

## Graminia School Council

6:30pm Wednesday November 9, 2022, in the Graminia School Library

**Attendees** Angie Gehlert (Chair), Amber Darragh (Vice Chair), Cassandra Graham (Secretary), Treena Neumann (Principal), Erin Chessor (Vice-Principal), Dr. Meghan Miskolzie (Associate Superintendent), Sheila Avison, Christine Gehlert, Kerri Golka, Kate LaFavor, Melanie Tonhauser, Angayla Waterman, Megan Woodman

### 1. Meeting Called to Order and Introductions

- 1.1. Land Acknowledgement
- 1.2. Purpose of council explained by Angie Gehlert
- 1.3. Meeting called to order by Angie Gehlert at 6:32pm
- 1.4. Meeting attendees gave brief individual introductions

### 2. Adoption of Agenda

- 2.1. Angie Gehlert made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Seconded by Melanie Tonhauser. Carried.

### 3. Adoption of October Minutes

- 3.1. October minutes were reviewed and approved by Kerri Golka. Seconded by Melanie Tonhauser. Carried.

### 4. Trustee Report by Amiee Henning

- 4.1. Due to lack of childcare Amiee Henning was unable to attend the meeting.
- 4.2. The role of the School board Trustee was explained.
- 4.3. Current topics related to the role of School board Trustee were discussed and include: advocating for a new Spruce Grove High School and program information related to PSD offered programs.
- 4.4. Spruce Grove Rotary Club will be providing brown bag lunches to schools within PSD that identify students in need. They are looking for volunteer drivers to deliver the lunches to their designated sites.

### 5. Special Guest - Associate Superintendent Dr. Meghan Miskolzie

- 5.1. Introduction and explanation of Dr Miskolzie's roles within PSD: Specializes in student supports and services, offers holistic support in student wellness, facilitates community wellness and partnerships, focuses on comprehensive school health, and provides trauma response and assessment.
- 5.2. Dr. Miskolzie informed the council that all PSD K-9 schools have a school councillor this year.
- 5.3. This is the first year that a division psychologist is available to school councillors and school principals for additional support.
- 5.4. The model of school councillors within each school with supporting division psychologists available to the school councillors is a new model of support that PSD is transitioning to. This model offers more consistency to what an AHS mental health therapist can and provides daily checkins for struggling students at the school.
- 5.5. Wellness prevention is built into PSD model of wellbeing.
- 5.6. A comprehensive school health model includes active living, healthy eating, and mental wellbeing.
- 5.7. Schools submit a yearly action plan and health and wellness superiors help to facilitate the plan.
- 5.8. Graminia's response to this divisional plan was outlined by Mrs. Neumann and Mrs. Chessor: Active living: Mrs. Lewis ensuring children remain active through their physical education program. Healthy eating: Breakfast program and Nutrition nook are available to all students and have had a very positive response. Mental wellbeing: building the community within the school is a priority of focus due to the impacts of covid. Community building includes the Hawk spirit assemblies and the formation of Hawk Nests which are subgroups of students on Hawk Days. Hawk Days are fun

community building days to facilitate connection within the school throughout all grade levels. Gramina School is partnering with public health within AHS and has a PCM at a mental health clinic in Spruce Grove.

5.9. Dr. Miskolzie engages within schools to provide assessments and trauma response. The incident involving a recent hate crime at Graminia School due to vandalism of the rainbow crosswalk was discussed.

5.10. After incidents have occurred the role of the superintendent is to assess the impact zone, to outline a support process and have the principals and school councillors collaborate on a supportive plan of action within the school.

## **6. COSC (Council of School Councils) Update - Amber Darragh**

6.1. Explanation of COSC: all PSD school councils meet together, discuss concerns and touch base with other schools.

6.2. There is a government grant of \$500 for School Councils to spend, the grant is regulated with specific allowable spending. The Graminia School Council is planning to apply for this grant money and is currently brainstorming ideas of where to allocate the grant.

6.3. Total PSD enrolment is up 315 students, total enrolment is 12,252 students. Most of the new enrolment is within Spruce Grove.

6.4. There was a MLA meeting about transportation being an issue that was discussed. The average ride time across the division is 44 minutes and 90% of bus rides are less than an hour. It has been requested of Education Minister and MLA Smith and MLA Turton that a new funding formula for transportation be considered (see 6.9).

6.5. PSD requested new modulars, most requests were to replace old modulars, with the exception of Copperhaven School.

6.6. PSD is anticipating having to use reserves to cover expenses. PSD is concerned because you can only have a reserve of 2.5% of PSD's operating budget which is limited by the Alberta government.

6.7. Push for bus driver recruitment was discussed, including a recruitment day on November 14 at Memorial High School. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Volunteers are able to try driving a bus in an attempt to recruit new members to the profession. This is being held over the fall break because buses are available then. The council was told to share this information with as many people as possible.

6.8. Parent Engagement Night at Woodhaven School is on November 29 at 7pm, the discussion topic is yet to be assigned.

6.9. PSD administrative staff responded to the ongoing concerns regarding student bussing: Urban and rural transportation closer than 2.4km is not funded by the Alberta government, therefore funds for bussing students who live closer than 2.4km to the school come out of school education funds (these transportation costs are pulling money out of classrooms).

6.10. It was agreed that top two issues within PSD are bussing and the demand for a new Spruce Grove high school.

6.11. Next COSC meeting is February 7.

6.12. Alberta School Council Association meeting is November 19 from 1-4 (the meeting provides a link between parent council and Alberta government) the meeting is online and there is free registration. Curriculum, funding, wellness and mental wellness have been chosen as the main topics of focus.

## **7. Principal's Report by Treena Neumann**

7.1. The school Christmas Concert will be held on December 14. Both the school choir and band will be performing as well as performances by individual classes. For those parents unable to attend or wanting to show extended family and friends, the concert will be recorded and shared via private Youtube links.

- 7.2. The volleyball season finished this week. The senior boys team won the championships, the senior girls team lost in the semifinal, and the junior girls team lost in the finals.
- 7.3. Basketball tryouts will start at the beginning of December for both junior and senior teams for students in grades 7-9.
- 7.4. Drama Club is underway and having weekly rehearsals.
- 7.5. Mrs Schoepp is back filling in for Mrs. Wolff who is away due to a family emergency.
- 7.6. Playground update: the saucer swings replacement quote is to be updated at the next meeting as the playground equipment suppliers forgot to include a quote for the cost of the saucer swings. An updated itemized playground structure replacement quote has been submitted by playground inspectors and stated that all of the playground equipment needs to be replaced in the next 3-5 years for both of the school's East and North playgrounds. Playground inspectors have stated all playground equipment in use has an end date of 2025. Planning dates are approximate times of replacement as structures begin to break. Grants for playground equipment are available and will be looked into to assist with funding the replacement playgrounds.
- 7.7. Hallway bulletin boards were installed on November 9. Each bulletin board will be designated to display artwork and student work for the various grade levels. The boards will be in use by December.
- 7.8. A dishwasher for the school kitchen was ordered through a donation from a parent through the Graminia School Foundation.
- 7.9. The Heroes program began this month for students in grades 7-9 and program facilitators meet with students every Friday. The program focuses on connection and communities and builds resilience and self confidence in the students. The Heroes aims to make, "students feel valued and safe, inspiring them to foster their own motivational thoughts and to think optimistically about their future. It provides them with experiential learning exercises to practice new skills and insights into positive peer-to-peer interaction and behaviour." (<https://www.impactociety.com/heroes>)
- 7.10. There has been no update from the RCMP regarding the school crosswalk incident, but the incident remains under investigation.
- 7.11. Hate crimes constable Kristin Appleton has been supporting Graminia School since the incident. Kristin Appleton has offered to conduct a Hate Crimes Training Awareness presentation related to hate crimes in Alberta community sections, discussing crime awareness, and the impact of hate crimes. The school council will ask her to share this presentation at the school council meeting in February.
- 7.12. A Remembrance Day Ceremony starts November 10 at 10:30am, the school band and and choir will be performing together for the first time as well as individual performances by various classes, veterans from the Devon Legion as well as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces are coming to speak.
- 7.13. The first Hawks Spirit assembly and Hawks Day where the students were separated into their Hawks Nests was a huge success. This was the first school wide event in a few years. The grade 7-9 students displayed commendable leadership in assisting with the younger students during the Hawks Day activities.
- 7.14. Halloween activities were well received, including the costume parade, pumpkin carving, and classroom Halloween parties.
- 7.15. Parent teacher interviews which occurred in late October resulted in lacklustre attendance of parents in person. Options for a single day for interviews will be explored in the spring due to the poor parent turnout.
- 7.16. Respiratory illness outbreak status continues at Graminia School. AHS considers a school at an outbreak status when 15-20% of students are absent due to illness. School staff are working to facilitate learning while students are home sick or to help them catch up on their missed learning upon their return to class.
- 7.17. Professional development days were held to support teachers in grades 7-9 enact literacy interventions with the RCAT program. Follow up sessions related to junior high

student intervention with small group instruction will be held. This will start following the fall break. The small group literacy and numeracy groups have already started for grades 2-4. The grades 2-4 literacy lead is learning about how to intervene with a small group within the classroom. The divisional facilitator has been at the school to work with the grades 7-9 math teachers and 1-6 teachers related to early numeracy intervention.

7.18. It was brought up that Gramina does not have a Tubby bus and asked if this could be a possibility for Graminia School. Mrs. Neumann explained that typically Tubby buses are a high school expense for transporting teams.

7.19. Graminia School will be fumigated over Fall Break

## **8. New Business**

8.1. Topics brought to other School Council meetings: Transportation, budget, hate crimes, playground equipment (It was brought up that there should be a sub meeting for playgrounds).

8.2. There is a parent initiative to show appreciation for school staff. Please check out the back of the Gramina Flyover for the link to leave supportive comments of gratitude and encouragement to Graminia School Staff

## **9. Adjournment**

9.1. Angie Gehlert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm. Sheila Avison seconded. Carried.

Next council meeting date: December 7 at 6:30pm 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.