

**RancheView School**  
**School Council Meeting Minutes**  
**May 19, 2020 6:30 to 8 p.m.**  
**Via Zoom**

**Present** Jen H, Diane, Sharon, Jaya, Stacey, Fiona, Rochelle

**Regrets** Lindsay

1. Call to Order: 6:36 p.m. - Jen H
2. Approval of January Minutes:
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> – Rochelle
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jen
3. Business arising from January meeting: none
4. Approval of January Agenda:
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> – Diane
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jenn
5. Committee Reports
  - a. Fun lunch Report: none
  - b. Treasurer Report: none
  - c. Fundraising report: none
6. Administration Update
  - a. Safety around the school: As a follow up from our last meeting, when we discussed safety issues around the school with regards to traffic, Jen Harris (school council chair) and myself met with members from RCMP, peace officers and the town of Cochrane to have a look at the traffic congestion around the school. What came of that conversation and some possible changes that we can make for the coming school year and or when we return as per usual to school will be to make some changes to the main crosswalk by the school sign. We will have children and families cross at the crosswalk that has typically been closed as well as the crosswalk that that crosses across sundown Rd. We also had conversation around actual grade placements in the school and the impact that that has around traffic congestion. For example when families are needing to converge in the cul-de-sac because they are dropping off or picking up their children in grade one then we typically would have far more congestion there than if there were older grades in that wing. As a school we will be looking at this as we move classes around for this coming school year. We also discussed the possibility of creating an area that would be a “kiss and drop” area so that families could simply drive up drop off their children with an adult supervisor there and know that they could make their way safely into the school. We will look at traffic congestion when we return to normal and make some decisions around what changes need to be made.

- b. School population: With the changes made because of boundary changes within Cochrane, our population next year at this point is at 705 students. This means that we will have less classes than we do this current school year which also means that we will have less staff members. Of course we will be feeling the loss of many of our wranglers and their families who will be going to their designated schools. We are in the process of having conversation around what kinds of things we can do to bring closure to our departing community members.
  - c. Learning Plans: As you now, these are sent out around 8:30 at the start of every week with K-6 having an average of 5 hours a week sent them and our grade 7 and 8's having an average of 10 hours a week sent to them. Families are encouraged to reach out to their homeroom teacher if they are having any issues especially around work completion and/or too much work happening. Any families who want additional work are invited to go to the Rockyview website where there are all kinds of different links for them to have a look at and have their child complete more work. Our CDA's are available on a fairly regular basis for any of our wranglers to reach out to. They offer a virtual Wellness room for our grade 4 through 8 leaders and friendship type online groups are also set up for the younger grades to allow for a different opportunity to connect with peer. Regular drop in zoom classes are taking place with many teachers to allow for our Wranglers to connect with friends. We have different grades doing drop in "help" online sessions throughout the week.
  - d. Today we had our first Rancheview parade. It was the first of two more to come because we want to make sure that every staff member who wants to be involved will have an opportunity to go to each of our three catchment areas to be able to see our Wranglers. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to be able to connect with our community and very heartwarming and a little overwhelming to see so many of our Wranglers out waving and showing their handmade signs indicating how much they miss school and how much they miss their teachers . It was a positive experience for our staff and for our whole community.
  - e. Camp Jubilee: I am making the request that the funds that were directed for busing for camp Jubilee be re directed to cover the cost of subsidizing yearbook fees.
  - f. Grade 8 farewell: I am also making the request that the funds that were directed towards gradate farewell be redirected to pay for postage for great eight farewell gifts that we have for our grade 8 students.
7. Trustee Report:
- a. Pandemic acknowledgement: A huge thank you to all parents, guardians, teachers, staff administrators and students for their hard work and adaptability

as we have had to move into this at home learning model. Everyone is working hard and doing the best that they can. A recent letter from Minister LaGrange to RVS reads “Thank you for your email providing me with a copy of Rocky View School Divisions Learning Continuity Plan. I appreciate you sharing your school authority’s plan for supporting student learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your calm and thoughtful approach, with it’s focus on flexibility, is ideal in these difficult times.”

- b. **Pandemic Outlook:** Announced by government on May 1<sup>st</sup>, we now know that schools will not re-open for in class learning for the remainder of this school year. Re-entry discussions are on-going across the province and RVS is waiting on provincial direction, both from Alberta Education and Public Health, prior to re-opening of schools. Once received, possibly as late as beginning of August, RVS will work on implementing the provincial direction and we are not sure what this will look like. Currently looking at three scenarios: in school classes resume, in- school classes partially resume, at home learning continues. Likely school start up, whenever that will be, will not look and feel the same as previous years, but health and safety of students and staff will remain top priority.
- c. **Cochrane Accommodation Decision:** On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, after a 4-month community consultation, the Board approved changes to the designated attendance areas for 7 Cochrane schools to take effect for September 2020, and grade configuration changes to 4 school to take effect September 2021. These changes impact RancheView families currently living in Heartland and Heritage Hills. Heartland families will now be designated to Glenbow/Mitford/BVHS (EMMS & CHS for FI) and Heritage Hills families will now be designated to EB/Manachaban/CHS. Families have the choice to move now or wait until September 2021.
- d. **RVS 2020/2021 Budget:** There has been lots of work done already at the school level, at the admin level, as well as with the Board Budget Committee. All pieces are now ready and the divisional budget RVS Budget will be considered at the Board meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> and is due to the province by the end of May. One of the pieces that the Board considered at the May 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting were fees for next year. This included transportation fees, school fees, and community use fees.
  - **Transportation Fees:** Despite a five per cent increase to transportation grant revenues over the next two years, effective September 2020 fees will rise from \$308 to \$375 for riders attending their designated school or school of choice to help offset the continued escalation of fuel, operator and other inflationary costs. Given that provincial funding will be frozen for the next two years, the transportation department will continue to review service levels for potential efficiencies to control costs.
  - **School Fees:** Trustees have approved the schedule of school fees for 2020/21 and school websites will be updated soon. In an effort to reduce financial pressure on families, schools were directed to:
    - not increase existing course fees;

- refrain from implementing new school wide fees, including for K – Gr. 4 school supplies;
  - eliminate Christian and French Immersion program fees, with exception of Prince of Peace;
  - abstain from introducing new or increased fees for programs like the Farm or Building Futures;
  - not subsidize extracurricular, field trip or non-curricular travel with other school funds;
  - eliminate any fees related to lunch supervision.
- Community Use Fees: Community Use Fees for 2020/2021 were approved on May 14<sup>th</sup> and they include the implementation of a new change fee for users who need to change the date/time/location after the event has been approved, a fee increase for gym and instructional space use, along with a new fee waiver application. Despite these increases, the board is facing significant challenges with the sustainability of its rental program due to rising costs for utilities, supervision, caretaking, maintenance and/or vandalism – all of which are heavily subsidized by maintenance operating dollars.
- e. Joint Board School Council Meeting: School Council Executive and Admin are invited to participate in a Joint Board School Council meeting May 28 6:30pm via Zoom. RVSP to Jennie at [jthompson@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:jthompson@rockyview.ab.ca)
8. New Business Matters –
- a. Approve use of funds allocated to Camp Jubilee bussing to cover subsidizing the yearbook by \$5.
- Motion to approve: Jaya
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jenn
  - All in favour - yes
- b. Approve use of funds allocated to Gr 8 farewell to cover postage for sending packages to grade 8 students.
- Motion to approve: Diane
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jaya
  - All in favour – yes
- c. Motion to accept that due to pandemic, school council has met their requirement of meetings for this school year.
- Motion to approve: Diane
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jenn
  - All in favour - yes
9. Adjournment: 7:30 p.m. - Jen H (approximately)

Next Meeting: September, 2020 6:30-8:00pm