teachers at Teacher Convention February 22nd and 23rd
  - RVS Middle School Leadership Conference- Grade 5-8 March 1st

#### Chairperson's Report:

- **Old Business: None to report**
- **New Business:**
  - Melanie - email request for volunteers, include message in the newsletter for Casino dates: April 20 & 21st
    - Will send the shift sign-up form to Jennifer to be distributed
    - email/newsletter could include info on Casino and amount of funding we receive from it
  - Clarification on screening of teacher/support staff requests
  - Were the Guitars sold to Crossfield?
    - Guitars and Ukuleles are still in the school as far as Jen knows.
  - **Treasury Report: Opening and Closing Balance: \$1546.44 (unchanged)**
  - **ASCE Discussion** - Jennifer to elaborate on 'A Day in the Life of a BCS student'
    - fits the ASCE criteria - broaden the number of school events that include parents
      - information sessions on how parents can support student learning at home and at school
      - Family Fun Night - classroom learning activities for parents/students to participate in
        - Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?
        - Student Council activities
    - clarify 'promoting the value of arts - what 'arts' do the criteria refer to?
  - Jennifer requested Fundraising Committee Info to be presented/available for student led conferences night March 21st.
    - Would require members of the Society to be available for parent interaction.

#### Question & Answer:

**Next Meeting: February 27, 2024 @ 7pm via Zoom**

**Adjournment: 8:17pm**