

## **Riverstone School Council Meeting**

Wednesday May 17, 2023

Riverstone Public School and Google Meet

Attendance in person: Cherish Slobodian, James Hudyma, Tracy Mahoney, Rob Martin, Kelsey Bremner, Kara Geerlings, Sherri Ask, Amanda Savage, Shauna Dewhurst, Danielle Newstead & Ashley Nicholas

- 1) Call to order @ 6:59pm
- 2) Last meeting minutes approved by Sherri & Amanda
- 3) GPPSD Education Foundation- \$1,000 in memory of Paulette Kurylo has been sent in.
- 4) School Council Chair/trustee Liaison Committee Meeting was May 11
  - \*Kara and Sherri both attended
  - \*Board of Trustees Advocacy Priorities were discussed in depth
  - \*Rob Martin has joined us as a stand in for our trustee
  - \*Here is the update Rob has given about their meetings for the past 3 months

### **March 28 Board Meeting**

#### **SUBSTITUTE TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK**

Substitute Teacher Appreciation Week, held March 13 to 17, 2023, was an opportunity to once again work with Division teachers to recognize the excellent support provided by the Division's substitute teachers. Trustees expressed their appreciation to our Substitute teachers for their work to support student learning. This year, student artwork was used to celebrate the teachers via social media posts and on the cover of custom thank you cards that were distributed out to our Substitute Teachers.

#### **CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

On March 17, 2023, the minister of Education announced the final K – 6 French First Language and Literature, French Immersion Language Arts and Literature and Science curriculum were publicly released. School divisions are being given the option to implement these curriculums for the 2023 –2024 School year, however, implementation plans have not yet been discussed at schools and more information will be shared as it comes available. The curriculums are available online at LearnAlberta Curriculum.

#### **2024– 2027 GPPSD CAPITAL PLAN**

Norm Guindon, Associate Superintendent of Business Services, presented to the Board the 2024 – 2027 GPPSD Capital Plan for review and approval. Using evidence of student enrollment trends and capital planning guidelines from the province to make their decision, the Board passed a motion to approve the following projects to be submitted to Alberta Education:

1. Crystal Park School Modernization
2. Grande Prairie Composite High School permanent addition

3. New Kensington area school
4. Charles Spencer High School permanent addition

## April 25 Board Meeting

### SUPPORT STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

We are grateful to our non-instructional support staff for the efforts they make that contribute to our success. This year the Division celebrated Support Staff Appreciation the week of April 24 to April 28, 2023 by promoting the excellence of our staff on social media and within Division schools. Daily draws will be held for support staff to win appreciation gift cards.

### YOUTH TRANSIT PASSES

City Council recently passed a motion to provide all city youth with a free Transit Pass. Beginning next September, all students in the city will receive a free youth transit pass at school.

### 2022– 2023 ASBA ZONE 1 EDWIN PARR NOMINEE

The Board is pleased to approve the nomination of Miss Kayla Kolosky, first year Kindergarten teacher at Crystal Park School, as the Division's 2022 – 2023 ABA Zone 1 Edwin Parr nominee. 2022 – 2023 ASBA ZONE 1 FRIENDS OF EDUCATION NOMINEE The Board nominated The Sargent Family Foundation for the Division's 2022 – 2023 ASBA Zone 1 Friends of Education nominee. The Sargent Family has supported the community for many years, and for the past 11 years, has provided every student and staff member in every school of the City of Grande Prairie with a Tim Horton's Smile Cookie. The smile cookies will be delivered again soon as the campaign has been moved to May this year.

### URBAN TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

First Student, the transportation provider that contracts school bus services into our division, has reviewed the changes to the transportation eligibility and funding framework that will be mandatory in September, 2024 with administration. To implement the changes will require a significant number of new buses, drivers, infrastructure, and new route design for the entire city. Unfortunately it is not possible to implement the changes by the start of this next school year and be able to ensure a successful experience for students upon implementation.

### BOARD VACANCY

Trustees discussed the potential of holding a by-election to fill the vacancy created by the unexpected passing of Trustee Kurylo. While the Education Act does not require a by-election be held at this point in the Board's term, Trustees discussed the required timelines and expected costs and benefits of holding a by-election and passed a motion asking administration to bring a detailed plan for a by-election back to the board at the earliest available date May 9 Board Meeting

### LEGION REMEMBRANCE DAY WRITING CONTEST

Kieran Watson, Grade 7 GP Christian School Student, was recognized by the Royal Canadian Legion National Foundation for his Remembrance Day poem that received first place in the intermediate poetry category of the National Literacy contest.

## 2023– 2024 DIVISION BUDGET

The Board was presented with a summary of changes to the Division 2023 – 2024 Budget. The Division is projecting 2% enrollment growth. Within the budget is the ability to hire additional teachers in the fall should the need arise. The temporary mental health supports will be maintained to include 9 social workers who provide counselling support to students, two addictions counsellors and 2 mental health capacity building counsellors. The increased intervention programs will be maintained for the 2023 –2024 school year and additional supports will be provided for the Division Indigenous programming.

The actual 2023 – 2024 Budget will be brought to the May 23, 2023 Board meeting for review and approval.

## MEETING WITH UCP AND NDP CANDIDATES

Members of the Board met with the local UCP and NDP Candidates to share the Division's priorities and the Board's support of public education.

- 5) Social Media Presentation has been postponed due to wild fires. These will take place September 25 for parents and September 28 for students. Montrose will still hold it for parents. Parents who would have been eligible this year to attend will be able to attend next year even if their kids have aged out so they don't miss this opportunity.
- 6) Principal Report- James
  - \*Thank you so much for a very successful staff appreciation week. It was very well received by all.
  - \*Student enrollment is at 641 K-8
  - \*We just concluded our "are you returning" data collection
  - \*We are welcoming a third Innovative Support Classroom to Riverstone for September. We are supporting the transition of this program from Derek Taylor. We are happy to have Beth Mc Keeman join us as our third ISC teacher at Riverstone.
  - \*Professional Learning for teachers continues to be implementation of new curriculums and planning for the needs of diverse learning needs.
  - \*Next year we will be continuing this work, expanding our work with the Optimal Learning Framework and refining and expanding our work with assessment that informs instruction.
  - \*upcoming important dates:
    - Friday May 19<sup>th</sup> – PL Day (no school for students)
    - Monday May 22<sup>nd</sup>- Victoria Day (no school)
    - Friday May 26<sup>th</sup>- Western/Donut Day
    - Monday May 29<sup>th</sup>- Munch a lunch
    - Wednesday May 31<sup>st</sup> – Grade 5 & 6 Track Day
    - Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup>- Al Crawford Indigenous drummer

Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup>- Grade 1- 4 Riverstone Track Day

Friday June 16<sup>th</sup> – Kinder Grad and Grade 8 Grad

- 7) Shed & Schoolyard Update
  - \*emailing is still going on with HD3 Contracting to get us a proper quote
- 8) Teacher/Staff appreciation feedback
  - \*Great feedback from all
  - \*Better emailing next time to inform teachers on the lunch as many mention to us parents they didn't know and packed food already.
- 9) Flower, baking and Art Event- May 13
  - \*unfortunately event was not successful. Lowest turn out we have ever had for an event. There was a few factors in this. Not enough advertisement sent out from teachers. Weather was beautiful this year and many other events happening around town at the same time.
  - \*considering doing a different type of event for next year
  - \*lots of left over flowers were donated to Wild Rose old folks home. The residents were very appreciative of this gesture.
- 10) Calendar of Events for 2023-2024
  - \*picked event and munch a lunch dates. These will be sent in to Tricia to book and put in next years agenda.
- 11) Chocolate Sales- September
  - \*chocolate has been ordered. Delivery will be Aug 21-31<sup>st</sup> depending on weather.
  - \*prices have gone up but was expected due to inflation
  - \*we will be changing prize structure but will discuss later
- 12) Grade 8 & Kindergarten Grad
  - \*Grade 8's no longer want a water balloon fight. Gift Cards for them will be delivered June 1
- 13) Open Floor
  - \*Meeting at the school board with students to get their feedback. Would like more students to partake in these discussions. Will chat with leadership students to see if anyone is interested.
- 14) Adjournment 7:52pm- next meeting June 14, 2023 @ 7pm