

PRAIRIE WATERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL

November 6, 2024 6:30-7:30

Agenda

Location: PWE Learning Commons

Zoom:

<https://rockyview.zoom.us/j/96773771960>

Meeting ID: 967 7377 1960

Passcode: PWE!

- [School council](#) is a structured group of parents, principals, teachers, secondary students and community representatives whose purpose is to advise the principal and the school board respecting matters relating to the school. It is a means for parents and community members to work together with the school to support and enhance student learning. Key factors in collaborative relationships are building meaningful, two-way communication and supporting respectful interactions among education partners.

In attendance:

-Karen Fillier, Norm Ellis, Shannon Kell, Kristin Fehr, Gina Marian, Edwin Kagereki, Laurie Kimpton, Shali Baziuk, Jodi Soare, Anita

Approval of Agenda: Approved by Kristin and second by Shannon.

Approval of minutes: Approved by Kristin.

PYP (Primary Year Program) update- Hannah Lederer

- **Attribute of the Month:** November's focus is on being a "communicator." Kindergarteners will showcase this attribute at the upcoming assembly by sharing how they practice communication in the classroom and beyond.
- **PYP Training Update:** Staff are exploring cost-effective training options, including an in-house workshop. An IB representative will visit the school to conduct this workshop.
- **"Snack and Chat" Event:** Kindergarteners will host the first "Snack and Chat" of the year on January 17, inviting community members to help students practice communication skills, with a focus on welcoming newcomers.

Administration Report- Karen Fillier & Norm Ellis

School Education Plan (SEP):

- There was an opportunity to review and discuss the **School Education Plan (SEP)**, and leadership encourages input and feedback on its goals. The SEP goals include a focus on enhancing literacy skills and providing engaging learning opportunities for all students.
- **Goal 1: Literacy** – The primary goal is to improve literacy rates, aiming for a 10% increase in students reading at or above grade level by the end of the school year. Parents are invited to share suggestions on how they can support the development of literacy and numeracy skills at home.
- **Goal 2: Writing** – Another key goal is to strengthen students' writing skills. If families have identified effective strategies for building writing skills, they are encouraged to share these ideas.
- For any thoughts or contributions related to these goals, please reach out to Karen or Norman via email.

- **Community Partnerships:** Possibilities included developing strong ties with the Chestermere Public Library to encourage library card sign-ups and increase awareness of reading and writing programs. Another idea proposed was to partner with the Senior Centre.
- **After-School Support Possibilities:** Teachers could potentially offer after-school workshops to families focused on reading instruction to further support literacy development.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Update:

- Staff recently completed their training in PBIS restorative practices. Every adult in the building is now equipped with proactive strategies, such as "effective statements" (e.g., "It makes me happy to see everyone here") and "effective questioning" to foster a positive school culture. Some teachers, like the Grade 4 teacher, are using restorative circles to support student growth.
- Changes this year include providing detailed explanations for monthly award winners to highlight their achievements. Additionally, starting this month, the school will implement "behavior data tracking" to better understand behavior patterns, including when, why, and how incidents occur.

Budget Highlights:

- **Funding and Initiatives:** Plans are underway to ensure all teachers have updated IB planning. In the spring, there will be a residency with an elder, an event open to the entire student body and community, with the possibility of the elder making regular visits.
- **School Council vs. Friends of PWE Society:** School Council has historical funds that must be spent by them, totaling \$4,400, while the Friends of PWE Society now oversees future funding. Historical funds include \$7,700 earmarked for the playground, with an additional \$14,000 remaining from the old hot lunch program. The school can accept, but not solicit, donations via School Cash. Last year, \$9,200 was allocated for bussing, swimming, and a camera upgrade. Friends of PWE Society can establish an "angel fund" to support families with field trip expenses. The next casino fundraiser is scheduled for 2025, and repairs are needed for the playground, which is currently uninsurable.
- **Action Items for Next Meeting:** Requests will be collected on how the Parent Council should allocate funds this year (e.g., Athletics, reading programs).

Trustee Report- Shali Bazuik

RVS Trustee report for School council

October

CHESTERMERE STUDENT ACCOMODATION CONSULTATION

The opportunity to provide feedback online will be open until Nov 26th, and the opportunity to book time to make a presentation to the board on Dec 12th is open until Dec 4th. All information can be found online here:

<https://rvsengage.com/chestermere-student-accommodation>

The intent is for the board to make a decision on January 23rd, to take effect for next September, the 2025-26 school year.

SCHOOL SITE UPDATE

Growth continues to match projections in nearly all RVS schools, resulting in most Chestermere schools being at or very near capacity. The K-9 school site in Dawson's Landing and the Chestermere High School site are both anticipated to be ready before the end of this year. Title has already been transferred to RVS and Alberta Education has been out to inspect both sites. RVS is advocating for the province to award full construction funding for both of these projects and we are advocating to the City of Chestermere to continue to prepare school sites for construction in conjunction with approvals for residential development.

REQUEST FOR MORE MODULARS

The board has made a request for 27 new modulars from the province. 2 are requested for Chestermere High school (attached), 2 are requested for Prairie Waters school (attached to the 2 detached units in the field) and 4

units plus a washroom unit are requested for Rainbow Creek (attached). If approved in Spring of 2025, there will be no additional room for modulars at any of our Chestermere schools.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

The Supt of RVS, Greg Luterbach, has announced his retirement, effective August 2025. Supt Luterbach has been with RVS in this capacity for 8 years. The superintendent of schools is the one and only employee of the Board. In turn, the Superintendent is the employer of all RVS staff. As the 5th largest school board in the province, this position is critical and the board will undertake a search for a new superintendent early in the new year.

CHANGES TO TRUSTEE WARD REPRESENTATION

Based on the information provided and feedback collected from community members, the Board has approved one additional trustee to represent Cochrane as well as combining current Ward 2 (Langdon, Indus and Chestermere rural) with current Ward 4 (Crossfield, Beiseker, Irricana, Kathryn and Airdrie rural areas). The overall number of trustees remains at eight. These changes are intended to provide more equitable representation of constituents on the Board. This will be implemented during the next Alberta municipal election in October 2025.

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Chair Report- Shannon Kell

- Joint School Board/School Council Meeting: The recent meeting included presentations on "Career Education Pathways," emphasizing early career conversations to help students consider their skills and aptitudes. There is hope to integrate these discussions into the curriculum, including Indigenous perspectives and a focus on inclusion, while coordinating efforts across schools.
- Hot Lunch Program: The hot lunch program has started, with thanks extended to all the volunteers involved.
- Secretary Nomination: Kristin Fehr put a motion forward to nominate Jodi Soare as secretary. All in favor, everyone. Motion passed.

Business Arising

- We will continue to follow up on ongoing business items.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:53pm

Next meeting: December 4 at 6:30pm, hybrid