

Graminia School Council
6:30pm Wednesday June 21, 2023, in the Graminia School Library

Attendees Angie Gehlert (Chair), Cassandra Graham (Secretary), Treena Neumann (Principal), Erin Chessor (Vice-Principal), Lorainne Stewart (Trustee), Sheila Avison, Kerri Golka, Kate LaFavor, Rose Leder, Angayla Waterman, Brandon Weber, Megan Woodman, Stephanie Worrell

1. Meeting Called to Order and Land Acknowledgement

- 1.1. Meeting called to order by Angie Gehlert at 6:37pm
- 1.2. Land acknowledgement read by Angie Gehlert

2. Adoption of Agenda

- 2.1. Angayla Waterman made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Seconded by Megan Woodman. Carried.

3. Adoption of May Minutes

- 3.1. May minutes were reviewed and approved by Sheila Avison. Seconded by Stephanie Worrell. Carried.

4. Proposed Meeting Dates and Tentative Topics for the 2023-24 School Year

- 4.1. The January 2024 school council meeting will be held on January 17 due to the fact that so few people attended the January meeting in 2023. It was held the first week after Christmas break and many people were still on Christmas vacation.
- 4.2. Ideas for topics to discuss at school council meetings in the 2023-24 school year were shared: for example PSD topics such as funding and transportation, but also topics specific to Graminia School.
- 4.3. Examples of topics specific to Graminia School could illustrate how programs run or how they function in the school. For example, information related to the school's literacy and numeracy programs and how junior high options are created.
- 4.4. One important upcoming topic that needs to be discussed is playground planning and fundraising for the school's replacement playgrounds.
- 4.5. The development of trail systems near the school could be a potential topic. Feedback from the community regarding the development of trail systems will be sought after.
- 4.6. Most attendees were really happy with the ICE (Internet Child Exploitation) presentation that was held in May. The turnout was good and the information presented was deemed invaluable.
- 4.7. One idea that was brought forth by a parent stakeholder was the possibility of exploring social media and its effect on mental health.
- 4.8. A presentation on how to speak to students about diversity within the classroom and supporting neurodivergent students and those with special needs was suggested, as these students are integrated into many classrooms throughout Graminia School.

5. Trustee Report by Lorainne Stewart

- 5.1. June is a busy month for school board trustees with many events to attend, especially graduations. The trustees are invited to attend as many events as possible.
- 5.2. Many of the graduation and year end celebrations truly highlighted students with student performances such as singing and piano playing.
- 5.3. The mayor of Spruce Grove attended the Spruce Grove graduations.
- 5.4. The PSD Trustees attended the Broxton Park science fair.
- 5.5. CBC news aired a feature on the Building Futures Program. This PSD program provides an opportunity for grade 10 students to construct a duplex in Spruce Gove in a partnership with Coventry Homes. There was a Building Futures home tour. The home featured was built from the ground up through the program. This is the third home that Building Futures has constructed. There is a shortage of people in skilled trades, so this program is supportive of students entering the trades. Trustees attended a celebration of the completion of the third home under this partnership.

- 5.6. Meetings with MLAs pre election focused on the development of the school curriculum. The public school board has noted that curriculum continues to be an issue now that the election is over. Meetings with MLAs about concerns with the curriculum and curriculum implantation are being arranged.
- 5.7. The PSD Board of Trustees were selected to present a session at the Canadian School Boards Association Congress and Indigenous Gathering on July 3, 2023 in Banff on engaging stakeholders when making difficult decisions.
- 5.8. There was a delegation yesterday called to Millgrove School in which students from Millgrove, Greystone, Broxton Park and Spruce Grove Composite High Schools that are in the archery program attended. The board was invited to try archery. One student is going to an archery competition in South Africa. Mayor Acker put a bid for Spruce Grove to host a NASP (National Archery in Schools Program) competition. The bid will be considered if money to host the event is not pulled from classrooms.
- 6. Principal's Report by Treena Neumann**
- 6.1. Meet the teacher and school drop off for the 2023-24 school year is August 30 from 1:00 to 3:00pm. Teachers will be there to greet the students and for parents to drop off supplies.
- 6.2. Council 101 will be hosted in September as an opportunity for parents to learn about the Graminia School Council and the Graminia School Foundation. It will explain what council is and will also attempt to recruit new faces.
- 6.3. Family Nest Night will be held in September. The event will be like a meet the teacher. The Family Nest Night will include engagement activities and food with staff and families. It will be an opportunity to meet your child's classmates and their family.
- 6.4. Dates are listed for future council and foundation meetings and are as follows: Sept. 20, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 6, Jan. 17 (council only), Jan. 24 (foundation only), Feb. 21, Mar. 13, Apr. 10, May 8 and June 12.
- 6.5. There will be two different timetables for next year. There will be a timetable for elementary and one for junior high. Junior high students will have longer blocks and elementary students will have shorter blocks. Elementary school is a 35 minute block. Junior high will run 52-55 minute blocks. These longer block will enrich the junior high options.
- 6.6. Class sizes and enrolment were discussed.
- 6.7. Grade 9 Farewell will be held on June 28.
- 6.8. The first day of school is September 5.
- 6.9. School supply drop off is August 30.
- 6.10. Changes to staffing were disclosed, many teachers are leaving, and so far two new teachers have been hired.
- 6.11. A question was asked about grade one class sizes and EA supports compared to kindergarten. Mrs. Neumann enforced that staffing is adequate for the grade one students and there is no class size maximum.
- 6.12. The MyPath program is going ahead. All students enrolled within the MyPath program within each grade are in the same class. However, there were not enough MyPath students to make a dedicated MyPath class within each grade.
- 7. New Business**
- 7.1. No new business.
- 8. Adjournment**
- 8.1. Kerri Golka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34pm. Angayla Waterman seconded. Carried.

Next council meeting date: September 20, 2023 in the Graminia School Library.

If you have questions or thoughts or concerns that you believe should be addressed by the school council please speak to Angie Gehlert, Amber Darragh, or Treena Neumann.