



129 Powell Street, Cochrane, AB T4C 1Y2  
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**PRINCIPAL: RICHARD SAMPSON**  
**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: JOSINE VAN DEN BERG**

PURPOSE | COMMUNITY | IMPACT

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

School Council Meeting Minutes

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | 6:30-7:30

Learning Commons

### **School Trustee Report (Fiona Gilbert):**

-School trustees focused on budget and capital planning during February and March.

-The provincial government approved \$10M for Rocky View?:

- Rocky View to make plans where to spend this
- Still waiting to hear funding model from the Prov. Government
- Prov. Government has changed funding model to an Average Adjusted Enrolment method. This doesn't fund every child, but it's getting close.
- Most of the dollars will go to staff/people resources
- There will be small increases to specialized learning
- Based on this budget, we can maintain what we currently offer, but can't offer more
  - Will be removing supplemental enrolment grant
  - Balances to only an additional \$85k

-Capital Projects:

- Awarded two planning: K-8 in Airdrie and HS in Chestermere
  - Awarded \$400k per project
  - Shows the government is committed
- RVS has seven projects in various stages of development
  - This is a credit to the government, RVS Trustees, and Staff's planning departments for making government aware
- The board has approved capital plan for 2026 but not yet made public
  - Top two Cochrane projects are:
    - Horsecreek High school (site not ready)
    - K-8 in Heartland (site IS ready)
  - Also Middle school in Airdrie is priority as well.
  - Hoping government approves next March.

-Trustees had a delegation from CCA:

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- Two parents came to board meeting to advocate for more rural busing (Cottage Club, Waiperos, Benchlands) on March 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Board is considering

### -Questions for Fiona:

1. Did the fire at BVHS delay building project?
  - a. Fiona doesn't know but fire was put out quickly and doesn't seem like it had a large impact
2. Was the rural busing delegation for any other areas or only particular areas mentioned?
  - a. Just that area but board must consider other areas, i.e. do we have to do all or can we just do for some and not others? They don't know; board is looking into it.
3. Comment from Richard Sampson: Regarding the weighted moving average shift to AAE, previously 18 students were not getting funding, and now only 8.
  - a. Fiona responds: this new way is how the government is calculating their funding to schools, but it's not how Rocky View does. Rocky View bases it on the number of students in schools now.

### **CCA Admin Report (Richard Sampson/Josine Vandenberg):**

- Richard got an email regarding portables: they are waiting on permits. He estimates they will get the portables 6 weeks AFTER permit approval
  - o There is a plan in place if it takes longer
- Assurance Survey:
  - o Closes March 21<sup>st</sup>
  - o Message will be sent via School Messenger reminding parents
- New Education Plan will focus on building future-ready students
  - o Survey was done with staff:
    - Staff thinks school is doing a good job communicating career info to students
    - Teachers need more parents to come in and talk to students about their educational and career journeys from a Christian worldview



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- They aren't just looking for "interesting" careers, but just want to hear about the journey (i.e. "road not taken", etc.)
- School Fees:
  - o There is a limit on school fees of \$114; some teachers want this higher to go on more expensive field trips, but there is not enough money for buses.
  - o See attached chart from Mr. Sampson
  - o Some parents got refunds on certain sports recently because more students came out than expected
  - o The school has to raise the fees because they are not meeting fundraising goals and things are getting more expensive.
- Thanks to parent council and parents for the Parent/Teacher meeting dinners
- Regarding Staffing:
  - o Mrs. Steinke will be returning as a 0.5 and will be job-sharing with the current teacher starting April 7<sup>th</sup> (will be working Tues/Thurs and every other Fri.)
  - o Mrs. Debow will be doing a gradual return to work over the next two weeks with Mrs. Kubick.
  - o Mr. Elkin received his transplant today
  - o Mrs. Smith was nominated for the Edmond Parr award; she did not win but nomination was quite an honor; nominated by CCA principals

### **Chair Council Report (Richard Sampson):**

#### **School Council Grant (\$500):**

- Yearly grant to CCA from School Council
- This grant can only be used for specific types of costs, and last year it was used for the school calendar magnets, and response was mostly positive
  - Cost is \$573 for 500 magnets
  - Should we use it for this again? Parent response is yes
  - Decision must be made on how to use by May
  - Heather suggests putting Fun Lunches on calendar magnets and will talk to Debra
  - Richard will add Terry Fox Run on Sept 26<sup>th</sup> and Kindy Celebration on June 19<sup>th</sup> if we go ahead with magnets



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### Fun Lunches:

- Have had two since last meeting, which went well
- one more next month

### Meals for Teachers:

- Raised \$550 in donations and lots of food donated
- Anything left over will go to restock teacher's lounge

### Friends of CCA:

- Meeting next month directly after parent council meeting
- Meeting will decide if they do casino night
- You must be a member to vote (just have to show up to meeting and sign a paper)
- CCA CAN send an invite to parents; just can't endorse
- CCA should not disseminate minutes as per Fiona; they just need to stay at arm's length

### Literacy at CCA (Josine Van den Berg):

#### Stages of Reading Development

1. Emergent Literacy (K-1)
  - Rhythms, Singing, Sounds, Letter Recognition
2. Early Reading (2-3)
  - a. Blending sounds into words
  - b. Common words
  - c. Comprehension strategies
3. Fluent Reading (4-5)
  - Reading to learn
  - Vocabulary
4. Advanced Reading (6-8)
  - Inferencing (what's the text about?)
  - Critical thinking
  - Expanding vocabulary

#### - Key Factors of Reading Development

- Relationships between letters and sounds (phonics)
- Vocabulary: Success depends on early comprehension
- Fluency: Expression/Understanding



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- How?
  - a. Oral language (puppet shows, songs, stories)
  - b. Word work (manipulating data, words and sounds)
  - c. Reading Instruction (decoding, read alouds)
  - d. Independent Reading (quiet reading time)
  - e. Writing instruction
- Skill Based Literacy Groups
  - Groups based on needs with a teacher and at grade level
  - Now we don't have to pull kids from Gym, etc. and classes not interrupted
- CCA Reads
  - Going really well (100 kids for pizza party and ran out of McKay's ice cream coupons!)
  - How can parents support at home?
    - o Read together
    - o Build vocabulary by using big words in conversation
    - o Take them to the library
- Questions:
  1. Does Grade 7/8 participate in literacy groups?
    - No, they are too advanced already and doing high level reading stuff

**New Business:** None

Meeting End 7:35PM