

Springbank Community High School Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, Feb 12, 2025 5:00 pm

Attendance:

Rob M, Kim C, Kirsten H, Mark J., Michelle P, Amal J, Tara S, Arlene A, Allison S

1. Meeting called to order at 5:00pm
2. Approval of December 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - The minutes from the December 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. **Chair Report** – Michelle Pellegrin
Up Coming Meeting Dates and Times at SCHS
Wednesday, April 16th, 2025 5 pm
Wednesday, June 18th, 2025 – Annual General Meeting 5 pm
4. **Principal's Report** – Mr. Robert Makkreel
 - School Update:
 - Semester 2 has started successfully.
 - New staff members have arrived, and some teachers have adjusted their course assignments.
 - Focus on reducing class sizes moving forward.
 - Enrollment for next year projected at ~660 students (currently at 678).
 - Budget planning for next year has begun.
 - Three potential new teaching positions for next year.
 - A new English teacher has been hired.
 - Advanced Placement (AP) English will be offered for Grades 10 and 11.
 - A math position is currently open for hiring.
 - Grade 9s will have two Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) per semester to prevent overwhelming workloads.
 - Exam Results:
 - Diploma exam results are expected by the end of February.
 - PAT results have been released.
 - School Needs:
 - No new needs were identified at this time.
5. **Financial Update** – Kirsten Hunter
 - Estimated Balance 31-Jan-25 \$2,341.57
 - Funds have been allocated to leadership and the grad legacy initiative.
 - Goal to bring the account balance to zero.
6. **School Trustee Report** - Judi Hunter
 - See attached report
7. **Volunteer Coordinator** – Allison Salazar

- Difficulty securing volunteers for the Healthy Hunger program.
- Discussion regarding funding for the staff appreciation lunch:
 - No remaining funds in the budget; alternative funding options include a fundraiser or a potluck.
 - Last year, a nearby restaurant catered the event due to a lack of volunteers.
 - Potential use of a sign-up form for volunteers.
 - Staff appreciation lunch to align with parent-teacher conferences (Last day of March).

8. **Grad Representative (School Event Only)** – Tara Sly

- Grad committee meeting to finalize:
 - Grad wear design
 - Theme
 - Grad Quote
 - Speaker selection (recommendations still being considered)

9. **French Program Representative** - Vacant

10. **Teacher Representatives** – Tara Sly

- Semester Transition has been busy
- PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) Initiative:
 - Finalizing the behavioral matrix.
 - A positive behavior lesson was presented to students on the first day of the semester.
- Kindness Week Initiative:
 - Led by leadership students and staff.
 - Scheduled for the last week of February, coinciding with Pink Shirt Day.
 - Culminates in a kindness campaign on Friday.

11. **Student Representative** – Ariana C. (no report)

12. **Arena Discussion E-mail Motion** that was done:

Motion for Michelle Pellegrin to sign the letter of support for SPFAS to expand on behalf of the SCHS Council

Moved by: Kim Corti

Seconded by: Allison Salazar

All in favour

Adjourn SCHS meeting at 5:42pm

January 2025 Newsletter Trustee Hunter, Ward 5



Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a wonderful winter break and had time to enjoy family and friends and rejuvenate.

ELECTION OCTOBER 2025

It will be four years in October since the last election. The Provincial government passed The Local Authorities Election Act, which will be in force for the upcoming elections. Related to Trustees candidates, the current Board of Trustees has made the following bylaws:

- a one-hundred-dollar deposit will be required with the candidate's application
- the application must have 20 resident signatures

Candidate applications open January 1, 2025.

I encourage any person who has a passion for young people, education, and community service to consider serving in this important role. I am happy to discuss trusteeship with any interested party. Further information will be posted on the Rocky View Schools website.

There continue to be 8 trustees serving on the Board. The Boundary for Ward 5 remains the same. However, in redefining boundaries, Ward 5 will be known as Ward 4.

Artificial Intelligence in Education

As we watch AI adoption and progress in the broader world, we see AI being used in classrooms. Our teachers recognize that AI can be a powerful tool to assist learning. Many high school teachers are exploring ways in which AI helps students improve their learning and demonstrate their outcomes. Companies are developing AI software that helps students progress as they are ready to learn the next concept.

With every technology, there are benefits and hazards. A not-for-profit organization, AI for Education, (<https://www.aiforeducation.io/>) offers free information and learning on the topic of AI. Its recent video called "Anthropomorphizing AI" provides an interesting view on some of the pitfalls. They caution that the public did not see the adverse effects of social media on children and feel that AI impacts could be worse, if we don't get ahead of it.

The video talks about the mental models our youngest learners create while using AI. Young learners give human characteristics to robot such as this is my friend, he/she thinks. These researchers say is not to be encouraged. Robots are machines and should be viewed as such. Research shows that robots are very good at getting information from children because of this trust factor.

Adults are encouraged to use language that identifies AI as a tool created by people and not refer to robots as having human characteristics. Netflix has a movie, Subservience, that

demonstrates anthropomorphism. The researchers suggest that no person under the age of 13 should be using AI without adult supervision.

AI adoption is happening very quickly. Governments are racing to keep up. Currently, guidelines are being created to ensure student data privacy, safety, ethical use and practice. Organizations such as the Canadian Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute (CAISI) are also engaged in this process.

We can expect to see the speed of innovation increase with the advancement in new quantum computing chips and mechanical qubits operating with light and gravity, not to mention the advancement in space technologies.

One of the budget consequences of technology adoption is cost. Board costs for cybersecurity, internet access, and software licensing are increasing.

Our Schools

Kudos to Springbank High School Robotics team, currently ranked first in Canada.

Banded Peak held a wonderful outside Christmas Market in December. Grade 7 and 8 started businesses. Students then sold the products they created at the market.

One of the goals of the Board's strategic plan is to develop future-ready students. To this end, Bearspaw School hosted Lunch and Learn sessions where students ate their lunches while listening to parents in the community talk about their jobs.

Springbank High School hosted a successful Showcase of Learning in December.

Road Changes

As a result of the Bingham Crossing development, Alberta Infrastructure will be making some changes on Range Road 33. One of the impacts is the change in access to Calaway Park. Calaway is extending Range Road 245 to create a new access point to the park. This will change access to Springbank Middle School. Updates will be provided as information is known.