

MITFORD SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday May 4, 2021 6:30pm, Zoom Meeting

In Attendance: Peter Fultz, Jaimie A., Melissa E., Brianna Storey, Hazel C., Fiona Gilbert, Alisa C., Melinda B., Karen S., Alison W.

1. Call to order

6:32pm

2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Approval of the Agenda

Motioned: 2nd: Approved

4. Minutes from Previous Meeting – March 2, 2021 and April 22, 2021

- a) Review
- b) Business arising from minutes
- c) Approval

March 2, 2021 Motioned: , 2nd: Approved

April 22, 2021 Motioned: , 2nd : Approved

5. Mitford Administration Update



Mitford School



Peter Fultz

Principal

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Brianna Storey

Assistant Principal

Principal Report for School Council 04 MAY 21

Student Population: 206

Classes: In-School Grade 6 (two classes), Grade 7 (two classes), Grade 8 (two classes); Online Grade 7 (one class), Grade 8 (one class)

Mitford School Moves Online

Approval was granted to move all in-person learning online for Mitford School from May 3 until May 17. As of May 4, all grade 7 -12 students moved online province wide. Families will be advised should this be extended at the earliest opportunity. Families are encouraged to review all communication from Mitford regarding this rapid pivot for student learning. Information can be found in the [Temporary At-Home Parent/Student Guide](#) as well as [Grade 6](#) and [Grade 7/8](#) schedules on the [Mitford website](#) under What's new at Mitford.

Students in need of tech devices have had them provided by the school. Weekly Learning Plans with learnings tasks and Zoom class meeting times were sent by homeroom teachers Monday morning and will follow each Monday morning at 8AM until we return to in-person learning.

We are here to help with any questions or concerns to ensure students and families continue to feel supported and connected during this time.

Updated Mitford Daily Practice Guide & Daily Health Check Screening

As of 05 JAN 21 [covid-19-information-alberta-health-daily-checklist.pdf](#)

Earth Walk & Community Clean Up

Mitford students and staff were excited to participate in our commemoration event for Earth day which had been delayed due to weather. It was awesome to see how engaged and excited students were to get involved while simultaneously helping our environment and our community.

Staff Professional learning Update

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On our recent April Professional Learning Day staff have continued work on Real Time Reporting. Information for parents regarding the digital report card in June and how to access it will be shared this week to families in the Beats & Buzz.

Parent Feedback Invaluable

Our Spring ideation of the Mitford Playbook (formerly School Education Plan & School Annual Results Report) is complete and has been submitted to RVS. In the near term it will be shared with our school community. We will be reaching out to families for feedback on school communication in the near future through an online survey. Parent participation was high for our Playbook surveys and that participation helped shape our course. Parent voice matters.

Options Survey

As step one towards Grade 7/8 Options registration, we conducted a survey to gauge student interest before making final decisions on what to offer. Registration will take place in late May or early June with more information to follow at a later date. Grade 6 students will continue to have Options in 2021/22 and the plan at present is to offer Options to grade 5 students as well.

Grade 8 Farewell

Staff will be meeting this week to plan for a Virtual Grade 8 Farewell. The decision to have a virtual event is based upon direction from RVS to ensure a safe and enjoyable event for everyone where we can still celebrate our spectacular Grade 8 students as they begin their next chapter in High School.

Mitford Grows in 2021-22 – Latest projections

Our current enrolment is 206, but our initial numbers for next year with the addition of grade 5 and students from Heartland will bring us to approximately 286 with more growth in the years to follow. This means a 40% increase in our student population for next year which we welcome with great excitement and enthusiasm.

These preliminary numbers indicate tentative class configurations of Grade 5 (2), Grade 5/6 (1), Grade 6 (2), Grade 7 (2), Grade 7/8 (1), Grade 8 (2). **Please be advised that these numbers are preliminary**, but they do provide some guidance on our early planning to accommodate our growing student population. Staffing allocation through Alberta education has been tentatively confirmed in the Mitford Spring Budget. Adjustments could still occur in the late Spring or Fall due to the unpredictable nature of our current times.

Future Presentations:

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Are there presentations that School Council feels would be valuable for future meetings?

6. Report from Board of Trustees – Fiona Gilbert

COVID-19 Impacts

Thank you to everyone for playing their part in following health measures and protocols in our schools - everyone is doing a great job! Increasing cases of COVID-19 in our communities continues to impact schools, students and staff. RVS continuously monitors our case and isolation numbers along with our staffing needs to be sure we can safely and effectively remain open for in-person classes. At this time, all RVS schools remain open as we can maintain enough teachers in classrooms and most students are able to come to school. We will continue to update families as the pandemic evolves and any impact it may have on RVS schools.

Online Option for 2021/2022

The Board recently supported administration's recommendation to continue an online learning option for Grades 1-12 beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. There is belief that there will be considerable interest from RVS families in this type of program and that RVS can continue to offer a quality online education option to meet these needs. A task force has been created to make recommendations on how online programming could operate in the future, and that group is working to solicit feedback from current online teachers, parents, and students.

Draft K-Gr 6 Curriculum

Given the reality that the pandemic will continue to impact schools well into the 2021/22 school year and the burden this creates for teachers and students, RVS has decided not to pilot the recently released draft curriculum in classrooms. RVS will focus on providing opportunity for teachers and school administrators to engage with the draft curriculum and provide feedback to government through this mechanism. Parents are encouraged to provide their feedback directly to government via <http://alberta.ca/curriculum>.

Budget and Funding

On [March 31](#), the Alberta government released funding profiles for school divisions and RVS anticipates receiving grants from Alberta Education in the amount of \$239.8 million for the 2021/22 school year. For comparison, RVS received \$238.5 million in 2020/21. The document highlighted that RVS should receive nearly \$7.2 million less if the funding formula was followed and RVS appreciates that the government is not withholding funds as a result of enrolment fluctuations caused by COVID-19. Administration continues to work with the Board's Budget Committee to develop a 2021/22 budget proposal which will be considered by the Board before the end of May.

Additional Modular Units

The government is allowing school jurisdictions to make additional requests for modular units, otherwise known as portables, to address enrolment pressures. RVS will add a request for 18 more modular units to its existing request made in [Nov 2020](#) for 13 units, for a total of 31 for

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the division. The additional request includes more modular units for Bow Valley High School, Manachaban Middle School, Fireside School and Mitford School.

Updated policies by the Board

On the recommendation of the Policy Committee, the Board approved changes to three policies: Policy 23 – School Attendance Areas, Policy 25 – Community Engagement and Policy 27 – Trustee Compensation and Development. These policies were updated to provide further clarity, simplification and alignment with current practice and various government acts.

7. Friends of Mitford Update

Stay tuned for their meeting following this meeting.

8. Discussion of Projects School Council Can Support in the Future

Melinda discussed a presentation from the Alberta School Council Association Conference by Northern Alberta YMCA on Digital Citizenship and Online Safety and that school council could host a zoom program for next year.

9. Round Table

Melinda asked council if the AGM could be held in September, as we will have the addition of the grade 5's in the school. Everyone present agreed.

10. Motion to Adjourn

7:01pm

Next meeting Tuesday September 7, 2021