



RT Alderman School Council

**In Person & Virtual Meeting**

March 11, 2026

5:30pm - 6:30pm

**MINUTES**

Attendees: Ashlin Russel, Lindsay Otterson, Brenda Lewis, Kirk Newman, Anirban Ghosh, Cara Polujan, Jennifer Laight, Roz, Crystal Schatz, Pam

Minutes	Presenter
Call to Order/Quorum (1 minute) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting called to order at 5:30pm</li> </ul>	Ashlin
Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)	Ashlin
Review/Approval of the Agenda (1 minute) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion: Lindsey Otterson</li> <li>• Second: Lisa McBain</li> </ul> Motion passed.	Ashlin
Review and Approval of last meeting minutes (1 minute) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion: Lisa McBain</li> <li>• Second: Cara Polujan</li> </ul>	Ashlin
<p><b>Principal Report (30 minutes)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. School Updates               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Review of School Development Plan</li> <li>b. Implementation Plan</li> <li>c. Fee Breakdown</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>Minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Newman</li> <li>• Purpose of sharing the school development plan is to educate and gather feedback from attendees.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Unlike previous years there will not be a follow up survey sent out to the school community.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mr. Newman reviewed the school development plan presentation for the group.</li> <li>• School development plan is the driver for closing gaps in learning. Focus of the current development plan has been on literacy.</li> <li>• Of school funds 25% or less is spent on resources. 75% is</li> </ul>	Brenda & Kirk

staffing.

- Outcomes of the school development plan are measured through:
  - Report Card Data
  - Provincial Achievement Tests
  - Final Exams
  - CBE Student Survey
- Progress is monitored through:
  - Literacy Diagnostics
  - Midyear report card data

The full school development plan can be found on the RT. Alderman website.

Questions on the School Development Plan:

- Are there any specific things that staff are doing to support gaps in writing skills specifically?
  - For writing this year, teachers have been using common prompts for writing and within grade level having examples of what is a 1, 2, 3 or 4.
  - As the grade level increases there is an increased expectation of adding analysis to the response to the prompt.
  - Following report card data, the school has reviewed and refreshed the support staff schedule to support specific gaps in literacy across the school.
  - Noticing that in higher grades, students are more successful when they are writing without a laptop. Looking to adjust laptop use going forward for some of the writing assignments. There is a balance in this as Provincial Achievement tests are now all administered online.
- Is the school seeing AI trends in work?
  - Yes. Often seeing common words that come up that students perhaps don't understand.
  - With writing from self work, looking to ensure students are not on AI.
  - Working with adolescent brains and the need to determine when is AI appropriate, when is it not, etc.

Brenda reviewed the budget.

- The school received \$4,193,379 for the 2025-2026 school year.
- At least 75% of the budget funds staffing as a standard across

the CBE.

- RT Alderman is at 98% of budget going to staffing because they can count on the support from Healthy Hunger and Parent council to provide support.

#### School Fees:

- Not lunchroom or bussing fees.
- These are the additional fees for student experiences - both in and out of the classroom, artists in residence or sports teams.
- Goal is to keep the total cost under \$200.
- As a Science Alternative program, there is an expectation of the additional activities.
- There are some optional things that will be over the \$200 total such as outdoor school, band and Grade 9 grad.
- The school is not able to charge for CTF activities such as foods or construction as all students rotate through this activities. In other schools, where these classes are optional, schools are able to charge a foods fee or construction fee.
- There is a link included in the presentation for the 2024-25 Report to Parents on school fees. It can also be found on the website under the Registration menu on the main page.

#### Questions:

- How do we source the field trips?
  - Word of mouth, teacher research, CBE approved vendors, trends.
  - One of the largest challenges in bus fees and ensuring that those are not driving the experience fee too high.
  - Try to ensure that there is not a repetition of field trips that students may not have already done in elementary.
- Can parents pass along opportunities?
  - Absolutely.
  - There are companies that are willing to do field trips that parents bring forward to the school.
- Do we reach out to places like SAIT, Mount Royal, etc.
  - Grade teams are tasked with finding experiences that match to the curriculum.
- Where are we at with the new curriculum roll out?
  - Grade 5 and 6 currently implementing social studies. This will finish rolling out the new K-6 curriculum.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In two years, the pilot will roll out for mathematics and english language arts for Grade 7-9.</li> <li>○ There will be a couple of years of stability now.</li> <li>● How can parent council support? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Volunteer coordinator that can help with the reach out to parents for parents or others for experts to speak to specific grade teams or provide other opportunities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● I appreciate the acknowledgment that there is some opportunity to improve the 75% going to staff especially with such a limited number of EAs presently. I am curious if there is a more specific plan/goal for this? Are there specific things in the budget that parent association can plan to fund? Do you have a plan to hire more staff if/when funds become available? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is a balance. School is required to have money in the decentralized budget, which is the portion of the budget not used for staffing.</li> <li>○ This year, the school spent the max on staffing that they could based on the fact that administration knew that school council was willing to support supplies and other items. For example \$10,000 in paper.</li> <li>○ First round of additional funding from the government is targeted at K-4 grades.</li> <li>○ The best way that parents can support getting more funding is to speak with their government officials.</li> <li>○ Parent council is not able to fundraise for staffing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Is the current school at maximum capacity? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes - 685 is the school capacity which takes in complexities and the need for alternate spaces.</li> <li>○ As a science school there is an expectation that there be spaces, like the library, that are always available for student use and can not be made into a classroom.</li> <li>○ Current school population is 694.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Chair Report (5 Minutes)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ideas for school residencies, opportunities and learning sessions for students and families</li> <li>2. We encourage families to connect with us: <a href="mailto:rtaparentsociety@gmail.com">rtaparentsociety@gmail.com</a> or instagram @rtaschoolpta</li> </ol>	<p>Ashlin</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As discussed during the school development plan discussion parent council will be working to seek out volunteers in specific areas of expertise that would support the curriculum.</li><li>• Ask from parent council for administration to encourage teachers to share with us either through administration or via the parent council email.</li></ul>	
Next Meeting: April 8, 2026	Ashlin
Meeting Adjournment: 6:52pm.	