

# School Council Meeting Minutes

## Cochrane High School

Monday, February 3, 2024 6:30pm - 7:30pm

In-Person CHS Learning Commons

Attendees: Jeff C, Fiona G, Rebecca T, Bri L, Rhonda L, Sue P, Nathan T, Jarret H, Kilty, Jakki M

### AGENDA

- 1) Meeting called to order by Rebecca at 6:36 pm
- 2) Approval of Evening Agenda motion by Rebecca second by Bri . Approved.
  - a) Amendments? - remove CHAT and leadership moved to next meeting.
- 3) Approval of December Meeting Minutes motion by Kilty , second by Sue . Approved.
- 4) Admin Report - Jeff C
  - a) End of Semester 1 and final exams (Diplomas and PAT's). FLA, Science and Social PAT's by all grade 9's. Starting term with new Learning Support teacher (Susan Stronach), new Science/Math teacher (Sidney Cooper). Two outstanding positions to hire (Rick Ross has retired and Trevor Zimmerman filling in the CTS) and finalizing a half time open English position this week.

Gisela B (Learning Hub) has retired and Marcus Pickett has replaced her.

Mandy Rauch new admin assistant.

Start up going well. Lots of changes to changes to timetable (27 classes were moved/changed) because of all of the staffing changes.

Leadership brought in a speaker to kick off the semester on Friday (Lavelle St Germain) was exceptional.

On the horizon, Musical is happening this week. Planning has started for next year with communication with feeder schools. March 13 5-8pm Open House for 2025-26 school year.

5) Trustee Report - Fiona Gilbert

- a) Enrollment growth - it is slowing . Enrollment projections at CHS are 101% ... slowing down over the next few years (the snapshot as of TODAY). (Target is 85% utilization) BUT keep the pressure on Government (Local to service the site for our third high school).
- b) Airdrie school boundary and grade changes will shift RVS staff across the division which may impact CHS staffing.
- c) Mid year update on our ed plan.
- d) “Our Schools Survey” - the parent part of that survey is ready for this school year to provide feedback into the Ed Plan.
- e) Nomination period has opened at the end of January for Trustees. Criminal record check is NOT required. \$200 and 20 signed supporters required. 2 trustees will be elected for Cochrane (as of Oct 2024).
- f) Provincial budget for end of February ?? Committed to “reviewing” the funding for changes to the weighted moving average.
- g) Superintendent search - application date has closed. Interviews to start soon.

6) Math 10C and -1 Discussion

- a) We are all acutely aware that the High School math curriculum/classes are presenting a challenge to many (most?) of our academic math students. All of us parents here have seen and been a part of many conversations regarding parent and student frustrations in our community, online, in grocery stores, on sports fields etc. We feel it is important to (a) discuss the issues being shared (b) understand what the cause of the issues are and (c) determine what our role is in easing the challenges as a parent group in ways that support the school, teachers, community and students.
- b) There is heightened concern that high school Math is breaking students.  
Examples that have been communicated with us:
  - i) Class moves onto new concepts before my student has mastered the previous one

- ii) My student came home from test saying that all the girls seated around them were crying during the unit test
  - iii) My student received 100% on the practice test (open book study guide), 100% on the collaborative assignment, but didn't get a single question on the unit quiz correct (29%)
  - iv) I cannot get my student to re-assess because they have to take the mark even if it is lower than the first one. More risk than reward.
  - v) Weekly posts of parents begging for a tutor for their students
- c) We appreciate that Mr Hooper provided tutoring and reassessments in semester 1 for Match 10-C students and that Gisela was a wonderful and much used support in the hub, but Gisela is now retired and we can not expect Mr Hooper to provide tutoring in every semester to help students navigate and find confidence and success in Math. Our questions are two fold: First of all, what is the cause of the overwhelming distress? Is it pace? Curriculum? Content? Large emphasis on exams? Exam construction? And secondly, what can we do as a parent group to help ensure our students feel some confidence and success in Math?
- d) Admin response: Math 10-C is probably the toughest course in the high school program. It is the gatekeeper for both 20-1 and 20-2 and there are curricular things problematic to that. (Two academic streams turned into 1 from the previous curriculums of Applied and Pure Math).
- i) Pace of math increases going from 3 quarters of math in grade 9, then 2 quarters in grade 10/11/12.
  - ii) Assessment regime adopted by RVS has some challenges
  - iii) CHS teaches up in 10-C more often than maybe should be done (CHS has always taught up). Maybe we need to take a broader view to better reach the 50-70% range of kids so they feel more confident in their math abilities
  - iv) Students who are below recommended mark from Math 9 registering for 10-C makes it tricky for student to be successful considering all of the above.

- e) CHS will continue to offer additional support to Math 10-C students in second semester AND support teachers to ensure there are as few in class disruptions to the learning environment as possible.
  
- 7) Next Meeting will be held on March 3, 2025 at 6:30pm CHS
- 8) Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm