

RancheView School
School Council Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Via Zoom

Present:Lynette Lapan-Smith, Tina Pearson, Jaya Dixit, Desirée Kastendieck, Fiona Gilbert, Rochelle Snively, Scott Maguire, Amanda MacLeod, Amanda Houle, Ashley Ridley, Wendy Sunderland, Janet Cheverie, Cory Wilde, Jaymes and Krista Fenton, Callandra Caufield, Amber Farley, Mary Dawn, Amy Donovan, XP students

Regrets: none

1. Call to order - Tina Pearson 6:45
2. Approval of agenda - 1st Desirée Kastendieck, 2nd Janet Cheverie
3. Approval of November minutes - Pushed to February meeting
4. Presentation from Grade 8 GSA students
 - We are from the Rancheview GSA. The GSA stands for Gender Sexuality Association. We are a club that meets at lunchtime and is open to students who are part of the queer community or are allies to the community. We are here tonight to talk to you about taking steps towards raising a progress flag. This is the progress flag. The colours on the flag represent diversity. The rainbow represents diverse sexualities and genders. This includes people who are gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, people of colour, 2 spirit people and intersex people. There are other flags that are more specific to many of these groups, however we feel this is the most universally inclusive flag.

We propose to fly this flag on the third flag pole, currently this pole flies the school division flag. We would fly the progress flag on Mondays because that is when we have our club meetings. This follows flag protocol as the Canadian Flag and Provincial flag would remain flying and be in the correct order. The flag has already been purchased.

This is important to us and our community because it represents us by our sexuality and genders. Also it lets the community know that we are supported and that we matter. It shows that the school supports everyone including all families in our community.

We have written to Mr. Greg Luterbach and he has asked us to share our plan with the wider school community including students, teachers and the school council. As well, we will be sharing our proposal with students in grade 4-8.

Last year we painted the crosswalk with the progress flag and were pleased with the response from the school community. Flying the flag is our next step for sending the message that our school is inclusive and that Rancheview is a safe space for every person. Do you have any questions or feedback?

- Support they would love to see is continuing awareness and respect

5. Business arising from last meeting:

- Healthy hunger is going well. There were 200 orders for our first
- COVID update - we might get masks and tests tomorrow or the day after. High schools have received them already. Possibly the hold up was getting their hands on enough children's masks. Hours to get them ready might delay them getting home same day.
- Corner sign - it's been going well. We send out a rough draft to chair, vice chair, secretary and principal to iron out kinks

6. Administration update:

- Presentation from our Genders & Sexualities Alliance club
 - i. Group would like to raise the Pride flag on Mondays, replacing the RVS flag
 - ii. Mondays are when they meet
 - iii. Last year the group reached out to the Superintendent who asked for community and student consultation
- Rapid Tests and Masks
 - i. Should be on their way this week (Jan.19-21)
 - ii. Only 2 families indicated they did not want rapid tests/masks
 - iii. Schools will no longer be sending out public notifications for positive Covid tests.
- RVS Sports met and decided for basketball:
 - i. Jr A teams will finish their season with Divisionals
 - ii. Grade 6 will have exhibition games arranged by schools
 - iii. Jr B teams will start in March
- Plans in the way for hopefully a grade 6 Spring Band Concert
- Kindergarten discussion
 - i. RVS Divisional Specialist Amy Donovan
 - ii. Discussion around full day/half day

- Questions for Lynette: could you use volunteers to help package up the masks when they come in? That would be great if you have the time (volunteers to contact - Janet, Desirée)

7. Trustee Update:

- **Extended Winter Break and New Protocols**

After a week longer than expected winter break, schools have reopened, and students are back in class as of Jan. 10. School staff spent the extra time preparing and organizing for students to return to class, potential at-home learning, (which could be required with little notice,) professional learning and collaborating with colleagues. RVS' Return to School plan has been updated to reflect recent changes to case notifications and tracking, as well as field trips and extra-curricular activities. For up-to-date information, check out <https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/COVID-19> . Thank you to students, families, and staff for their continued support and resiliency as RVS responds to decisions made by government and works to do all that we can to keep students and staff healthy and well and schools open for in-person learning.

- **Draft K-6 Curriculum**

In mid-December, government announced changes to the implementation timeline for the new K-Gr 6 curriculum. It is now expected that three subject areas – English Language Arts & Literature, Mathematics, and Physical Education & Wellness – will be implemented in September 2022. Content continues to be refined based on feedback from Albertans and is expected to be shared with teachers and school authorities in the spring. These are tight timelines and as a Board, we are concerned with the additional pressures and work this puts on staff and teachers at a time of limited resources (people and dollars) and challenges due to the ongoing impacts of teaching and learning in a pandemic. For full details on government plans for the new curriculum, and how to provide feedback visit <https://www.alberta.ca/curriculum.aspx>

8. New business matters:

- Discussion was had about looking at having full day every other day kindergarten program. At the moment the school board is not looking at implementing it next year but possibly the 23/24 school year. What we can do: advocate for Early Childhood Education funding to support the programs, from a school perspective - we can get feedback to see what the numbers are looking like to give an idea on numbers for both programs

9. Adjournment: 8:08 Tina Pearson

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 15 2022 6:30-8:00 Zoom