



School Council

**Minutes of the ÉEVE School Council Meeting
Dec 12, 2023
1:00pm In-person and Zoom**

SC Executive:

Caley Remington, Chair - present
Chelsey Conrad, Co-Chair - regrets
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 - present

Attendees:

Katie Gibson, Robin Somji, Kirsten Inglis, Janelle Wimperis, Kare Wallace

1. Call to Order

Caley called the meeting to order at 1:07pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. School Trustee Report

Judi sends her regrets and newsletter:

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

TRUSTEE HUNTER. WARD 5



On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish each of you a wonderful holiday break and a Merry Christmas.

Our staff and students have been working hard. Schools are busy places, not only focusing on academic learning and assessment but also giving band performances, engaging in sports competitions, drama productions, leadership activities, field trips, and community contribution activities. The Board has

published its Annual Education Assurance Results Report. It is available on the Rocky View Schools website. www.rockyview.ab.ca

Congratulations to Airdrie City Council for working with the new Francophone school to build a gymnasium that can be used by the public. The City will run the gym. Strathmore built a similar facility. This model is an effective use of our taxpayers' hard-earned dollars. For those of you who would like to see this in action, I invite you to visit the George Freeman School in Strathmore. The gym is built with a separate and secure entrance for public use. Link to article <https://www.airdriecityview.com/local-news/airdrie-council-commits-up-to-4m-for-gym-at-new-francophone-school-7799160>

The new Hautes-Plaines Francophone school is set to open in Airdrie in 2027.

The name Hautes-Plaines refers to the topography of the territory where the school is located. The latter is located on a plateau of approximately 1,100 meters above sea level, surrounded by plains which form the beginning of the Canadian prairies and the beginning of the Rocky Mountains.

The Tsqéscen is the seventh First Nation to do so since 2022

<https://www.wltribune.com/news/tsqescen-first-nation-takes-control-of-childrens-education-6830875>

Indigenous Cultural Liaisons

The Indigenous Learning team is happy to welcome new Indigenous cultural liaisons. [Stacey Dyck](#) and [Nicole Runner](#). These two new members will support schools in offering cultural lessons, teachings, and support to staff and students, as well as support bridging communication between school and home for Indigenous students and families.

Mandatory Holocaust Education in BC High Schools

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bc-holocaust-education-mandatory-1.7013308>

British Columbia will make Holocaust education mandatory for Grade 10 students starting in the fall of 2025. B.C. Premier David Eby says the move comes during a "frightening" time for the Jewish community, citing a rise in antisemitic incidents in B.C. amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

[Education minister tasked with creating universal nutrition program](#)

Manitoba's new education minister has been handed an ambitious to-do list that includes developing a universal nutrition program, appointing a senior advisor of Indigenous excellence in schooling, and introducing P3 accountability legislation.

[Nova Scotia education minister says naloxone in schools being discussed for new year](#)

Nova Scotia's education minister says the government is discussing the idea of making naloxone kits available in the province's schools, as the Liberal opposition presses for rapid action. Naloxone is used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose and can save lives if administered rapidly. Education Minister Becky Druhan says the use of opioids at high schools in the province is "concerning,"

[B.C. announces funding for prefab classrooms for growing Vancouver Island school district](#)

The B.C. government is funding the expansions of at least two schools using prefabricated additions — which are more permanent than portables and quicker to complete than traditional construction.

4. Administration Report (Denise)

Alanna: School is going skating tomorrow and Thursday, we're very excited, borrowed equipment from A.E. Bowers in Airdrie so everyone can participate and no one has to purchase. Thank-you to school council (SC) for paying for bussing. Tons of support, 2 classes at a time. I will be on the ice. Carolling last week of school, rotating so AM/PM Kindergarten can participate, bilingual, every day except Friday. Fun announcements throughout the day on Friday. PJ Drive amazing, around 250 so far, kids get an ornament to decorate tree when they bring them in.

Looking for ways to spend Healthy Hunger (HH) money on fun things for kids (around \$5,300). Important it's accessible for everyone. Ideas: artist, Fitset Ninja was great but very expensive and not accessible for all. Denise: A family reached out, they're going to have the Wranglers coming in January to do something with the kids like floor hockey. Spoke with Mr. Landry, assistant coach of the Dino's, when they're done their season will be coming in to do some skills work with the kids. Only so much gym time, outdoor classroom in the future. Want this money to be spent on the kids, will take care of the capital part, FÉEVES has casino money to spend. Caley: Swimming used to be done. Jennifer: Vecova accessible, wheelchair ramp and lifts in change room, built for special needs, warmest pool in Western Canada. Alana: Excellent, would you consider lessons. Caley: Would have to look into it, which pools offer them to schools. Would provide exposure, lessons would include supervision compared to a field trip to go swimming. CBE, other schools do lessons, this school used to. Alanna: Will look into PE guidelines, waivers, partnerships, cost, residencies that are available. Other ideas shared: COP and climbing centre (have to have some control/movement of 2 limbs), Atco Blue Flame Kitchen - would incorporate reading, numbers, science. Crave cupcakes, SAIT, Bowness High School have great kitchens. STEAM room at SMS has kitchen facilities. Cheaper to bring someone in than bus kids out. Ever Active Schools can come to you. SoundsKreations - mixed reviews. Springbank Soccer. Mural artist: brings in supplies, could create tiles to decorate learning commons.

Question: How much do we make from HH, can we increase frequency as a big source of revenue? Caley: Can get Kim to provide breakdown of revenue, differs by vendor, can look at potential of increasing frequency etc.

Denise: Ordered furniture for learning commons, collaborative space for teachers previously known as the Owl's Nest being redesigned. Fundraise vs. FÉEVES. Hogwart's picture made by Kristine (mother of student now in Grade 7), when house team colours started, consider returning if no longer used - will be put back up. Furniture - to sit in centre of learning commons, table. Painting started, re-doing everything. Kirsten: Maybe we could get a Harry Potter experience to come in. Library Committee available if help needed. Mr Lofthouse will direct help needed, different every time. Sign-up for shifts Tues/Thurs 9-11 and 1-3. Criminal record check, send out sign-up genius to parent community, projects reserved for committee members.

5. Teacher's Report - Katie Gibson

Literacy and Numeracy lead for ÉEVE. Literacy Committee has met, goal is to build a literacy plan for the school. FI scope and sequence of early reading/foundational skills built for K-4, align resources to benefit kids (use same tool K-2). Found something similar for Grade 3/4 FI, when they start English. Found closest resource that aligns with what's being used for French, to make transition a bit easier. Did the same on English side, grade reps met and built scope and sequence for early foundational skills for reading K-4. Also working of finding research-based resources. Some grade 3/4

teachers trialling U Fly Foundations, research-based scope and sequence of foundational skills for reading.

Question: What is scope and sequence? Scope and sequence is what's most effective for teaching reading. Can be for phonics, numeracy, but for reading starts with alphabet, consonants-vowel sounds, consonant-vowel-consonant sounds, digraphs (2 letters that come together to make a sound ie. th), vowels, r-controlled vowels (ar, or, ur). Goes from easier to harder, can monitor progress.

Denise: Going to host a family literacy night on Jan 31, will notify families before the break. Still using divisional process, this is an internal (shorter) way to assess without taking away from instructional time. Each grade team has a lead, separate literacy and numeracy committee. Trying to partner with other schools, Calgary Academy and Strathcona. Looking at what they use for intervention, they have already spent a lot of time researching this. Just met with our psychologist, talked about Orton-Gillingham, preferred method for specialized support with early lit, new research shows it might not be the best way - things are constantly changing. Power is when teams/programs aligned, around all schools from grade-grade, that's when you're going to see gains. Continuity of program, not different from teacher-teacher ie. sight words, sounding out words (decoding), so language used as teachers is the same, so it makes sense in student's brain. Literacy night will explain the program so parents can use at home with home reading. Last year Gr 1 started working with Villages des Sons. Did well with that. When grade 3 FI starts ELA, trialling a similar resource, closest thing to what was used in the system for Gr 1/2, so they receive the same instruction when they start formal instruction in English (beginning with the alphabet). Shifted some letter sounds half-way thru last year, showed progress at year-end.

Question: Will parents get instruction on how to teach at home? Want evidence-based research on what's best to do at home. Denise: Our job at school to teach literacy, to onboard the teaching part. Home reading important, but this community very busy, most scheduled after-school I've seen. Family time at home important. Different modalities, auditory learning important, peer-reviewed, expertise of staff, quality professional learning. Big gains in 3 months, just hard to articulate it. Alignment in programming key. New curriculum, great time to do this.

6. Co-Chair's Report (Caley)

Meeting held with co-chair's, Sharelle, Denise and Alanna to discuss financials and literacy night. SC meetings are the place to come to get info. Encourage parents to attend, minutes on website to review or find out what happened if you weren't able to attend. Zoom available, video recording will not be. Denise: Want to share information on the SEP rollout, how it happened and was shared. New this year, sick and missed first SC meeting, brought out SEP in October meeting and shared with those there, draft needed to have SC approval/feedback. RVSD surprised it was shared, divisional team meetings held since then. Followed the process, but now, should it be on the website or

shared with the parent community? Wasn't intending to withhold information from parent community, it was required for SC to sign-off report. SEP used to be Workbook, which was always published on website at end of year, with gains. After intervention put in place, Gr 4 up FI 51.4%, English 25%. Beginning of year shared SEP with SC to sign-off on it, work on it, share/publish at end of year with gains.

When asked questions, refer parents to admin. Suggest amend/add SEP report to minutes, as it was actually shared at the meeting. Denise: Misses what teachers have done since then. Progress has been discussed at SC meetings since then. Literacy Night: parent-only, direct targeted discussion with parents. Parent-teacher interviews not the time to discuss SEP. Denise: SEP will be discussed and explained. Don't want to focus on data, but on growth. Open House format, meant to be parents as partners. Show data that supports growth. Share passion, plan, growth, focus on the future. Do you need a committee of volunteers to help? Yes - Kirsten will send to Katie. Grade teams will meet in January, plan what they want to present. Open House, show what happens from grade to grade, can see how classroom works in a different way. Question: Could we get a curated list of where parents can get resources at home. Yes.

Had quorum for approval of funding up to \$600 to pay for bussing for skating field trip for K-4, unanimously approved by Sharelle, Caley, Chelsey, Denise and Alanna.

PJ Drive: Thank-you Michelle, Rhonda, Katarina, expect more to arrive on Spirit Day (PJ day).

MD Motivator: Social media influencer, background includes former med school student in Australia during pandemic, mental health issues with isolation and being without family/friends, dropped out. He will ask random people questions like would you take \$500 for yourself or \$10,000 for charity? Managed by a mom at this school (Erica Williams, parent of Lenny English Grade 2) and have started a Kindness is Cool campaign. Every year, each SC receives \$500 to bring in a guest speaker. Usually collaborate with SMS, SCHS. \$45,000 normal cost, will get friends and family discount, \$3,500. Timeframe: 45 minute presentation to students, 15 minutes Q&A. Details TBD. New registered charity, hoping this will help spread the word. Want \$500 to commit, principal's from ÉEVE and SMS have professional learning funds, business operations need to approve. SMS SC has already committed \$500. Focus is on mental health, helping someone else will help you, gratitude, if you're feeling bad, try doing something good for someone else.

Caley motioned to put forward \$500 to commit to MD Motivator for speaking engagement for students; no objections; all in favour; motion carried.

Meeting held with admin at SMS, on board with getting Grade 5/6 teachers involved with team here, SMS bridge between 2 schools. Teaching reading not a middle school thing, unless teacher experienced with teaching elementary. SMS SC meeting last week: admin shared SEP, appreciate it was shared here, tone of the room the same as

here. Denise: Could invite Grade 5/6 to Literacy Night, happy to collaborate with SMS and share resources.

7. Treasurer Report

HH update from November. Read SC Chair binder - school generated fund contact number no longer in use. Caley: Could use Judi as next point of contact, trustees provide binder to us. Opening balance: need financial statement signed-off at end of last year. Sitting at balance of around \$5,300 less \$600 for bussing for skating, total around \$4,500. \$500 for MD Motivator from RVSD, not SC funds.

8. Healthy Hunger Report (Kim)

No report given.

9. Yearbook Committee Report (Robin)

Making leaps and bounds. Tutorial with Desiree from Lifetouch with Megan (co-editor) and Jessica. Jessica is getting all pictures, editing and tagging them. Receiving pictures from teachers, Holly & Kara helping to get pictures at events. Increasing pages to 88, only increases cost per book by around \$4. Each teacher gets 2 pages, includes class picture, more white space to make it less busy. Deliver in June to allow signing (if staff allow). Cover Art Challenge will need to happen sooner, need decision by March 1. Admin picks winner, 4 runners up in years past, but saw one year with 16-20. 100 received, need to narrow down. Theme was puzzle pieces last year. Ideas: Kindness is Cool, House Teams etc. We don't have a theme this year, just want cover to represent the year. Might have a section to highlight what happened this year. Each classroom: what's your motto. Yearbook cost also discussed, covered by cost of purchasing yearbooks. Lifetouch allows advertising, does SC need to do this as a fundraiser? No. Need to re-evaluate cost, surplus comes back to school in some way. Request: number of books ordered, cost/book, how much we made in years past. Pay upfront, recover from SchoolCashOnline, historically estimates have been very close. 375 ordered/sold last year, maybe 5-6 leftover. Cost \$25/yearbook.

10. Canadian Parents for French (Janelle)

Cheese drive done, pickup next week at SMS. Encourage membership purchase, needed to keep our chapter alive. Future ideas: movie night, tutoring, craft after school.

11. Community Outreach (Katarina)

No report given.

12. FÉEVES

No report given.

13. Open Floor

Makerspace Committee to organize room? Plan is to do later, learning commons first.

SEP to be added to minutes as amendment? TBD

Robin: Can we put more info in OWL Outlook re: SC, minutes?

Denise: Was alternating OWL with teacher updates so parents only get 1 email/week. Feedback from meeting is to move back to weekly.

14. Future SC Meetings

January 16, 2024 at 1:00pm.

15. Adjournment

Caley adjourned the meeting at 3:01pm.