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Springbank Middle School (SMS)

School Council Meeting

7:00 P.M., Wednesday, September 13th, 2023

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees included:**

Judi Hunter

Stacey Pothier

Sandra Kachuik

Dinah King

Stephanie Rosenbaum

Caley Remington

Mark Jaffray

Andrea Saini

Paula Gough

Jean Bangle

Tammy Nowell

Dinah King

Lindsay Skabav

Catherine McKay

1. Welcome
   1. Meeting called to Order at 7:04pm
   2. Approval of Agenda – TN motion, CR second.
   3. Approval of May Meeting Minutes CR motion, SR second.

1. Trustee’s Report - Judi Hunter

September Newsletter Trustee Judi Hunter Ward 5

The 2023-2024 school year is underway. We welcome Denise Weaver – new principal of Elbow Valley School.

Brendan Trinca has moved as new principal of Heron’s Crossing. We welcome Richard Dupre as new assistant principal Springbank High School. Kara Bonikowsky has moved as new assistant principal of Community Learning Centre.

This year promises to be challenging on many fronts but especially in the communities of Airdrie and Cochrane where enrolment pressures are mounting. Despite the Board’s and parent’s advocacy for new schools or significant portable allocation, no new school builds are in our near future. In both the communities of Airdrie and Cochrane that will mean a reorganization of the existing space to accommodate growth for the next few years. It is a situation that no parent wishes to see. The Board and administration are considering options.

For children who struggle with writing or require accommodations Microsoft Word’s speech to text is a wonderful tool. Here is the link https://www.techradar.com/how-to/use-speech-microsoft-word

Quick overview You must have a Microsoft 365 subscription to use and stable internet. Schools have these. Open word. Choose dictate. ( Word supports multiple language so it is also great for our language learners who can dictate in their native language and use google translate to English). Allow Word to access your microphone. Start voice typing. Punctuation is adding by simply saying the word eg. Comma. A comma will be inserted. New security rules are in place to support safety during the school day. Schools will announce measure in their newsletters.

Educational politics

In my experience, education was never a top political topic. Certainly, there were political debates around education, but in today’s climate, educational politics has become almost combative.

Here are a few of the issues to keep an eye on:

 Cell phones in the classroom – some provinces will ban

 Sex education – what say do parents have in opting out and what is taught

 Pronouns and who gets to choose

 Use of Chat Gpt and other evolving technologies in learning

 Teacher shortages – recruitment and retention

 School builds

 Public versus private schools and funding

 Assessment – how is learning assessed – are diploma exams necessary

 Achievement acknowledgement

 Indigenous rights

 Special needs education

 Aggressive and abusive conduct towards staff

The Canadian Parents for French is hosting some activities for French Immersion students at:

Elbow Valley

    -Halloween activity type activity day October 27 2:15 - 4:00 pm for grade 3 and 4 students

    -Christmas Craft day Dec 18 2-4:30 pm for Grades 1 and 2 students.

Springbank Middle School

French homework help September 27, October 4, 11, 18  3:15 - 4:15 (Wednesdays)

French Tutoring Paulina Anab is available for private French tutoring please text her at 587-894-1691 to arrange.

Community News

Lego Club is back – fall dates will be published on the Springbank facebook site.

Springbank Community High School will be holding a community raffle to raise money for sports equipment, more to follow.

1. Administrative Report - Glen Brooker & Stacey Pothier

Good start up. School population down owing to various factors including the graduation of a large Grade 8 class last year. 20 teachers this year, but big class sizes and a couple of French class were collapsed to accommodate with teachers moved around. Particularly large class sizes in French G7 & G8.

Daily Schedule adjusted so more flow now, it’s now 55 mins classes, break, then 2 periods, lunch, 2 periods and then end of day. This creates a better flow to the day. Literacy and numeracy support is now built in better. New art teacher from Bragg Creek, (along with some other new teachers).

Teacher focus this year will be assessment, ensuring kids “know what they know” so that everyone understands where they are at as a learner and where the gaps are.

Positive Behaviour Interventions (what actually IS bullying?) – we wanted to empower our staff to decipher what is bullying and what is conflict. Lunch and learns for individual families and family groups. 5 families at a time for lunch to connect and discuss.

RVS has less caretakers this year owing to budgets returning to pre-pandemic levels.

1. Co-chair’s Report – Sandra Kachuik and Caley Remington

There are some rep positions that need to be filled. Band, Fundraising, G8 Farewell, Halloween. Bringing a speaker in this year on the topic of friends.

1. Reports from Representative Positions

**Athletics report – Tanya Cairney**

Jr. A Volleyball tryouts have started up this week for the girls and the boys will start next Tuesday.  First Rocky View tournament for both teams will be on Friday, October 13.  The girls will start off their season at an invitational tournament in Strathmore on Saturday, October 7.

Students in Gr. 5-8 that are interested in Cross-country running will be able to sign up for the Wolf Run Cross-country Run on Friday September 22nd. The course is 3km long and will be at Windsong School in Airdrie.  Grade 7 & 8 will also be able to compete in the South Central Zones Cross-country run on October 11 in Trochu.

And finally, we are always in need of community members and parents to assist with the coaching duties of some of our teams throughout the year.  If anyone is interested in helping out, they can contact me for more information.

Here are the dates for the following athletic events this year.

Grade 6 sports:

Volleyball- Nov

Basketball- Mar

Soccer- June

Grade 7-8 sports:

Cross country- Sept/Oct

Volleyball-Jr.A- Oct

                Jr. B- Nov

Basketball- Jr. A- Dec/Jan

                   Jr B- March

Badminton- Gr 7- April 18 tournament

                    Gr 8- April 25 tournament

Track and Field- May

**Fun Lunches – Tammy Nowell**

Tammy 27th first vendor (Tim Hortons coming more regularly) All through HH. More volunteers required.

**CPF – Stephanie Rosenbaum**

We’re trying homework help – Highschool students are coming down to help students out – right after school. Dates will be coming out.

In Sept/Oct. Teachers will help make tortiere’s and G8’s will be helped by Highschool students one evening – there’s a push to get Highschool kids to help younger kids to aid in transition from Middle School to Highschool.

CPF Alberta has a Canmore event in October info coming in newsletter. French speaking wknd, 2 nights in Canmore. French trip for G8’s – an English 8 and a French 8. Planning starting now. French kids to QC, English kids to ON. Maybe a cheese fundraiser coming. Need a rep for middle school (parent).

**Halloween**

Usually, we have staff sign up to run it. That staff will be the point person.

**Grant Writing – Catherine McKay**

CM has a list of 12 grants but it depends on focus and what school wants to do. Oct 9th due date for $10k for technology & education grant. It is now with GB to consider.

**Learning Commons – Jean Bangle**

A sign-up genus is needed, perhaps a community volunteer could be approached (reach out to the Heritage Club to see if a community member could volunteer). Just a couple of hours a week.

**Spirt Day – Jean Bangle**

Terry Fox run was a success. “Team Captains” have been proposed – kids to take up leadership positions.

**Volunteer Coordinator – Paula Gough**

Sign-up sheet will be amended, otherwise nothing to report.

**Grade 8 Farewell**

Vacant - Position needs to be filled.

**Fundraising**

Vacant – Position needs to be filled.

**Band**

Vacant – Position needs to be filled.

**FOSMSS – Andrea Saini**

Nothing to report.

1. Next Meetings

Oct 4 at 1 PM  
Nov 1 at 1 PM  
Dec 6 at 1 PM  
Jan 10 at 7 PM  
Feb 7 at 1 PM  
March 6 at 1 PM  
April 10 at 1 PM  
May 1 at 7 PM - AGM  
June 5 at 1 PM

1. Adjournment

8:30pm.