

Langdon School Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 16, 2020 @ 6:30pm via Zoom11

Attendees: Amanda D.S., Brandi-Lee M., Norman E., Patty S., Terry G., Stacey E., Kim B., Georgia F., Kevin F., Chantelle E., Kathryn S.

Call Meeting to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:31pm by Amanda D.S.

Approval of minutes from October 20, 2020 Meeting: 1st: Kim B. 2nd: Chantelle E. Minutes approved. Norman E. took the opportunity to remind attendees where council agendas/minutes can be located on the Langdon School website.

Election of Secretary: Amanda D.S. called for a nominee for secretary position. No one stepped forward to fill role. Secretary position remains vacant.

Trustee Report: Patty S.

**WARD TWO TRUSTEE
REPORT**

NOVEMBER 2020

Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) 2020/21 Expenditure Plan

Approved

- Each year the Board of Trustees (the Board) reviews and approves the IMR plans and expenditures as part of Rocky View Schools' (RVS) budgeting process.
- IMR projects are necessary to maintain safe and reliable school infrastructure.
- The 2020/21 budget included additional contingency to allow IMR funds to be allocated to Capital
- Maintenance and Renewal projects, currently pending government approval, and to address other emergent issues that may arise in this unique school year.
- The Board approved the \$5,989,884 IMR budget and proposed projects. This is a 2.5 per cent increase in total IMR funding from the previous year. **Additionally, a large carry forward related to the completion of the Indus School modernization is included as part of the spending plan.**

Board Evaluation Completed


- In accordance with the requirement of Board Policy 2 – Role of the Board to “annually evaluate Board effectiveness and determine areas of growth and focus,” the Board completed its externally-facilitated 2019/20 self-evaluation on Oct. 15, 2020.
- The Board evaluation focused on the governance competency areas of fiduciary responsibilities, risk oversight, Board operations, Board-Superintendent relations, Board cohesion, external relations, and strategic governance.
- Overall, the results of the evaluation reflect a high-performing group - diligent, responsible, and dutifully representing the best interests of the students, stakeholders, and the community.

- This reflective assessment provides insights on the Board’s effectiveness as a self-governing body and serves as a means of accountability and assurance to stakeholders and the public.

Several Policies Reviewed and Updated by Policy Committee

- The *Education Act* (Act) put into effect Sept. 1, 2019, required the Board to review and update all policies in alignment with the new legislation. The Board’s Policy Committee was charged with making recommended revisions, deletions and creating new policies for the Board’s consideration.
- In addition to legal and terminology changes to align to the Act, highlighted minor revisions to three policies include:
 - o Policy 12 – Role of the Superintendent
 - o Policy 14 – Hearings on Teacher Transfers
 - o Policy 15 – School Closures

School Council Orientation Presentation

- Presentation now available for reference on RVS website -
 [SchoolCouncilOrientation fall 2020.pdf](#) — PDF document, 2479 kB (2539073 bytes)

The Board Approves Revisions to School Councils Committee Terms of Reference

- Minor revisions to the Terms of Reference were made reflecting that Joint Board School Council meetings occur more than once a year and that RVS’ School Council Resource Manual is maintained by the Superintendent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Sproule

Trustee – Ward 2

403-936-2385

psproule@rockyview.ab.ca

Question from attendee: Are students (particularly older grades) able to receive notification e-mail with regards to close contact and need to isolate?
Patty to take suggestion back to board.

Question from attendee: Will there be an extension of Christmas break?
Patty clarified that there have been discussions with regards to this topic, but nothing has been decided as of yet.

Administration Update: Norman E.

- Changing educational format from online learning to in-class learning and vice versa
E-mail was sent to all parents notifying them that school engage will be accepting changes from Dec 1 to Dec 11
- Work continues to improve school experience
Security cameras have been installed to prevent vandalism and utilized to identify and address unexpected and inappropriate student behaviour – positive results so far
- Teachers are noticing an uptick in anxiety in students
School has implemented twice daily Mindful Checks for students to re-group and re-focus. Mindful Checks are announced over the PA and are school-wide
- Admin continues to work on school playbook with respect to inclusion, instruction, and school engagement
Admin is targeting improved communication to parents regarding inclusion and being mindful of students needs for success
- Professional Learning day next Monday (November 23, 2020)
- Parent/Teacher virtual conferences scheduled for December 1 & 3 – appointments can be booked online

Question from attendee: what was the outcome of the school safe funding discussion and surveys?

A lot of the feedback was the need for more support for students in a variety of ways.

Norman E. sent an e-mail to Brandi-Lee M. with a full list of items that the funding will be used for:

1. Sound amplification systems for all classrooms
2. Staffing
 - a) mental health by bumping up FTE of teachers to 1.0 to provide additional support
 - b) bumping up a part-time teaching assistant to full-time
3. E-resources
4. Pandemic supplies
5. Chromebooks

Question from attendee: what kinds of behaviour are students exhibiting with regards to increased anxiety, and are all grades affected?

All grades are experiencing higher than normal anxiety. Grades 1-6 have been struggling with unstructured time. Staff have been reviewing and reminding of different social learning activities. So far, positive results have been noticed.

Question from attendee: what kind of support is available to teachers and staff with regards to mental health and wellness?

Answered by Patty: Stepping stones is providing support for staff through RVS (ie lunch in learns, workshops etc). Staff also have access through employee benefits program.

Question from attendee: are there security cameras looking at roof?

Yes, and outside of school building as well. So far, good results with lowered vandalism on property.

Question from attendee: is there an update on off-campus privileges?

Local businesses had complained about student behaviour off-campus, so all passes were revoked. Students that go home for lunch were able to receive passes at parents' request. Admin has been working with students with regards to appropriate behaviour off-campus and being good ambassadors of our community. Looking to re-instate off-campus passes with a phased in approach in the next couple of weeks.

Presentation by Synergy: Terry G.

Terry G. discussed many available mental health and youth programs available for Langdon and surrounding areas.

More information with regards to programs, including access to a counsellor & nurse practitioner available at www.yoursynergy.ca

New Business/Comments/Concerns:

Question from attendee: Can grade 6 band students switch from theory to another option?

Answered by Norman E. – no availability to switch right now, however there is continued discussion about other possibilities for grade 6 band students, including learning guitar and percussion instruments. More info will be out in the next couple of weeks.

Question from attendee: are friendship groups running?

Answered by Norman E. – there are currently 8-9 groups, and the students in them will be rotated through approx. every 6 weeks as needed

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 @ 6:30pm – Location TBD

Meeting Adjourned: meeting adjourned at 7:59pm by Amanda D.S.