



# School Council

**Minutes of the ÉEVE School Council Meeting  
January 16, 2024  
1:00pm In-person and Zoom**

**SC Executive:**

Caley Remington, Chair - present  
Chelsey Conrad, Co-Chair - present  
Judi Hunter, School Board Trustee - regrets  
Jennifer Tanguay, Secretary - present  
Sharelle Stitt, Treasurer - present

**School Administration Members:**

Denise Weaver, Principal - present  
Alanna Berger, Assistant Principal - regrets

**Attendees:**

Katie Gibson, Robin Somji, Kim Burchby, Logan Martin, Jessica Gergely

**1. Call to Order**

Chelsey called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*Chelsey motioned to accept the agenda and minutes as circulated; no objections; motion carried.*

**3. Administration Report**

Before Christmas break, pushed hard to get through. Didn't anticipate number of parents' that came for K/Grade 1 singing in Learning Commons, will use gym next year. Don't have capacity in gym for entire school population. Over-capacity with students alone. Not illegal to have them all in gym at same time, just not recommended based on fire code. Gym is original, down to the doors which are being replaced this year. School has grown. Need to build capital to increase space for gym and fine arts. Capacity an issue for all 3 Springbank schools, all original buildings. Currently around 530 students, gym capacity around 400. Parking also an issue. 95% kids made it in yesterday despite

no busses running. Went fairly smoothly, all things considered. Caley: Have gotten permission to park on roads for special occasions in the past. Denise: Wranglers here yesterday, Mr. Sutter got some questions, interesting to see difference in what Gr 1 to 4 asked - what does the C mean to did you ever thinking about quitting sports. Read to the kids, played floor hockey, posed for pictures. Brought their own photographer out. Kids so excited, vibrating, very well-behaved. Power outage yesterday, unknown cause. Lasted 10 minutes. Called RV crisis line, followed by Fortis as per protocol. All 3 Springbank schools, Cochrane were affected. Had under 30 minutes to make a decision, which is how long generator will last. Kids got flashlights, loved it. Some kids scared of the dark, talked with those kids. Crisis line divisionally managed, they decide communication sent out. My first job is safety. Volleyball starting, floor hockey done. FI info night for new perspective parents Thursday 6pm in the gym. Katie: What FI looks like for K-4. Denise: Kindergarten registration opens Jan 22nd, 18th tour for new students. Literacy Night Jan 31st. Going to be a busy month.

Want to reinvent Calgary Reads space, want to showcase what we can do here in the learning commons for kids. They always want to be here. Outdoor classroom has been discussed here before, has SC asked for the plans? Caley: School had the plans. Denise: Want to honour the plans that were in place, don't want to redo anything. Might not have happened due to Covid? Caley: Plans were made, school had them. Not sure what happened, was a long time ago, 3 principals since then, change in SC, money was raised and funds were going to be matched from companies. Someone must have them. Robin: Coming from Changemaker school, outdoor classroom great, kids loved and benefited from it a lot, lots you can do with little supplies. Denise: We have so much outdoor space to utilize, very unique. Caley: Will look into things, reach out to Mme Pothier. Denise: Furniture ordered, will be looking at kids input. Went with Katie to Calgary Academy, have a big structure, hard to describe, almost like a phone booth with 2 benches, sound-proof. Want both, some kids need sensory break, some need to be around action. Kim: Crowfoot Public Library has a great space worth looking at, will take pictures next time there. Katie: Okotoks Public Library another place to look at. Denise: Moose and polar bear in learning commons. Nancy (Mrs Z) does the work with Friendly Helpers: Recess club for Grade 1 and 2's. Grade 2 coming to makerspace, new games ordered, kids clean-up, it's great. Pokémon Club in house, getting to be too much outside. Joy Cart was done before Christmas, saw Kindergarten kids. Have a new appreciation for Kindergarten teachers. Joy Cart is my way of doing things quietly, invisibly, when you don't expect it. Chelsey: Grade 4's really appreciate/love Friendly Helpers, positive feedback received at home. Talked about how Mrs. Weaver got them pizza. Grade 4's giving nutrition presentation today, always great things happening here at the school.

Bussing: Majority of students, notification of bussing issues needs to be communicated to the bussing company, not the school. Cancellation: Trustee, superintendent and area representative of Springbank schools (Glen Brooker) make the decision. Robin: Do we have a position on this? Cancelled, open when no busses running. Safety concerns, nowhere to go compared to the city. Denise: 3 decision-makers met night before closure to discuss. Had heating issues at this school during the cold snap. HVAC updates since

Covid but building is old. Good to talk about now, when not in crisis. In regards to blackout on Monday, not sure what the cause was. If planned blackout, shouldn't include schools.

#### **4. Teacher's Report (Katie)**

Grade teams met, planned open house format for Literacy Night. Taking place in Makerspace, library, some classrooms. Grade 2 theme literacy on the go, in the car, at the rink, things you can do on the go. Grade 1 theme oral language, Grade 3 writing skills, Grade 4 reading comprehension. Parents receive a passport, get it stamped when they visit a station, submit completed passport at the end of the night for a draw. Winning student gets a prize for their classroom. Shows alignment for K-4, plan and all the pieces. Comprehension important, that they can understand literacy around the board. Not focused on FI, most parents don't speak French. Literacy skills you can practice at home. Parent only event, looking forward to a great evening.

#### **5. Co-Chair's Report**

Caley: MD Motivator (Zach) - Meeting with Erica (manager) tomorrow, plan is to set a date. All 3 schools, here we will need to split up for capacity. Refer to last meeting minutes, quick review: ÉEVE and SMS using grant money for this speaker. During Covid was a med student (no longer), started videoing acts of kindness which went viral. Addresses mental health with kindness and paying it forward. PJ Drive: Total from Katarina was 350. Great turnout, will do again next year. Chelsey: Dance Thursday March 28, last day of school before Spring Break. Not everyone is in the gym so capacity not an issue.

#### **6. Volunteer Coordinator (Kirsten)**

Chelsey: Summary of Kirsten's report as follows.

Library Committee - Signup genius sent out to help Mr. Lofthouse, not much response, wondering if all class reps received and sent out to parents? Will double-check email list, could put in Owl Outlook?

Teacher Appreciation Week Committee - April 29 to May . Starts on PD day which will be the day lunch is provided, daily activities.

Dance Committe - Planning underway.

#### **7. Treasurer Report**

Additional Healthy Hunger funds around \$2,000, busing expense for skating around \$900 for net balance around \$6,400. Still need Opening Balance from beginning of year. Robin: Any plans for spending HH money? Alanna was looking into ideas. Denise: FÉEVES has healthy balance from casino, will loop back, next meeting is end of Jan.

## **8. Fun Lunch Report (Kim)**

To date we've had 17 events with average 232 orders/event. No change with vendors, maybe slightly less with Subway - our best vendor, does everything for us, I don't even have to come to the school. \$6,624 revenue since September, around \$390/event. Can anticipate another \$6,000 for remainder of the year. 19-30% profit margin (Little Ceasers the highest, Boston Pizza and Edo the lowest). Have requested additional days, not happened yet. Can work with SMS to coordinate dates. Working with Shannon, we do it together and seek out help when needed - find it's less work this way than with sign up genius. Every Friday, 1st Tuesday of the month, occasional extra day around holidays. Request made to add Tuesday after a long weekend - shouldn't be a problem, HH sends reminder emails to order or if new date added, so onus is on parents to notice new dates if they pre-order. Will look into new vendor options (kids can be picky, pasta, tacos options for something new), connect with SMS coordinator Tammy. Don't need SC approval to add/change.

## **9. Yearbook Committee Report (Robin)**

Will be meeting with admin to discuss cover contest, want out before Feb break, need to have it in by March. Caley: Price may increase with more pages but money sitting in SG fund, so can absorb the cost, has to be spent by year-end unless ear-marked for something specific. Denise: FÉEVES can hold on longer, but still needs to be spent before having another casino.

## **10. Canadian Parents for French (Janelle)**

No report given.

## **11. Community Outreach (Katarina)**

No report given.

## **12. FÉEVES**

No report given.

## **13. School Trustee Report**

Judi send her regrets and newsletter. Caley: Judi was at SMS SC meeting last week, mentioned contract up and negotiations underway. Strike rumours because contract is up, lots of steps leading up to that, not imminent at all. Step 1 of 6 for union negotiations underway.

The new school in Langdon has been approved as a 9-12 high school. Doors are set to open September 2024, initially with students from grades 9-11.

The Board is in an accommodation consultation with parents of Airdrie school to address the space issues in schools.

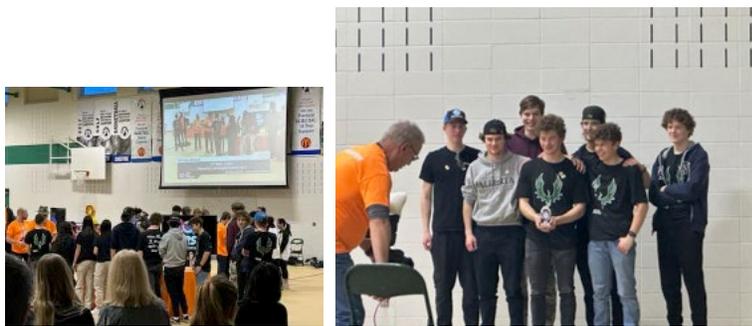
### **Long Service Award**

On Nov. 17, RVS hosted our 42nd Long-Service and Retiree Celebration. This long-running event recognizes the contributions of our veteran staff members and offers a chance for us to reflect on and celebrate the positive difference they have made in the lives of so many students.

This year, we recognized 71 individuals who have passed either a 20-, 25-, 30- or 35-year milestone with RVS, and congratulated 58 retirees who are embarking on exciting next chapters of life.

Thank you to Springbank Community Association on a successful raffle raising 15000 dollars to support the physical education department at Springbank Community High.

Congratulations to the Springbank Community High School Robotics teacher Mr. Matthews and robotics parents on hosting its first and successful Robotics competition with other 27 teams competing and over 500 people in attendance. All three Springbank Teams won a seat at the provincial robotics competition in February.



The Canadian Parents for French held a fun afterschool event at Elbow Valley School where children created Christmas centrepieces and had a chance to practice their French. They also hosted a luncheon for the Grade 8 students at Springbank High School where the French high school students shared their love of the program and the opportunities provided by a second language.

Kudos to Banded Peak School on their entrepreneurial evening event which was well attended and appreciated.

Thank you to all our school councils for their tireless work in supporting student learning.

### **Across Canada, School Divisions struggle with Accommodation Spaces for Students**

#### **[Surrey school district's survey seeking solutions to overcrowding draws outrage from parents, teachers](#)**

Parents and teachers are calling on the B.C. government to construct more schools in Surrey after the school district sent out a survey seeking solutions to a worsening overcrowding problem. Surrey Schools says it's seeing an average of 2,400 students join over the last two years, compared to 800 new students per year in the previous decade — a 200 percent increase in school enrolment. On Nov. 20, the school district sent parents a survey, asking for their input on long-term educational strategies to manage the ballooning enrolment numbers — with some proposed solutions including hybrid learning, tri-semester schooling, evening classes and bussing students to other schools. Similar issues appear across Canada.

### **Space Shortages are not just in Education**

Surrey city councillor Linda Annis, called the city the “portables capital of B.C.” after Fraser Health installed a temporary pediatric emergency wait room in portables at Surrey Memorial Hospital. In a news release Thursday (Nov. 23)

### **Pronoun Controversy**

Alberta's government is having an "active conversation" about whether school employees should require parents' permission before changing the names or pronouns they use to address students. Minister Demetrios Nicolaides said parent concerns and inconsistent policies across the province have sparked the discussion about whether to introduce optional guidance or binding rules. New Brunswick's new law on this issue has sparked a court challenge.

### **Holocaust Education**

The head of the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada applauds a move by Manitoba to make Holocaust education mandatory. "Holocaust education is a key tool for countering prejudice and cultivating inclusion. It's not just about this tragedy that happened, of course, to the Jewish people, but its implications for broader society," said Belle Jarniewski, executive director of the Winnipeg-based organization. "When students learn about the Holocaust, they engage with very complicated moral questions — some that do not come with simple answers — and critical thinking is also a big part of this."

### **Math and reading scores for Canadian students declined sharply since 2018, study finds**

Math and reading scores of Canadian students continue to decline steeply, matching a global trend, according to a new study. The state of global education was given a bleak appraisal in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), which is the first study to examine the academic progress of 15-year-old students in dozens of countries during the pandemic. Released Tuesday, it finds the average international math score fell by the equivalent of 15 points compared to 2018 scores, while reading scores fell 10 points.

### **Alberta Students, however, performed well.**

The 2022 PISA results released December 5, show that Alberta continues to be a leader in education in Canada and worldwide. Alberta students rank first in Canada in reading, first in Canada in science and second only behind Quebec in math. In addition to our impressive results nationally, Alberta students also perform exceptionally well against international competitors. Globally, Alberta ranked second in reading, second in science and seventh in math, within statistical deviation.

## **14. Open Floor**

Robin: Has Judi followed-up on our first meeting, on pronouns and AB government position on that? Caley: Wasn't mentioned at the SMS SC meeting last week, can follow-up with her. Denise: Haven't heard anything. Grade 4 health curriculum - email sent to parents outlining info, can opt-out. Team has met, very prepared, no changes. Get's harder the older the kids get. Robin: Judi's report mentions scores, AB ranking impressive. Ranked 1st in Canada in reading and science, 2nd only behind Quebec in math. Globally, AB ranked 2nd in reading and science, 7th in math. Denise: We've made huge gains since that report was sent out.

## **15. Future SC Meetings**

February 13, 2024 at 1:00pm.

## **16. Adjournment**

Caley adjourned the meeting at 2:20pm.