

## Graminia School Council

6:30pm Wednesday September 20, 2023, in the Graminia School Library

**Attendees** Amber Darragh (Vice-Chair), Cassandra Graham (Secretary), Treena Neumann (Principal), Erin Chessor (Vice-Principal), Aimee Hennig (Trustee), Candace Armitage, Sheila Avison, Samantha Baker, Cassandra Boisvert, Becky Christensen, Jody Friesen, Kerri Golka, Amanda Hunter, Kate LaFavor, Cyndi Keenan, Lisa Kimmerly, Jennifer King, Tammy Klippert, Sarah Lassu, Rose Leder, Mandy Lussier, Samantha Mesh, Gail Neufeld, Brittney Preece, Leslie Preece, Melanie Tonhauser, Angayla Waterman, Brandon Weber, Robyn Williams, Megan Woodman, Stephanie Worrell

### 1. Meeting Called to Order and Land Acknowledgement

- 1.1. Meeting called to order by Amber Darragh at 6:35pm
- 1.2. Land acknowledgement read by Amber Darragh.
- 1.3. Introductions of attendees.

### 2. Adoption of Agenda

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

### 3. Adoption of June Minutes

- 3.1. June minutes were reviewed and approved by Sheila Avison. Seconded by Kerri Golka. Carried.

### 4. Trustee Report by Aimee Hennig

- 4.1. School board trustees attended a meeting to advocate with the education minister. The top priorities of the meeting were delaying the new curriculum and addressing transportation issues.
- 4.2. Ongoing transportation issues are regarding driver and bus shortages. The new eligible ridership distance makes it difficult to accommodate transportation of all the students.
- 4.3. Tomorrow night school board trustees will meet with the education minister again along with other school board's bus drivers regarding these ongoing issues.
- 4.4. The bus driver shortage is not exclusive to Parkland County there is a province wide shortage of bus drivers.
- 4.5. Final enrolment numbers for Parkland School District will be available on September 29.
- 4.6. A \$10,000,000 grant was issued from the Government of Alberta for specialized services provided to school districts across Alberta. The main focus of the grant is psychological services. There will be referrals of students across the province for specialized assessments throughout the province in order to qualify for these services.
- 4.7. The school board voted to provide an allowance for school councils to access the AGM. The costs of ASCA to attend were considered.
- 4.8. Teacher shortages are an ongoing issue that was discussed.
- 4.9. PSD has 238 substitute teaches.
- 4.10. School board meetings are held monthly. These meetings are live streamed and all stakeholders are welcome to attend online or in person.
- 4.11. The issues with the new curriculum were disclosed. The main problem is the provision of resources and adaptation of the new curriculum did not occur simultaneously, therefore gaps in learning for students of certain grades has occurred. It is estimated that there is a two year gap in learning for some students because the curriculum was rolled out in blocks which created gaps in learning for certain grades in which there was not overlap between the old curriculum and new curriculum. These gaps have been addressed and it is up to the teachers to identify where knowledge needs to be bridged.

**5. COSC (Council of School Councils)- Next Meeting October 3 at 6:30**

- 5.1. COSC meeting attendees include associate superintendent, principals, assistant principals, trustees and parent stakeholders. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- 5.2. Graminia School Council aims to have one stakeholder from our school attending the meeting.

**6. Principal's Report by Treena Neumann**

- 6.1. A staffing update was provided. Five educational assistants have been hired and include Karen Hagens, Kaylia Lauriente, Lyndsay Stupar, Caley O'Connor and Catrina Hills. All of the EAs started on Monday. The EAs are at Graminia School to work with students who require additional learning support. Two EAs are afternoon supervisors for the MyPath program.
- 6.2. Mrs. Kent is away. Mrs. Velichko is doing double duty with assistance from casual staff. Please go easy on Mrs. Velichko while she is alone in the office.
- 6.3. Open House and supply drop on August 30 went well. Attendance was fantastic with about 80% of students dropping off their supplies that day.
- 6.4. The Hawks Hangout one September 7 also went well with great attendance. It was wonderful to see the attendees so engaged with the planned activities including the scavenger hunt. Gratitude was expressed toward the Graminia School Foundation for setting up the concession.
- 6.5. All grade 7-9 students have now chosen their complimentary courses. All students got either their first or second choices. The first week of the new terms is only when changes can occur if possible.
- 6.6. The junior girls and boys and senior girls volleyball teams have been announced.
- 6.7. The cross-country team is running. Practices occur at first recess on Wednesdays to accommodate eating times.
- 6.8. The Terry Fox Run is scheduled on September 28. The school is collecting Toonies for Terry in a fundraising effort for cancer research. Families are welcome to join and run or walk with their child's class. There will be frozen treats provided at the end of the event.
- 6.9. Graminia Choir is underway. It is open to students in grades 3-6. The rehearsals occur at lunch recess on Tuesdays.
- 6.10. The MyPath program is up and running for they first time and the feedback has been great. The students are are going to the Indigenous Center tomorrow.
- 6.11. School staff is in the midst of organizing class building field trips for Grades 7, 8 and 9 students. Having field trips at the end of the year is great, but this year the school is aiming to building a culture together from the beginning of the year. There are plans for the Grade 7 students to go to Putting Horse Ranch, the Grade 8 field trip is still to be announced and the Grade 9 students are going to Activate and a mini golf and bowling combo at Red's. The goal of these field trips is more hands on learning and team building.
- 6.12. The snack shack and breakfast programs are up and running. These programs are offered to all students. This has been made possible with a \$15 000 grant from the President's Choice Booster. The school can buy foods that they need using click and collect and the supplies will be delivered to the school from The Independent in Devon.
- 6.13. Literacy and numeracy benchmarks and screens for students K-9 will be ongoing until mid-October. Grades 1-4 will be undergoing provincial literacy and numeracy screens, grades 5-9 will undergo a school board division selected evaluation and grades 8-9 will undergo the RCAT evaluation focused on reading comprehension.
- 6.14. Orange Shirt Day will occur on September 29. Each class will have an activity or lesson focused on the impact of residential schools. Geri Wu, Graminia School's Indigenous Facilitator will assist classrooms with planning the learning activities.

**7. New Business**

- 7.1. School Council asked meeting attendees to share their ideas for parent presentations to occur at future school council meetings.

- 7.2. One stakeholder asked about an RCMP followup to the ICE presentation that was held in May. They would like followup to assist parents in how to support their children while they are online.
- 7.3. One parent stakeholder asked why junior high and elementary school blocks are different this year. It was explained that junior high is running 52-53 minute blocks and elementary is doing 35 minute blocks. The changes were made due to time lost between transitions between junior high classes. 52 minute blocks are more appropriate for junior high students. Elementary teachers are doing their own schedule because the students are in the class with the same teachers the entire day anyways. This separation of schedules between elementary and junior high gives the school more flexibility. The junior high teachers are grateful and elementary teachers have not noticed.
- 7.4. One parent stakeholder asked if supports have being considered for healthy relationships for junior high students. Two teachers are running a committee for health days. These will be symposium days which will be structured as a health conference for students. There will be specialized programming for those days. It is easier to recruit people to present at the school this way. It gives the school the opportunity to reach out for other supports for students. Direct conversations are not always appropriate for students individually so presentations will be beneficial. The first symposium will likely occur at the end of October.
- 7.5. One parent stakeholder asked what safeguards are in place when staff are hired to teach at the school in order to protect students. Mrs. Neumann is unable to speak about the hiring of bus drivers, but she stated that teachers have rigorous screening. In addition, teachers are governed by a professional code of ethics to report misconduct if witnessed.
- 7.6. One parent commented that posted school speed zone times do not correlate with recess. School zones can not be changed as per individual school zone. They have to be consistent within the county. Therefore, bylaw review has to be done for the entire district. School zones times are to help the flow of traffic during school drop off and pick up to go more smoothly. Peace officers were patrolling the school zone at Graminia three times last week.
- 7.7. Amber will follow with the school zone times at the next meeting.
- 7.8. During the health symposium parents will be allowed to provide feedback as to where the conversations could go. For example consent.

## **8. Adjournment**

- 8.1. Amber Darragh made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23pm. Cassandra Graham seconded. Carried.

Next council meeting date: October 11, 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.