

Springbank Community High School Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 18 2024 5:00 pm

Attendance: Rob M, Kim C, Tara S, Monica W., Judi H., Mark J., Jill J, Amal J, Kirsten H, Stephanie

1. **Welcome:** meeting called to order at 5:05pm
2. **Approval of October 2024 Meeting Minutes**
Moved By: Mark J
Seconded: Kirsten H
Discussion: None
Motion Carried
3. **Chair Report:** Michelle Pellegrin - was unable to attend the meeting – her report was read to attendees.
 - Rocky View Schools School Council Meeting Overview (Future Ready Students):
 - i) The Government of Alberta came down with a directive to come up with a plan to be utilized in schools (all ages) to promote areas where Alberta has skill shortages and provide access and information to gain employment in these areas. Rocky View School has two teachers working part-time on this directive.
 - ii) SCHS is already:
 - (1) Promoting the utilization of internal resources,
 - (2) Hosting career days,
 - (3) Bringing in post-secondary institutions,
 - (4) Monitoring and guiding course requirements
 - iii) How can we at SCHS improve on our promotion of post-secondary employment (all areas not just University)
 - iv) Informational Links on Free Financial Literacy Course, Skill Shortages and Building Futures Program
 - (1) <https://moneymentors.ca/financial-education/free-class-managing-money-understanding-credit-money-mentors/>
 - (2) https://www.conferenceboard.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/skills-shortages-impacting-productivity_aug2024.pdf
 - (3) <https://cfee.org/program/building-futures-in-alberta/>
 - Up Coming Meeting Dates and Times at SCHS
Wednesday, February 12th, 2025 5 pm
Wednesday, April 16th, 2025 5 pm
Wednesday, June 18th, 2025 – Annual General Meeting 5 pm
4. **Principal's Report** – Mr. Robert Makkreel
 - School Update
 - Create night held in November to celebrate music, art, foods, robotics, languages.
 - Pep rally to close out the fall sports. Celebrated all the grade 12 athletes that participated in sports. The grads had a lunch and then there was a pep rally. It

- was rewarding to have the kids and coaches gather.
- Robotics competition – over 100 kids, passionate about robotics and helping each other. Rewarding to see the kids engaged. Good to see the frustration and then the problem solving that goes with it
 - Substitutes will come to SCHS as they feel welcome here.
 - Staff and Students alike are looking forward to the break.
- WeConnect
 - SCHS has exceeded its budget for WeConnect, the RVS dual-track online course program. Alternative options like Vista Virtual are available at no cost, but SCHS lacks control over communication with teachers and access to grading reports.
 - WeConnect offers valuable data on student success, but the school incurs costs for every enrollee, whether they complete the course or not.
 - SCHS is reviewing student profiles to identify those best suited for online learning and is considering changes for next year, such as eligibility criteria and program structure. This year's outcomes will guide future decisions.
 - A question was raised about whether refunds are possible for mid-year withdrawals from WeConnect.
 - Students appreciate the independence provided by online learning opportunities.
 - School Needs
 - Kirsten and Rob met to clarify school needs and have a clear understanding of priorities.
 - An additional \$4,000 was allocated for Chromebooks, and a list of requirements has been created.
 - The school plans to invest more in technology using both casino funds and the GL budget.
 - Initial purchases will include classroom screens, with additional input from teachers on items like iPads to enhance teaching.
 - \$30,000 is budgeted for spending this school year, leaving \$15,000 for the following year until the next casino fundraiser.
 - Clarification - Technology purchased through the fundraising arm will need to be replaced by the fundraising arm, while tech purchased by the school will be upgraded through the school budget.
 - Fraser Institute Report (<https://www.compareschoolrankings.org/pdf/report-card-on-alberta-high-schools-2024.pdf>) (<https://www.compareschoolrankings.org/school/ab/secondary/5223>)

- i) How did we drop from 13th to 42nd in Alberta High School Rankings out of 290 Schools.

	Chart	Table			
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE	2023	2022	2019	2018	2017
Average exam mark [📊]	69.8	70.2	71.5	74.4	72.7
Percentage of exams failed [📊]	12.1	8.0	7.1	4.9	6.2
School vs exam mark difference [📊]	10.2	9.9	6.9	4.6	6
Language Arts gender gap [📊]	F 4.2	n/a	F 4.5	F 4.6	F 0.8
Math gender gap [📊]	F 0.4	n/a	F 1.0	F 0.5	F 8.1
Courses taken per student [📊]	1.6	1.6	4.1	4.4	4.4
Diploma completion rate [📊]	97.5	98.7	96.6	97.4	98.5
Delayed advancement rate [📊]	3.2	0.7	3.2	0.3	1.7
Overall rating out of 10 [📊]	7.7	8.1	8.3	8.7	8.7

Note: Most provinces paused their testing programs for two years as part of their policy response to Covid-19 so we will not be able to fill in the historical results for 2020 or 2021.

- ii) How do we fix this problem

- SCHS rankings are based solely on diploma exam results, prompting the need for change.
 - Rob presented on whether students are choosing appropriate pathways, such as taking 30-2 before 30-1 when applicable.
 - Achieving 70% in a -2 course can be more beneficial than 50% in a -1 course. Many -2 courses still meet university admission requirements.
 - For programs like ELA, students could complete -2 first and transition to -1, offering a more effective progression.
 - Teachers will collaborate with middle school educators to better prepare students and ensure they are on the right pathways. Discussions with feeder middle schools will align programming.
 - A parent information night will be held to introduce alternative pathways and support student success.
 - The course timetable is being reviewed to allow students to complete both -2 and -1 courses in the same year if needed.
- French Immersion:
 - French Immersion dropout rates are high post Grade 9, the program becomes small and expensive.
 - Looking into the effectiveness of having French completed by end of grade 11.

5. Financial Update – Kirsten Hunter

- See attached statement.

6. School Trustee Report - Judi Hunter

See attached Newsletter for full report

- Robotics Team: Grad 12 team currently ranked first in Canada from recent competitions. Request to run a 50/50 raffle; Friends group to explore licensing options. Community association unable to run the raffle due to legal constraints.
- Election 2025: Scheduled for October; \$100 deposit required with candidate applications.
- Cost and Technology Challenges: Escalating costs and monetization of previously free programs will increase budget pressures.
- CREATE night was a success.
- Banded Peak hosting a Christmas market.
- Infrastructure Updates: Changes underway at Bingham Crossing (RR33 and Highway 1).
- Board Updates:
- Search for a new Superintendent underway.
- Request for 27 modular classrooms; allocations primarily for Airdrie schools.
- Grade 9 students in Airdrie to move to middle schools.
- Cochrane and Chestermere consultations ongoing to assess school needs.
- Development of self-reflection tools for staff to enhance diversity and inclusivity.
- Ward 5 to become Ward 4 following review; effective October 2025.

7. Grad Representative – Stephanie Morson

- The planning team consists of 14 parents, and banquet preparations are on track.
- Stephanie is the point of contact if the school requires assistance from the parent group.
- Key events:
 - May 24: Banquet and dance at the Hyatt.
 - May 24 after-grad party organized by After Grad YYC.
 - June 7: Campout at the equestrian center.
- Tara Sly will assist in directing parents to relevant information.
- Ticket sales will begin in January.

8. Teacher Representatives – Tara Sly

- Reassessment diploma and PAT - planning is in full swing. 2 weeks after the break
- Need of the break
- Leadership events – spirit days – kids are involved.

9. Student Representative – Ariana Chondronikolis

- Student grad committee has been chosen of around 15 people
- We have had 1 meeting with Ms. Rogers and Ms. O'Neill
- We are holding our first Crumbl cookie fundraiser this Thursday at noon
- We will meet in January to discuss grad themes, brainstorm ideas for future fundraisers, discuss possible speakers and grad sweatshirts.

Adjourn SCHS meeting by 6:35pm

Next meeting Wednesday, February 12th, 2025 5pm

Springbank Community High School Council

Financial Update

November 30, 2024

Springbank Community High School Council

School Council Bank Account:

1. Estimated Balance 30-Nov-24 \$2,341.57

Friends of Springbank Community High School

General Chequing Account

1. Balance 30-Nov-24 \$110.48
2. In October & November:
 1. Funds were transferred from the T-Bill account and then a cheque was written to the Hyatt Regency Calgary for the 2025 Grad Deposit (\$6,875.00)

General T-Bill Account

1. Balance 30-Nov-24 \$3,977.39
2. In October & November:
 1. Funds transferred to the general chequing account to cover Grad Deposit
 2. Deposit interest was recorded \$23.02

Casino Chequing Account

1. Balance 30-Nov-24 \$37,763.05
2. In October & November:
 1. Funds were transferred into the chequing account to cover the costs of the Executive Insurance and a cheque was written (\$1,023.00) and funds transferred for reimbursed of approved Casino expenditures (\$37,645.14 – cheque cashed in December)

Casino T-Bill Account

1. Balance 30-Nov-24 \$58,508.04
2. In October & November:
 1. Deposit interest was recorded \$427.73

2. Funds transferred to chequing account for Executive Insurance and approved Casino Expenditures

General Comments

- The Committed Funds Worksheet has been updated
 - Uncommitted funds at December 18, 2024 - \$45,174.09

DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER, TRUSTEE HUNTER, WARD 5

Hard to believe that we are approaching the end of another year. Our students are working hard the schools are abuzz with activity. So is the Board. The Board continues to advocate for more student spaces – schools and portables. The government is responding with its accelerator program which is welcome news. However, the provincial backlog of needed spaces, construction worker shortages and municipal preparedness may impede the speed at which this program rolls out.

Modular Capital Plan Request to Government

As enrolment continues to increase across the division, RVS needs additional modular classrooms in many of its communities to mitigate space challenges until new schools can be approved and built. RVS has submitted to government a request for 27 modular classrooms and the relocation of one modular washroom unit. These would help relieve some of the overcrowding in RVS schools in Airdrie, Cochrane, Chestermere and Crossfield where schools have the greatest need. Modular classrooms are a temporary solution for schools operating over capacity, and the Board will continue to advocate to the province for the approval of new schools in each of these communities. A decision regarding RVS' request is expected in early 2025.

Addressing the growing population and school spaces in Cochrane and Chestermere

A thorough review of utilizations across Cochrane schools was conducted by an RVS staff working group. As a result, the Board decided to maintain the current boundaries and grade configurations for Cochrane schools. A student accommodation review will be necessary in early 2027. Boundaries for the communities of Southbow and Rivercrest have yet to be decided. The Board will continue to work with the Town of Cochrane to ensure that suitable school sites are ready. School sites need to be ready before government will consider funding. The Board sent a letter to the Mayor and Town Council urging advancement of sites.

A community consultation was held in Chestermere focussed on addressing interim accommodation solutions until the new K-8 school is built. Finalized plans will be decided in January 2025

Indigenous Learning Creates Self-Reflection Tool for School Staff

The Indigenous Learning department is tasked with supporting learning environments that celebrate diversity and are inclusive. To assist school-based staff and administrators, the Indigenous Learning branch has created a self-reflection tool to help determine a staff member's understanding and comfort with different areas of Indigenous knowledge and understanding.

Additional Funding Plan Focused on Student Success

The Board approved the spending plan for the additional funding from the provincial government announced in July. It includes additional supports to help schools transition new students with complex needs into their school culture; enhancements to our IT, infrastructure; and resources and technology for schools to support a smooth transition for the student accommodation changes in Airdrie beginning September 2025, an instructional contingency. English Language Learners numbers are up, the additional dollars received will go directly to schools to support those learners.

Ward Boundary Bylaw Second Reading passed

October 17 meeting, the Board approved changes to the current ward boundaries to ensure equitable representation of constituents. These changes take effect for the October 2025 election and include the addition of a second trustee for Cochrane and the amalgamation of the existing Ward 2 and Ward 4 areas. The third reading is upcoming.

Board Creates Committee to Facilitate Search for New Superintendent

RVS' Superintendent of Schools, Greg Luterbach, will retire at the end of August 2025, and a search for a new superintendent is required. The Board approved the Terms of Reference to create an ad hoc Superintendent Search Committee to support the recruitment process.

ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES INFORMATION

Children's well-being and education results are closely aligned. The following are links to Alberta Health Services information.

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/about/org/ahs-org-hp-2024-2027.pdf>

<https://www.alberta.ca/stats/dashboard/respiratory-virus-dashboard.htm>

