

## Langdon School Council Meeting - Minutes

September 27, 2021

Amanda DS, Brandi Lee M, Patty S, Norm E, Tammy R, Rachel M, Dan D, Adam S, Jacqueline W, Adam S, Corey, Greg and Marlena S, Chantelle E, Launa A

1. Approval of meeting minutes from June 2021- carried to next meeting as we do not have a member from last year
2. Approval of Agenda – Brandi-Lee m first; Rachel M second
3. Election for secretary- no nominations today
4. School Update

### **Staff Update:**

- School Year started with 7 new classroom teachers, 1 learning support teacher, 1 CDA, 1 Front Office Secretary, and 1 Learning Assistant.
- Nina Luca – Grade 3
- Adam James – Grade 6
- Mike Grouette – Grade 7
- Elyse Olafson – Grade 7
- Courtney Kuyltjes – Grade 8
- Meranda Farmer – Grade 9
- Dan Doherty – Grade 9
- Stephanie Brown – Learning Support
- Nikki Smart – CDA
- Chantel Munroe – Secretary
- Jessica Brown – LA
- We currently do not have a Learning Commons Facilitator but will be posting for the position shortly. Thank you to Miranda Forrest who is currently helping in the LC to catalog new books, assist in textbook sign-out, and getting the LC ready for student. Miranda is splitting her time between Langdon and Sarah Thompso
- With our student numbers peaking and stable we will be creating a Gr. 1/2 split. Hiring for the position is in progress and our desire is to get the new classroom up and running as quickly as possible.

### **Start of School Year:**

- Our staggered entry culminating in a pancake breakfast on the first Friday was successful in reintroducing all of the students to the same but different COVID protocols that are part of RVS's Back to School Plan. While the masking requirement was not a big change for our Gr. 4-9, Our teachers in K-3 were appreciative of the staggered entry to really focus in small groups when masks are required and when they can be lowered.

The pancake breakfast also provided our Parent community to meet the teachers and be welcomed back into the school after a year of no visitors. It was great to see so many participate in the open house.

### **1:1 Devices:**

- Remind all of our Grade 7, 8, and 9 students and parents that Langdon School is a one-to-one (1:1) school. What this means is **all** students in these grades are required to have an electronic device to access digital content, the internet, or digital textbooks. One-to-one devices will include laptops, tablets, and Chromebooks (NOTE: Smartphones are not acceptable).
- Langdon School prefers all students bring their own device to school. However, in the instance where a family finds this cost prohibitive, Langdon School is currently loaning over 35 devices.
- At the Grade 7, 8, and 9 levels it is important that all students have a device giving them immediate access throughout the day. This provides teachers with the ability to take full advantage of new technologies and online resources when all students are fully equipped. When all students have devices, teachers can incorporate technology into every course and in preparing students for careers teaching digital literacy and computing skills is a priority.
- There are many advantages to the use of one-to-one devices:
- Students can work online simultaneously in a class or collaboratively outside the classroom.
- Teachers can use interactive technologies and strategies such as online surveys promoting engagement in the learning.
- Students and staff can access their work from a multitude of locations.
- The use of digital textbooks means no more carrying textbooks back and forth to school.
- Incorporating “flipped learning” or online courses where students can access information and interact with their teacher remotely and monitor their progress.
- Increased student motivation, engagement, and interest in learning from different methods.
- A lot more tests are being administered online, providing quick feedback on progress and areas for work.
- The possibility of allowing some students to take devices home for homework use if they lack devices at home.
- Many devices are portable and lightweight.

Upcoming events:

Orange Shirt Day – Wed Sep 29

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is Thursday – no school

Terry Fox – Fri Oct 1

- Volunteers – We will be creating a sign-up board for our parents to offer their time to help out with various activities in the school

#### 5. Trustee Update

### School Calendar Adjusted to Observe National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

In recognition of the new federal day of observance, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Board of Trustees voted to adjust the 2021/22 school calendar to make Sept. 30 a non-attendance day for students and staff. There will be no classes in school or online Thursday, Sept. 30.

Adjusting the calendar allows RVS to provide an opportunity for families and staff to recognize and commemorate the history and ongoing legacy of residential schools and to honour the survivors, families and communities who continue to grieve for those who were lost.

While it is unfortunate that this calendar adjustment was made with little notice to families, RVS believes as a public education institution it is an important step as part of our commitment to truth and reconciliation.

### Using Gamification to Engage Elementary Students

Sarah Thompson School Teachers Geeta Behal, Kristie Mackie, and Sarah McLeod presented to the Board of Trustees (the Board) on their use of gamification to make the social studies curriculum more engaging for Grade 2-3 students.

The teachers created a game, Survive and Thrive, which engages students through roleplaying. Through the game, students are presented with “situations” and “encounters” connected to the curriculum that they must solve.

This creative approach is used to deliver key concepts, which are taught in a way that allows students to transfer their knowledge through the gaming experience and apply their learning to real-life situations.

## RVS Enrolment on Track to Surpass Projections

The Board received a preliminary enrolment update showing that RVS student population grew by 5.4 per cent compared to 2020/21, as of Sept. 23. Enrolment fluctuates regularly with students entering and exiting RVS for a variety of reasons, and that number will likely change before final enrolment is determined Sept. 30.

As of Sept. 23, 26,653 students were enrolled in RVS – 158 more than originally projected for this school year.

A key driver of growth is several Grade 1 students who are attending school for the first time after not attending Kindergarten due to the pandemic. Other growth is the result of general community population increases.

## Trustees Approve 2022/23 CMR Project List

The Board affirmed a list of Capital Maintenance and Renewal (CMR) projects prepared and submitted by RVS to Alberta Education.

At the top of RVS' CMR list are mechanical upgrades and Career and Technology Studies modernization at George McDougall High School, which, at approximately \$3 million, will use all the division's CMR allocation. If approved by government, the other projects identified on the list will be added to a future Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) or CMR list.

## Board to Advocate for Diploma Exams to Remain Optional for 2021/22

The Board unanimously voted to send a letter to Alberta's Minister of Education requesting Diploma exams remain optional this school year. Given the ongoing COVID-19 situation in Alberta and the disruption it causes to the school year, the Board feels mandatory Diploma exams will put students at a disadvantage.

### 6. New Business

Emails from the school – parents are not getting emails from the school; asked parents to send email to Langdon school to be searched from PowerSchool; try test email; parents would like the School Messenger app to work better; could be carrier

Bullying mitigation strategies- rumours about incident last week; bullying in classes and school yard; Mind Up, Bully Prevention Week, CDA, GSA, Rules of Play, external supports, small group interventions, Stepping Stones to Mental Health, WiseGuyz, BMW programs

Increased supervision possibility: Norm will check

Strategies for ongoing conflict are presented to students and families

Surveys for getting a pulse on how kids are doing – SOSQ, All About Me, Youth Needs Survey  
(Chestermere and Area Coalition)

Daily check-in through classroom teachers (September 9)

Volleyball try out discussion- redirected to the Athletic Director and coaches will we have a parent  
committee to support the celebration

Grade 9 Farewell- committee