

## **Georges P. Vanier/ Routhier School Joint Council Meeting**

Zoom Meeting

Monday, March 7, 2022

**Attendance:** Carolyn Giroux: VP GP Vanier, Monique Dubrule: VP Routhier, Pam Heckbert: Principal GP Vanier, Tara Lea, Stephanie Staudinger, Nicole Simard, Wendy Tokarz, Cheryl Lonsdale, Michael Loogman, Colbi Alquire

### 1. Treaty Acknowledgement / Call to Order / Welcome & Introductions

Tara called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

### 2. Review / Additions / Approval of Agenda

Wendy to approve agenda.

### 3. Review/Approval of February 7, 2022 Minutes

Stephanie approve minutes of February meeting.

### 4. Financial Reports: No change.

Routhier: 1706.28, Vanier: 1832.40

### 5. Old Business: None

### 6. School Reports:

#### a. Routhier Principal Report

What's new at Routhier in March.

Feb.

-Last week in Feb. was busy. Feb. 23 we had pink shirt day - to promote kindness. All students participated in creating a school wide rainbow with cutout hands and messages of kindness.

-Feb 23 was also the div. 1 winter fun day.

-Feb. 24 - was the 100th day of school. Teachers and students represented this yearly milestone by dressing up and completing activities throughout the day.

-Feb 25 - was formal day.

-Report cards are coming out on March 10th

- Parent Teacher Interviews are the 14 and 16. This term we are offering one day as an in-person visit. Monday March 14 English class parents can book an in-person appointment with teachers. March 16th English class parents can book a zoom or phone call interview with teachers. March 14th french class parents can book a zoom or phone call appointment and on the 16th they can book an in-person appointment. Please look for links to sign up in teacher newsletters or emails.
- March 4 was the lever du drapeau and our first assembly in the gym with the french classes. The raising of the french-albertan flag is celebrated on the first friday in March every year.
- March is also the francophone month and Routhier is celebrating our francophone week from March 14-18th. Students are completing art projects and writing assignments focused on what the french language and culture means to them.
- March 16, we have a virtual presentation from Bill Bestiole - Cultural presentation with a focus on dinosaurs and the Jurassic era.
- March 17- Div 2 students are going skiing at the Little Smoky Ski Hill. We are looking for supervisors who can ski and help support students on the hill specifically.
- We have our joint school theme day on the 18th, career day.
- March 28 - is our community consultation. GPV and ERS will be hosting members of the community and discussing topics with education in our communities as the focus.
- March 10- staff are completing their first aid courses.
- All students from grade 4-6 have completed the assurance survey from Alberta education.
- This month, the government also released the Assurance survey for parents. Gr. 4, 5 and 6 parents will receive a random access code in the mail. Kyle Nichols sent a link to the survey to parents.
- High Prairie School Division also sent a survey to gr. 3-6 parents to complete. And the gr. 3 students will complete the survey as well.
- Spring break is the 21st -25th.
- GSA meetings are still occurring for students in div 2.
- Yoga is being offered to div. 2 students weekly.
- Our radio announcements continue to run on River Country and KIX FM stations. Links to the announcements can be found on our school website.
- Due to staff absenteeism - glps have been canceled, we hope that we can start them back up this week.
- CRM - Collaborative Response Model Meetings continue to occur every week.
- If anyone is interested or missed the Tuesday Cree lessons. There is a link on the division website and facebook page to all the lessons that were recorded.

#### b. GPV Principal Report

##### **Feb Highlights**

- Collaborative Response Model-we continue to meet regularly for targeted intervention
- Feb 7-9-Teacher Appreciation Week-Students helped prepare a small breakfast for staff accompanied by notes of gratitude.

- Feb 10-11-Teachers Convention -Virtual Teachers Convention
- Feb 14-Valentines Day-Heart Day and wear Red/White
- Feb 14-18-Candygrams-on sale for \$0.50-We sold approx 500 Candy grams.
- Feb 18/19-Hosted Senior Men's Basketball tournament with 8 teams Feb 18-19-Vanier took home silver. Yay
- Feb 23-Pink Shirt Day and launched Random Acts of Kindness that will remain for the duration of the school year. "Spread Rays of Sunshine"
- Feb 25-100th day of school was celebrated with photos of all our students on display representing they are "100 days Smarter"
- Feb 25-Formal Day with Routhier and community members
- Other Clubs/Activities Running: GSA, Minecraft, Choir, Rockband, Art, Intramurals, Robotics Club
- Van-Yay in Feb went to Seamus Borne
- Cree Classes have begun on Tuesday evenings until March 29
- Senior High and some junior high phys ed classes went skating.

### **From the office of the Career Coach (Katie Ellwood)**

#### **Wellness**

- Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)-is meeting weekly and working on some education pieces to put around the school
- Mr. Colin Collet has transitioned into the counselor's role for onsite support of students.
- Thank you to our community partners IGA and Coop for helping us with the Breakfast club.
- 1:1 Wellness services have been utilized, Miss. Chelsea is focusing on relationships with new students to our school and continuing to build on the existing ones.

#### **Upcoming Events**

- March 7-10-YoWoCHas
- Alberta Education Assurance Surveys are currently out-Students/parents in grades 4,7,10
- March 10-Ski Trip-Grade 7,8,10
- March 11-PD Day for Teachers
- March 15, 17 - Indoor soccer clinics with Rob Mathys for all phys ed classes
- March 15-Survivor will begin for all students
- March 15--Girls exploring Trades and Technology Camp-Virtually all day
- March 17-Shamrock Day-Golden Coin hunt/Activity
- March 18-Career Day with Routhier
- March 21-25-Spring Break

c. Trustee Report

Trustee's are at a meeting in Edmonton and are unable to attend. Will provide update at next meeting.

## 7. New Business

### a. ASCA Resolutions

#### **P22-01 Diploma Exam Weighting Change (George McDougall High School Council):**

Background / Overview: ASCA Advocacy Policy 20-02 reads; "That the Minister of Education maintains the weighting of Diploma Exams at 30% for the foreseeable future". This is open to change, 30% is too high of an impact for the students of covid and be changed forever.

Because: times are changing, education is changing, learning is changing, and we as advocacy representatives need to understand this.

Because: not everything is all black and white.

Because: expecting all learners to fit into the one size fits all diploma exam isn't right.

Because: data from the province-wide standardized tests can be collected at 10%.

Because: money spent writing and marking diploma exams could be better spent elsewhere, for example in the classroom.

Because: this pandemic isn't over. As of January 14, 2022, we are still VERY much in it. What about students who haven't had a normal school year in three years? Students and teachers remain on the carousel of covid. Students don't have the knowledge or understanding of writing exams.

Because: diploma exams should not unduly erode instructional time. Unfortunately, grade 12's are taught to diploma exams.

Because: "Many Alberta students had their education disrupted during this pandemic, which resulted in lost classroom and instruction time. We are committed to addressing this learning loss, and this funding will support students who need extra help to improve their reading, writing, and numeracy skills." February 2021.  
~Adrianna LaGrange

Because: in a response of feedback from students, parents and education partners about stress and anxiety around academic achievement exams, Alberta Education will temporarily change the weighting of diploma exams to 10 per cent from 30 per cent for the 2021-22 school year.

Because: "Alberta students continue to face challenges due to the pandemic and I have heard concerns for our graduating class of 2022. I've heard feedback from students on my Minister's Youth Council as well as from education parties changing the weight of diploma exams will reduce the burden on students while still giving them valuable exam writing experience. We're making this temporary change in recognition of these circumstances, which we hope will place less burden on these students." ~Adriana LaGrange.

We request that ASCA Advocacy Policy 20-02 be amended to read -That the Minister of Education extends the weighting of Diploma Exams at 10% in perpetuity.

**Comments from our school council:** Previously it was 50%, prefer 30% to 50%.

10% seems low. Could understand 10% for a temporary time, and then return to 30%. 10% seems to deprioritize it. During Covid, some children missed a lot of in class time, this would be the interruption.

Economically –if it was 10% worth, that doesn't make any sense. Might as well be zero and then spend that money on something else. The question becomes are diploma exams of value?

**We would disagree with this motion as it is presented at this time.**

**P22-02 Policy Review for Operations and Maintenance Funding (Sam Livingston School Council):**

Background / Overview: Sufficiently maintaining public school buildings is the responsibility of the provincial government. Safe, healthy, and well-maintained buildings provide an environment conducive to learning for students and staff. Unfortunately, the current funding policy does not adequately provide for maintenance and operating costs.

For example, Edmonton Public School Board's website notes: "To ensure we invest responsibly and strategically in all our school buildings, it's important that we clearly understand the condition of our school infrastructure. Audits on 171 school buildings show that the total deferred maintenance is \$757 million. That means we need to spend \$757 million on those schools to keep them in suitable operating condition". Many other school boards also have an increasing deferred maintenance challenge. While the factors contributing to this situation are many, part of the problem lies in how operations and maintenance grants are linked to utilization rates. The Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Grant is provided to school authorities to address the jurisdiction's responsibility for the operation, maintenance, safety, and security of all school buildings. Upon initial review, there is a lack of clarity and certainty as to how all the various formulas related to utilization

are defined, calculated, and connected. This is concerning for a topic as important as the maintenance of safe and appropriate school facilities for both the children of this province and the staff who work in those buildings.

The following paragraph, summarizes, to the best of our understanding, how these formulas operate. The table below outlines how operations and maintenance grants are impacted by utilized area which is calculated as Utilized Area = (Gross Area – Exempt Area) x Utilization Rate of the School. The Utilization rate of the school is provided each year by Alberta Education and calculated as Utilization rate = (Total Adjusted Enrollment/Net Capacity)\*100. Net Capacity of a school is determined by dividing the instructional classroom area of the school less any designated exempt areas and designated outreach areas by the Instructional Area per Student, and adding the Rated Capacity for CTS labs, gymnasiums, physical activity rooms and learning commons (libraries). School-Based Grants Operations & Maintenance Grant REVISED Student Allocation (WMA FTE Rate) \$213.00 REVISED Alternative Programs in privately owned space (WMA FTE Rate) \$639.00 REVISED Utilized Area (per square meter) \$62.00 REVISED Underutilized Area (per square meter) \$42.00 Source: Funding Manual for Alberta – Sept 2021. This linking between O&M grants and utilization rates ignores consideration of building needs and creates fluctuations in funding.

It also creates a situation where:

- Older schools get unfairly penalized, as do the students who attend them.
- Infrastructure problems grow and get more costly to fix as maintenance continues to be deferred.
- Boards are incentivized to close schools prematurely, before allowing for the natural life cycle of population turnover and/or student access to a public school within a reasonable distance is hampered as students are redirected to other schools and costs, such as bussing, increase.
- The needs of students become secondary to the utilization rate without necessarily achieving the goal of efficiency.
- Some costs are downloaded to parents through requests to parent fundraising associations.
- There is no-win because to meet or exceed the government's target of an 85% utilization rate means that most schools do not have sufficient resources to accommodate each class equitably creating educational penalties to students such as overcrowded classrooms and multiple classes sharing the gym, music room and library at the same time. It is time for a policy review that explores how we might keep up with the maintenance requirements of our schools in a way that centers

student needs, promotes learning excellence, and ensures the health and wellbeing of students and staff.

Because: School buildings will be maintained creating safe and healthy environments for students and staff. Centering student needs creates equitable access to school facilities such as gyms and libraries. Class sizes can be smaller without risk of negative consequences of lower utilization rates.

Because: Every school across the province has maintenance needs. As buildings age, maintenance needs increase. Multiple school boards across the province have deferred maintenance budgets that are increasing. Public school infrastructure is the responsibility of the provincial government. We request that the Minister of Education Conduct a policy review of the current infrastructure maintenance funding formula to: a) address the large deferred maintenance problem facing Alberta schools b) ensure Alberta schools receive operations and maintenance funding that considers building needs and allows for efficient, ongoing maintenance of schools into the future c) center the needs of students ensuring they have equitable access to safe and healthy schools that are well maintained d) remove utilization rates as a factor in operation and maintenance funding. We further request that the Minister of Education engage key stakeholders in the education system in the policy review including school boards, school councils, and teachers. We further request that the Minister of Education work with the municipal level of government to coordinate planning and ensure that building new and maintaining old schools are considered as communities grow and change. Resources: Funding Manual for Alberta – Sept 2021 School Capital Manual – July 2021 EPSB deferred maintenance Article on School Closure.

**Comments from our school council:** Utilization rates –our school utilization rates are –this doesn't apply to us. They are talking about schools that are busting at the seams with students. We don't have that problem, we have enough space.

Our concern is that the funding model is per student. And because we are dual track –French and English, we need double the rooms to offer both programs. Hope this is considered.

Careful that we advocate for rural schooling. Be careful that our schools don't get shut down when we don't have the population. In rural areas the population varies a lot each year.

We are unsure with this motion –need more time to consider.

**P22-03 Restoration of Funding for Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA)  
(Gateway Christian School Council):**

Overview: As parents of students in public school education in Alberta we are gravely concerned that the direction this government has taken in defunding our Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) will dramatically weaken the collective voice of parents in this province.

This move by the Minister has occurred during a time when the focus of many school councils has been on the Covid-19 pandemic, and both the funding cuts and the creation of the Minister's Parent Advisory Group have been initiated without broader parent consultation. Alberta's Education Act states: "education is a shared responsibility and requires collaboration, engagement and empowerment of all partners in the education system . . ." (pg. 11). To that end, the Ministry has legislated school councils as a voice of parents and other stakeholders in education. School Councils represent a truly democratic parent voice. All parents of students in schools under the jurisdiction of Alberta Education are eligible members of school councils. ASCA has then acted as an umbrella organization, a conduit through which information can be shared between school councils and between school councils and the Minister. In addition, ASCA provides vital training to assist school councils in meeting their legislated role. The selected Minister's Advisory Group stands in opposition to this democratic voice and provides no reciprocal service to school councils.

Because: ALL parents of students in Alberta schools will have the continued strong voice in education that ASCA provides.

Because: School Councils will continue to have the professional development and training services provided by ASCA in order to ensure they can best accomplish their legislated role, and that School Councils will continue to have an effective conduit of information sharing.

Because: As an umbrella organization, ASCA represents over 1300 school councils in the province. We request that the Minister of Education provide a full and public explanation for the decisions to de-fund ASCA and to create the 35-Member Minister's Parent Advisory Group. We further request that the Minister of Education initiate a full and broad consultation into the decision to defund ASCA. We further request that the Minister of Education reconsider the function of the 35-Member Minister's Parent Advisory Council. We further request that the Minister of Education validate the important role of ASCA in supporting school councils by reinstating reasonable funding. In order to ensure the continued strong and democratic, non-partisan voice of parents in education.

**Comments from our school council:** Funding for ASCA has been decreasing over the past 3 years. It is concerning. Our school councils are the only body that has the power to make change. It would not be democratic to defund them. Taking voice



from the public and their children's education. They can be amended at the annual meeting.

**We would support this motion.**

### **A22-01: Motion to Revise: 12-2 High Risk Bus Stop Awareness Signage**

**Our position is to wait on more information on this topic.**

April 24<sup>th</sup> AGM for ASCA. We are eligible to send 2 people from each school. Registrations don't need to be in until the beginning of April so we can add this to the April meeting agenda.

#### **b. Social Media Seminar and School Council Engagement Grant**

The government de-funded ASCA but then gave money to the school councils that can be spent on ways to engage parents. Last meeting we talked about seminars as an option.

Suggestion: Jo(e) Social Media –found them to be eye opening from a parents perspective. They didn't present in a manner that was expecting. Husband and wife team.

No matter what platform we decide on we need to learn more about this. It is present in our lives.

Jo(e)'s charges: for a bridge presentation between schools -3 class groups and a parent presentation would be 1050\$ and then above that they would charge mileage, hotel, and food \$900. We reached out to other schools in the area and they would help with mileage if they also book a session.

For an Indigenous speaker –we know a lot of people in the area that might be willing to speak for a small amount of money.

Should we use each \$500 engagement grants to go towards this social media presentation? Would this \$1000 be enough or should be withdraw the total amount from school council? Yes. The school council can cover the entire cost. 2/3 split would work Routhier and Vanier. Pending approval by HPSD.

Nicole motions to support this, motion is second by Wendy.

Carolyn can book it once HPSD gives the approval and then she can bring the dates forward –likely end of April or early May.

#### **c. Alberta Education requiring Council Chair Email Addresses for Information**

Alberta Education has asked HPSD for email addresses and HPSD has given the email addresses. May now receive email/information from Alberta Education.

d. Discussion of School Council Meeting Format for Future

Past 2 years have been meeting over zoom. Now we have the option to meet in person. Some prefer zoom because life is busy, can be easier to attend by zoom. Hybrid would be a good option, will take a little more patience for conversation but it is possible for the rest of this year. Hybrid offers a gentle approach to the return to in person. More flexibility might bring in more parents. Plan for next meeting to be Hybrid at GP Vanier.

Seminar's –did anyone have a chance to have a look?

Parent engagement night, check your email. Parents have to click on the link. All parents from both schools would have received the invitation.

8. Next Meeting/Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm. Next meeting April 4, 2022 at 7:00 in person at GP Vanier with a zoom link.