

HELOISE LORIMER SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Nov 8TH 2023

6:30PM



IN ATTENDANCE:

- Jenn D.
- Nikki H.
- Jessica Z.
- Candis T.
- Adam P.
- Kelley R.
- Taz M.
- Melyssa B
- Hope K.
- Delasi M.
- Terry L.
- Melissa M
- Karen R

Motion to approve agenda by Jenn D., seconded by Delasi; approved. Motion to approve meeting minutes by Jenn D., seconded by Nikki H.; approved

TRUSTEE REPORT:

- Melyssa-Inviting Minister of Education to visit RVS High Schools in an effort to continue advocacy for Space for Students.
- Human Sexuality -groups to have conversations with RVS
- 4 RVS students achieved 100% on diploma exams
- “The Balancing Airdrie Student Spaces engagement is open until March 2024. The Board aims to reach a decision at the April 25, 2024, public meeting, which will take effect at the start of the 2025/26 school year, allowing time for families and staff to prepare. Given the current overutilization of some schools, it is possible changes for specific schools may need to happen as early as September 2024.

Potential solutions being considered:

Converting C.W. Perry School into a high school. This will redistribute Grade 9 -12 students across Airdrie. C.W. Perry was chosen because of its location in the city and ability to accommodate high school level programming in its spaces.

- Grade 8 students staying in their current school for Grade 9, creating a more traditional Grade 10 - 12 high school model. This minimizes the changes for families as students stay in their schools for one more year; however, it impacts the programming options our Grade 9 students

currently have and increases space pressures in some schools by adding a grade. It may also require adding or removing a grade level at some other schools.

- Re-organize grade structures across Airdrie schools to remove urgent pressures where possible (Kindergarten – Grade 6, Grade 7 – 9 and Grade 10 – 12). This addresses both high school utilization and standardizes grade configuration across the community.
- Each possibility could have a range of impacts including prospective boundary changes/new designated schools for students, families and staff. We want to hear what you think about these potential solutions and other ideas you may have.
- We believe it is important to share as much information as possible about what these changes could mean so families, staff and other stakeholders have a more complete picture to consider in providing feedback. We encourage you to review the information provided and share your thoughts.” -RVS Website
- 22 additional modulars and 1 washroom unit
- Joint board school council meeting went well.
- Parent Question: -Is it possible to have more caretaking staff in RVS?
 - RVS has received parent emails about that lack of cleanliness in RVS. RVS is underfunded in general and the government only budgets for 85%. There is a lack of 2 million dollars in caretaking services.
 - Teachers and classrooms are #1 priority for spending.
 - RVS budget is extremely tight this year and is not funded for the current growth.
- Parent Question: -Who is responsible for snow removal? Parent, staff and student safety is a concern.
 - Terry Lewis has contacted the RVS Grounds Dept. for support with the ice that accumulates on the grade 1 metal stairs.
 - Admin can call for extra help with snow removal from RVS.
 - Insurance costs are very high and restrict options for local vendors to be contracted for snow removal

SCHOOL UPDATE:

TERRY

- Snow fence around snow bank near the parking lot/playground for increased safety
- 4 dates for engagement sessions-one at each high school
- 3rd caretaker this year, Mr. Dharyl is back (caretakers work between two schools)
- Tara Olson-Decorating committee, 6 volunteers for Halloween and Remembrance Day.
 - 40 veterans submitted from families for the bulletin board.
 - Morning Munch Bulletin and Christmas Decoration 9 volunteers currently signed up
- School song updated by, Ms. Muge and Ms. Kennedy. Mondays O’Canada and Fridays/assemblies school song
- Remembrance Day Ceremony Nov 9th at 9:30 and 10:30- Cst. Jennifer Weedmark spoke during the ceremony.
- Winter Wonderland-December 21st- Parent council looking into a photobooth.
- Spirit Days once a month (every month is a different theme)
- PL Nov 20th ESL Specialist to support students, School Education Plan, Phil Herman-traumatic brain science
- Indigenous games in PE, kits from Indigenous creators
- Nov 12-18 Rock your Mocs, students learn about Moccasins and create their own

Mocs

- Gretchen Real -Indigenous Learning Specialist
- HL November Food Bank Drive, Nickels for Knights, Airdrie First (Donations are optional)
- Art Cards open for sign up until November 9th
- 9 Students going to Extraordinary Airdrie Thursday November 23rd- one rep from each class in grade 4 and 5
- Budget opened last week, limit of how much can be carried over from previous year
 - Half was removed- deficit \$58,000
 - 742 Students only funded for 731- no additional funding for additional registrations
- Parent question: Are field trips funded by the school? Field trips are parent funded.
- School generated funds for the students currently enrolled. Do not carry funds over to the next school year.

BUDGET:

- \$20,000 -approximately
- \$500 grant from ASCE-guidelines must benefit parents
 - must be used in the school calendar year: Bob Wilke -last 2 years
 - HL and Meadowbrook may combine grant funds towards one presentation
 - Brainstorming more ideas-Indigenous Infinity Garden
 - Parent math night-strategies for parents to support students with homework? Literacy?
 - Nutritionist/Dietitian?
 - Body Image?
- Morning Munch-Motion by Jenn to approve the requested \$500/m up to \$4,000 for the year; All in favour; Approved.
 - \$825 carried over from last year in Terry's current budget

OTHER:

- Parent Question: Can students enter the building when they arrive at 8:45 instead of having to line up? Hopefully it will reduce parking and traffic congestion around the school. Or can students enter at 8:40 with parent volunteers?
 - Answer- Teachers have assignable time and cannot be responsible for supervising students at 8:40, it will put staff over their assignable hours.
 - There is a safety concern when the students all go in at once, taking off their boots and that is why they are lined up by class.
 - Mr. Pratt greets every student that enters the gym doors.
- Parent Question: Can parents email teachers with a "handle with care" in the subject and their child's name to let staff know that the child may have an issue, but may not want to discuss at the time?
 - Admin will inform staff of handle with care emails that may come from parents.
- Add to the newsletter-Reasons Why? For parents that have ever wondered why things happen the way they do around the school
- Fundraising: Karen-Purdy's, meat, and growing smiles are available for parents to purchase
- Next meeting Dec 13. Parents and staff attending the meeting are welcome to

participate in White Elephant gift exchange at 6:00pm before the meeting. \$10 limit.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:23pm; Next meeting December 13th, 2023