



School Council

**Minutes of the ÉEVE School Council Meeting
Nov 14, 2023
1:00pm In-person and over 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:

Janelle Wimperis, Katarina Trutina, Logan Martin, Lindsay Leptich, Asha Hynes, Glenn Hynes, Robin Somji, Jessica Gergely, Kirsten Inglis, Kare Wallace, Talia Zink, Craig Johnson, Greg Hilliby, Korli Drerer, Jeremy Mathies

1. Call to Order

Caley called the meeting to order at 1:06pm.

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:

November 2023 Newsletter

Trustee Hunter Ward 5

In this issue I have included two video links, the first the video celebrating Year 11 of the Building Futures program with Mckee homes.

<https://www.airdriecityview.com/coronavirus-covid-19-local-news/rvs-and-mckee-homes-dedicates-site-to-building-futures-program-7646504>

October 5 was the Building Futures site dedication to commemorate the start of the 2023/24 program.

Building Futures is a full-year academic program for Grade 10 students offered in partnership with McKee Homes in Airdrie. In addition to learning subjects like math, science, social studies and English, students work together to construct a house. Through the program, they engage in hands-on learning guided by tradespeople associated with residential home building.

The second video pays tribute to our dedicated cadre of teaching professionals in celebration of “World Teachers Day. Since its creation by UNESCO in 1994, World Teachers’ Day has grown into a celebration of more than 32 million teachers in over 170 countries through activities such as students writing letters or sharing videos, to making it a national holiday in some countries.”

<https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/ata-invites-video-tributes-to-mark-world-teachers-day>

On Nov. 16, 1885, Louis Riel, a prominent Métis leader and advocate for his peoples’ rights and identity, was executed. This date is recognized annually as Louis Riel Day and the week it falls (Nov. 12 – 18) is recognized as Métis Week.

Rocky View School Division welcomes Navi Kaur as RVS' new Director of Planning. Navi joins RVS from the City of Chestermere where she worked f as Senior Manager of Infrastructure Management.

RVS also welcomes RVS' new Director of Operations, Tod Tjoris. Tod joins RVS from the City of Calgary. Tod is a master electrician, an instrumental engineer with the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta.

Congratulations to Franco-Albertan Justice Mary Moreau who has been appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada.

EDUCATIONAL INSIGHTS FROM ACROSS CANADA

Quebec students will soon have to undergo seven to nine hours of mandatory anti-violence training every year, starting as early as pre-K, following a series of violent incidents in the province’s schools. The measure is one of 11 outlined in Education Minister Bernard Drainville’s anti-violence action plan to be rolled out gradually by 2025. The training will be incorporated into the school curriculum, and may be included in the province’s new ‘citizenship and culture’ course.

Most P.E.I. teachers have considered quitting, union says

The P.E.I. Teachers' Federation is looking for what it is calling a Course Correction, following a survey of its members that found 62 per cent of them had considered leaving the profession. The federation launched a new awareness campaign this week to highlight problems of burnout in the profession. The survey found 78 per cent of teachers had experienced burnout in their career, citing unrealistic expectations.

As global instability rises — wars raging across Ukraine, sub-Saharan Africa and now the Middle East — public schools are supporting a growing number of refugee students in a unique program addressing their complex needs. <https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/refugee-students-lead-program-public-schools>

4. Administration Report (Denise)

Want to speak to data shared in school education plan, FI data intimidating, lots of phone calls from parents with questions. Lindsay Leptich to present on this topic. Caley: received lots of phone calls/emails about this subject, need to communicate with parent community so thank you for doing this. Denise: English and French literacy/numeracy concerns in general, but presentation focused on FI.

5. Teacher's Report - FI Reading at ÉEVE (Lindsay Leptich)

Work to do: Grade 1 41.5%, Grade 2 29.5%, Grade 3 16.7%, Grade 4 11.1% reading at grade level - similar scores in English stream. Teachers don't learn how to teach reading, seek out how on their own. Fountas & Pinnell (\$1.6 billion revenue over 10 years, huge company). Marketed resources across North America. Problem with reading across North America. 3 cueing system in English and French (F&P and GB+) that looks at 3 types of errors: meaning - does it make sense, structure - does it sound right, visual - does it look right (in FI visual errors only, don't have background knowledge to rely on). Research on GB+ shows no studies re: effectiveness, no cited resources in teaching manual. Early 2000's: reading system-assessment system. Reached out to publisher many times, no response. GB+ books not written in French, PH benchmark books translated, not written for francophones. A lot of studies on F&P, \$2 million paid by themselves for 2 studies: Kindergarten and Grade 1 intervention programs moved up reading levels, no discernible effects on sounding out words, can't read - just level up, know how to work the system. When the system is removed, around 30% struggle. 54% accuracy, 20-30 minute assessment. Dr. Matthew Burns is a Reading Intervention Specialist. Cueing strategies flawed, teaches students to be poor readers, known since 1980. Not enough difference between level E-G book to reliably determine reading ability. Do they know the subject? Background knowledge key.

Response to Grade 1 AB curriculum: phonics, 1-2 syllable words, certain complex sounds, syllables (CV, VCV) - level 7 words are not that. Text viewed, read, listened to or produced. Clues for comprehension. Doesn't match GB+ or AB curriculum. Strategies help comprehension. Texts can be repetitive. Recognize 80-100 high frequency words. Repeated reading develops fluency. Recognize syllables/sounds in written words. Choose and read texts out loud, when text is at their independent reading level. RV benchmarks differ and provide benchmarks not in ABEd Curriculum. Can fail reading but pass comprehension. Reading levels: rouge, jaune, vert, bleu (vert is Grade 1 level). 1 other program to assess French reading, Jolie Jolie - same error system. Alignment around Grade 1: complex sounds not taught in Grade 1 or required in K (why they're repeated). Changed how we're instructing - direct and explicit phonics instruction. Last year, new books that are highly decodable (Facile à lire, Nouvelle orthographe), breaks text down, colour-coded silent letters. These changes started happening with last year's Grade 1's, I was working on my Master's in Critical Literacy Research, started digging into F&P system, Sold A Story podcast - Dr Matthew Burns. Drastic shifts, following into Grade 2 this year, K did as well when they were ready (end of year).

Sharelle: What are the Grade 6/9 stats? Lindsay: unknown, assumption is things thoroughly vetted/researched. There's a problem, we're trying to fix it, didn't know before but you can't ignore stats whether you agree with the assessments or not. Need to teach phonics and vocabulary. Denise: RVSD assessments staggered at different times (F&P assessment). 1 piece of information, not the whole picture. On the leadership side, experience as instructional lead for IB primary program, onboarding skills. Math assessments also not good. Alignment of programming needed, should be connected with SMS, SCHS. I know what to do, but it will take time: direct teaching,

budget for professional learning, furniture design. 7 schools provide FI in RV, only started ELA in Grade 3 - it takes 7 years when acquiring a new language. Lindsay: Grades K,1,2 have same system to learn phonics, teachers aligned (Villages des Sons). Denise: new curriculum, Grade 3 big leap, learning English, expected to be able to read. Grade 4 urgent need, going to SMS next year - focused 6 week intervention, created small groups (everyone got intervention) as a result of scores. Lindsay: assessment tool built for francophone not FI schools. English students vs FI students learning English: lower, should be caught up by Grade 6, realistically Grade 9. Alanna: Villages des Sons bought in English, same phonics system increases connection.

Jeremy: Is there a more reliable assessment tool? Sharelle: Does reading level correlate with grades? Lindsay: Should, but interpersonal descriptors vary. Denise: reaching out to other schools to see what they're using, like Dibbles. Parents need to communicate collaboratively between schools, we're a family of schools. Middle school teachers don't know necessarily know how to teach literacy. Assessments differ at each school. Last year scale changed, D to G, no gradual incline, had to make-up gap. Staff stressed, exceptional team, increased level of expectation, we need to work together not in opposition. Kirsten: Literacy Week in February, suggest topic of this is how we teach French to your kids. Alanna: adult education via CPF. Lindsay: home supports - website La lecture partagée, QR codes on books to hear book being read, need to learn oral sounds before learning to read. Progress is there, just not in an assessment from RVSD. Caley: What can we do, buy more books/readers, bring back volunteer reading? Denise: being done, parents want kids reading, to know how they're doing. Homework/worksheets not just sounds may be coming. Live reporting: different within K-12 system, more realistic in higher grades. 1:1 interviews in November, student-led in Spring (celebration of learning). Weekly emails, work sent home, end of year expectations, mark with comment. Teacher wellness important, point out the good, fill some buckets, maybe a letter from kids who want to write them. New assessment, first time using it to report data. Don't have good data re: numeracy but working on it as well. MIPI for grade 4 only. Open door, willing to talk to parents anytime.

6. Co-Chair's Report (Caley)

Attended Joint Council meeting, got a binder with info on how to run meeting's, financials, bylaws. Custodian budget shortfalls brought up, Judi there and aware. Denise: has been an increase in hours, education on bathroom etiquette - how to wash hands, flush the toilet, wait in line.

7. Treasurer Report

School does accounting. \$2,000 revenue from HH, \$130 from Mabel's Labels. Expenses to note: BBQ \$580, Terry Fox \$53, House Teams \$40, Friendly Helpers \$1,100 (hats, year end party). Continuity questions: \$122+ at end of year, not the same as beginning of year, will continue to work with Rhonda as these amounts are reviewed and subject to change. Year end tie-ins need to be done. Expenses incurred: who approves these, what's acceptable. School funds vs. SC funds: different, will iron-out.

8. Healthy Hunger Report (Kim)

Going well, lots of volunteers, main source of income.

9. Yearbook Committee Report (Robin)

Jessica Gergely joined, taking photos. Teachers sending top 3-5 pics. Megan Roy co-editor, working on layout, adding more candid photos throughout grades. Plan is to get out before end of year, May 13 deadline to submit for printing.

10. Canadian Parents for French (Janelle)

Cheese drive forms out. 1 fundraiser for all 3 schools which make up our chapter of CPF. November 27 deadline to order.

11. Community Outreach (Katarina)

Christmas a great time to get kids involved and giving back. Reached out to different organizations. Adopt-A-Family through Made By Momma: collect money from students or purchase items from wish list, buy/wrap gifts, kids write cards and family writes back. Could have different grades bring different items, tie-in to house teams, collecting money not ideal. PJ drive: could have PJ day to celebrate, take picture of all of them, house team challenge - ties in to gratitude. Can make flyer to post/email.

Caley motioned for school council to support PJ Drive through Made By Momma, donations to be completed by December 13; Seconded by Karen; all in favour; no objections; motion carried.

12. Open Floor

Robin: Remembrance Day Assembly very well done, kids were very quiet.

13. FEEVES Report

No report.

14. Future SC Meetings

December 12, 2023 at 1:00pm.

15. Adjournment

Caley adjourned the meeting at 2:45pm.