

GMHS Parent Council

Minutes

January 19, 2016

In Attendance:

Karen Lewall (Chair), Sheila Hughes (Secretary), Shannon Mauro (Treasurer), Sharon Rhodes (Principal), Jim Reilly (Assistant Principal), Sylvia Eggerer (Trustee), Kathleen Closs, Seguro GF Ndabene, Marni Adam, Sheryl Page, Tammy Sutherland, Kathy Schulze (Vice-Chair), Heather Lowry, Christine Dutnall

1. *Meeting called to order – 7:01pm*
2. *Welcome and introductions*
3. *Approval of Agenda*
Moved for approval by Shannon Mauro. Motion carried.
4. *Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2015*
Moved for approval by Kathy Schulze. Motion carried.
5. *Principal's Report* - Please see attached
6. *Trustee's Report* - Please see attached
7. *Other Business:*
 - a. Bylaws – Karen, Christine, Kathy and Shannon will meet with an expert from the Alberta School Council Association to draft new bylaws before our AGM
 - b. Grad 2016 and 2017
 - Many Thanks go out to Tammy and the parent group!
 - The costs to cancel the banquet venue for this year are too high, so the original plan will proceed for 2016 (May 26 Banquet at BMO center and June 28 Convocation at Genesis)
 - Hoping to have 2017 grad in Airdrie, in June, at one venue (Genesis), probably by creating a “grad week” open to all the high schools in Airdrie
 - Still need to finalize agreement between the 4 schools, then a parent committee will follow up
 - c. Report from SOS (Casino committee) – still waiting for the money from AGLC
 - d. Report from Joint Council Meeting – Karen attended and heard about different methods of communicating with parents, and bringing in speakers to talk to parents about various topics

- e. Staff appreciation – Shannon spoke for Nancy Geir – looking at a spring date, a PD day when the teachers are at the school, possibly March 24/28, or May 20, 2016
 - f. Canadian Parents for French (CPF) – they are hoping GMHS might join in some of the activities at other schools, for example Ecole Edwards’ French Family Story Night in May
 - g. Questions, concerns, Ideas and updates :
 - i. concern was raised about the LGBTQ issue that the government has been discussing in the media recently
 - Jim responded for GMHS that the school is trying to be proactive to deal with the situation
 - Sylvia added that RV schools have already been dealing with these issues and the RV policy is to provide a safe and caring school for all students
8. *Next Meeting:* Tuesday March 15, 2016 at 7pm
9. *Adjournment:* 8:47pm

George McDougall High School
School Council Meeting

Principal's Report
January 19th, 2016

1. Cell phones: Cell phones have become a huge distraction for students in classes. They do not meet the requirements of one-to-one yet we have some students using them to access Google and create assignments on them. We will be minimizing the opportunities for students using cell phones as tools in the classroom and encourage parents to either have their student bring a laptop to school or to sign one out at the library.
2. Exams: This semester we are writing exams in classrooms as we understand, through research that writing in a classroom relieves some of the stress that goes along with exam writing. Please have a discussion with your child to see how they are feeling about this change. We will also be asking them if this change made a positive difference to them as well.
3. Attendance: Last semester we had a number of students with poor attendance. We know that there is a high correlation between attendance in school and school success. We will be enforcing attendance as a part of our good standing graduation requirements and will communicate this with our graduating class going forward. We will also be reviewing and enforcing our Attendance Policy,
4. Cohorting grade 9s: We are still committed to cohorting our grade 9s. There will be two distinct groups - our English-speaking group and our French Immersion group. More information will be forthcoming in the next month,
5. Upcoming dates of Importance:
 - Grade 9 Parent Orientation Night - Thursday, February 25th - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
 - Grade 10-12 Orientation - Thursday, February 25th - 7:45 - 8:45 p.m.
 - Grade 9 Course Registrations:
 - Muriel Clayton - Tuesday, March 1 - from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
 - Ecole Airdrie Middle - Wednesday, March 2 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
 - Ride of the Mustang: April 6 - 8th
6. Its APORI survey time again - all grade 10 parents will be receiving surveys in the mail to complete and return to Alberta Education. Please encourage our grade 10 parent grouping to complete these surveys as the more information we receive the more accurate the feedback.
7. Feedback - what went well this semester? What requires improvement?
8. Evacuation on Friday - cause was a blown transformer

Trustee's Report – Sylvia Eggerer

Approved the Financial Audited Report and Alberta Ed Results Report

Reserves of \$19.5 M

see attached & (<http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/publications/capitalplans>)

International Field Trips

We delegated this decision to Central Admin. We were informed of the decision before the announcement, and unanimously agreed. We are going to reimburse students from contingency in the 3 schools which will total about 60 000 and we are going to launch a group appeal for the students which should retrieve about 40-50 K

New Capital Plan

West Airdrie .. in Hillside

Prince of Peace

GMHS CTS reno (2018)

Cochrane CTS reno

Murdoch 6-12 reno

New Attendance area consultation – (Dates and process to be announced)

Hérons Crossing growth to a K-8 & Westside school in Windsong

Naming of the new Westside school -Opportunity to sit on the committee

Year one of the Four Year Capital Plan

See attached or (<http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/publications/threeyearplans>)

New Bus schedule and school times coming back for more discussion

The Airdrie trustees have concerns as to the effect the changes will have for the drivers, parents and staff. Is saving \$500 000 worth it.

Eventual increase in fees if government continues its 6 year freeze on grants

Joint School Boards/ City discussion of Reserves Lands for School sites

Calgary Catholic, Franco Sud, and Airdrie RVS have been meeting for a couple of years to try to hammer out an agreement for the designation of school sites. Growing midsize cities do not have the industrial growth to support the purchase of larger high school sites

Meeting with Minister of Municipalities

We met on Thurs Jan 7 with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, to lay out the problem and ask to be on the list of people consulted when they change the MGA this spring.

CEO Evaluation/ Board Self Evaluation this Thurs

Angela Spanier <aspanier@rockyview.ab.ca>
To: "All Trustees All Trustees" <All Trustees@rockyview.ab.ca>
Cc: "Darrell Couture" <dcouture@rockyview.ab.ca>, "Karen Dolynny" <kdolynny@rockyview.ab.ca>
Key Notes - Reserves

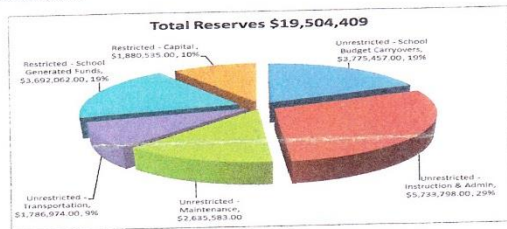
As requested.

Angela Spanier
Director of Communications
Rocky View Schools
Tel. 403.945.4012
Cell. 403.875.7458

Key Notes



December 3, 2015



As of August 31, 2015, RVS reserves totaled \$19.5 million. A breakdown reveals:

- Reserves held at Schools:
 - Unrestricted reserves of \$3.77 million (school carryover)
 - Restricted school generated funds of \$3.69 million
- Restricted Capital Reserves of \$1.88 million
- Unrestricted operating reserves of \$13.9 million:
 - Admin & Instruction \$5.73 million
 - Maintenance \$2.63 million
 - Transportation \$1.78 million

RVS' unrestricted operating reserves of \$13.9 million would cover 12.3 operating days over a 200 operational calendar – down by 0.2 days over the previous year.

Historically, RVS reported unrestricted operating reserves to include Education Centre Department carryovers, with the exception of instructional costs such as hardware renewal, wireless networking, and curriculum implementation. If RVS were to continue reporting in this fashion, there would be \$8,166,848 of unrestricted operating reserves (\$7,272,322 in 2014), representing 7.2 operating days over a 200 calendar days (6.8 for 2014).