

Graminia School Council Annual General Meeting
6:30pm Wednesday October 11, 2023, in the Graminia School Library

Attendees Angie Gehlert (Chair), Amber Darragh (Vice-Chair), Cassandra Graham (Secretary), Treena Neumann (Principal), Erin Chessor (Vice-Principal), Eric Cameron (Trustee), Sheila Avison, Amanda Bird, Morgan Douziech, Jody Friesen, Kerri Golka, Kate LaFavor, Lisa Kimmerly, Sarah Lassu, Rose Leder, Leslie Preece, 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 Angie Gehlert at 6:35pm
- 1.2. Land acknowledgement read by Angie Gehlert.

2. Adoption of Agenda

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

3. Elections for Graminia School Council

- 3.1. Angayla Waterman nominated Angie Gehlert for council chair. Angie Gehlert accepted. Cassandra Graham seconded. Carried.
- 3.2. Sheila Avison nominated Amber Darragh for council vice-chair. Amber Darragh accepted. Stephanie Worrell seconded. Carried.
- 3.3. Amber Darragh nominated Amanda Bird for council secretary. Amanda Bird accepted. Seconded by Cassandra Graham. Carried.

4. Adoption of September Minutes

- 4.1. September minutes were reviewed and approved by Angayla Waterman. Seconded by Brendan Weber. Carried.

5. Introductions

- 5.1. Introductions of attendees. All attendees shared a nerdy fact about themselves.

6. Trustee Report by Eric Cameron

- 6.1. On September 21 school board trustees attended a Pipe Ceremony with elders and knowledge keepers to celebrate the fall equinox.
- 6.2. On October 3 trustees attended a luncheon at Memorial Composite High School to greet a delegation of administrators and facilitators from Shikaoi, Japan as part of the student exchange program with the Town of Stony Plain and their sister city Shikaoi, Japan. The luncheon was hosted by the foods class and featured an elaborate menu. The trustees were very proud of the efforts of the foods class. Following the luncheon a letter was received with a gift from the Shikaoi High School principal in thanks for hosting the luncheon. He hopes the children from both countries gain a greater global understanding from the experience.
- 6.3. The city of Spruce Grove is seeking provincial support to include Horizon Stage as part of the replacement of Spruce Grove Composite High School project.
- 6.4. The Provincial Social Studies Engagement Survey closes on October 16. This survey gives Albertans a voice in the redevelopment of the social studies curriculum. The study was brought forward due to stakeholder criticism of the new social studies curriculum. The survey questionnaire scoring system is reversed with 1 being strongly agree and 10 being strongly disagree. Parent stakeholders were advised to pay close attention when completing the survey.
- 6.5. A date for the grand opening of West View School will be shared soon. It will likely be in November.
- 6.6. PSD Facilities Department are busy wrapping up summer projects. Millgrove School got eight new modulars and a new hallway. There was also lots of work getting the new Westview School up to date.
- 6.7. The budget for the 2022-23 school year is wrapping up and the budget will be presented in November for the 2023-24 school year.

- 6.8. Bus route challenges are ongoing, however all eligible riders have been accommodated. Transportation issues are a provincial problem. Bus operators, superintendents and trustees are meeting to outline major concerns regarding bussing throughout the province.
- 6.9. The design team from the new Spruce Grove Composite High school met the architect to discuss designs for the new school. The building costs for this school will be released in March. PSD are hoping for construction funding to be approved in the next provincial capital program announcement.
- 6.10. Athabasca Delta Community School in Fort Chipewyan was temporarily taken over by PSD due to a request from the government. The plan is for a five year take over and then it will be released back to the community. The community is accessible by road only in summer months. The PSD superintendent travelled to the school to discuss where the school is at in the process to develop their own educational authority.
- 6.11. Food security is a major concern and priority focus this year by PSD.
- 6.12. Orange Shirt Day was celebrated on September 29 and many schools brought in elders and knowledge keepers to speak to students.
- 6.13. The Building Futures program enables high school students to learn skilled trades and build homes in conjunction with Coventry Homes. This year the students are building two homes, one with grade 10 students and one with grade 11 and 12 students.
- 6.14. The PSD board received a delegation from the Rotary Club of Spruce Grove explaining their brown bag program where they deliver brown bag lunches through PSD made possible by funding from government grants, President's Choice Charity, many volunteers and St. Andrews church lending their kitchens. The program provides 350 bag lunches to eighteen school sites.
- 6.15. September is modular request month. PSD schools are looking for many replacement modulars. Last year PSD did not get a single modular they requested. This year modulars have been requested as follows: Ecole Meridian Heights: four new modulars, Copperhaven: two new modulars and Ecole Broxton Park: six new replacement modulars.
- 6.16. September enrolment numbers have been released. Enrolment is down fifty-two students in the west end schools, Stony Plain and area increased by sixty-eight students, Spruce Grove only increased by eight students, outreach increased by eighty-three students and Athabasca Delta Community School has decreased by five students
- 6.17. Class sizes are comparable to last year with the exception of grade 9 students in a few schools where some classes are as high as thirty-one students.
- 6.18. Curriculum implementations still have a high focus on numeracy and literacy with classroom support and extensive professional development for teachers. There are new curriculums this year: K-grade 3 French literature and language arts, K-grade 3 science, grades 4-6 literature and language arts and grades 4-6 math. Great gains have been made from the new curriculum with the younger students being focused on.
- 6.19. The Athabasca Delta Community School in Fort Chipewyan includes the following staffing positions: sixteen and a half teaching and administrative positions, three educational assistants, one speech language assistant, two cooks, one bus driver and one divisional maintenance worker. All of these positions have been filled by PSD employees. The challenges in staffing this school include isolation, cost of living, compensation, housing and the working environment. A northern allowance was requested for these teachers and they got a well deserved income increase.
- 6.20. A student conduct and intervention report unfortunately shows an increase in Individual vaping, cyber bullying, non-compliant, disrespectful, inappropriate behaviour, as well as fighting and physical aggression. There is evidence to indicate these trends are the result of social isolation during the Covid-19 pandemic when positive interaction was restricted.

7. COSC (Council of School Councils) Update by Angie Gehlert

- 7.1. The most recently attended COSC meeting held was on October 3 at 6:30.
- 7.2. Board trustees and the PSD superintendent attended. There was a huge turnout at the last meeting. Every parent is welcome to attend.
- 7.3. The School Council Engagement Grant was discussed. The grant is very limiting in what it may be used for. Graminia School Council was one of the few school councils who utilized the grant last year. There will be more grant money available again this year. School councils were not allowed to use the grant to fund the Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) Conference. The school board is now considering allowing grant money to be used to fund the conference.
- 7.4. The board may be funding \$6000 for school councils to attend the ASCA Conference this year.
- 7.5. There were nine bus routes without drivers within PSD at the beginning of the school year. Some students were one hour late for class due to lack of transportation.
- 7.6. Teachers are only required by PSD to submit one report card per student per year.
- 7.7. The school board is focusing on learning loss within schools. There is a five grade spread of knowledge due to changes in curriculum and the implementation of the new curriculum.
- 7.8. Concerns related to the Power School online platform were brought forward. There are parental concerns related to the navigation of the Power School online platform. Power School does not operate well on mobile devices and its limitations should be addressed with parents.
- 7.9. The board is coming down to the final details of the calendar for the 2024-25 school year. The annual survey will be released for parents to vote on the calendar for the upcoming school year.
- 7.10. The Social Studies Engagement Survey has been filled out wrong by many parents due to the fact that the scoring system could be interpreted backwards. 1 is scored as highly agree and 10 is scored as highly disagree. The scoring system for the survey has been deemed as backwards and there is no way to retract the answers once the surveys have been filled out wrong.
- 7.11. Attendance has been determined a huge problem for PSD. The threshold is 25% absence and is deemed related to unfavourable educational outcomes. Students are not just missing school due to sick days, but kids are missing a ton of school for other reasons. PSD has hired a position to follow up with these students who have high absenteeism.
- 7.12. The principal report was simply that school principals are busy with beginning of school year tasks.
- 7.13. COSC meeting dates were set up for the remainder of this school year. The next COSC meeting is December 5 at 6:30pm in the boardroom at the Centre for Education in Stony Plain. Potential other meetings include February 6, March 19, and May 14.

8. Principal's Report by Treena Neumann

- 8.1. Mrs. Kent is away for an extended leave. Mrs. Kim Duchaine will be replacing Mrs. Kent. Please welcome her as she has been an awesome addition to the team.
- 8.2. The Terry Fox Run went really well. Frozen treats that were left over from the Hawks Hangout were shared with participants.
- 8.3. The Brag Box is up and running. This was introduced to staff on their PD day and teachers will be sharing a description of what the brag box is with their students.
- 8.4. Grade 7 and 9 have completed their start of the year field trips and the grade 8 field trip is coming up on October 25. The feedback has been positive.
- 8.5. Complimentary courses have been sorted and are up and running.
- 8.6. Cross country will be ending on October 19. Volleyball is in full swing. The teachers have been sharing the coaching responsibility for the school volleyball teams.

- 8.7. Graminia School spending list approval has been amended to meet the need for the Graminia School Foundation to fundraise for the required replacement playgrounds.
- 8.8. Assessment and reporting shared at the most recent COSC meeting states the law from Alberta Education is that only one final report card at the end of the year is required. Divisionally there are two report card terms.
- 8.9. There is a shift in getting our teachers to use Power School. The app is run by the Power School company and the school is part of the app. All schools in Alberta are using Power School. All registration has to be done on a desk top computer. There are major limitations within the Power School app. Lots of divisions are very frustrated with Power School and this is resulting in updates. There are two to three different webinars (screen casts) related to the use of the Power School app. The screen casts have been really good at showing parents how to use the app. December sessions will be run on how the Power School website and app works. The focus of the December council meeting will be "How to Power School and You".
- 8.10. There will be a robust student led conference on the nights of November 7 and 9. The conferences will be set up to involve parents and students more. Demonstrations of learning and student led conferences have been determined most effective which is why Graminia School is following this format.
- 8.11. One parent stakeholder asked if there will be an option for parents to fill out a survey to share feedback with the makers of Power School. There is not a survey, however concerns are being brought forward on a regular basis. Complaints and frustrations related to Power School are frequently voiced from parents.
- 8.12. The school custodian made a request that there will be four recycling containers placed throughout the school. The recycling needs to be taken out by the end of the day on Friday. Homerooms will collect recycling and the grade or classroom responsible will collect the money on Fridays.
- 8.13. Upcoming events include the book fair October 16-18, Hawks Spirit assembly October 24 and Halloween celebrations October 31. Please refer to the Flyover for information.
- 8.14. Superintendent Shauna Boyce and the Government of Alberta is asking families to complete a survey about my child's learning. They have requested from ASCA that ten to twelve parents to complete the survey. It has to be completed by October 23. There is a time limit and it will be self-submitted after thirty minutes.

9. Spending Request List

- 9.1. 30% of funds from the Graminia School Foundation will be allocated to the funding list and 70% of funds will be allocated to the playground. All funding requests are listed in order of need. Other requests are alternate options, and they may not be needed. The list is as follows and is in order of need/preference:
 - 9.1.1. \$2000 recess bins
 - 9.1.2. \$2000 for RAZ kids in class and at home supplemental reading support K-3
 - 9.1.3. \$3000 for Mathletics in class and at home supplemental math support for grades 3-6.
 - 9.1.4. \$6000 for 2 new FM systems same as last year, portable, durable, easily connecting directly to hearing aid/computers/speakers. This benefits all students in class, current equipment is aging and needs repairs/replacements and is proprietary.
 - 9.1.5. \$500 Repainting of the Rainbow Crosswalk.
 - 9.1.6. \$3000 Grade 7-9 Health Programming -\$1500 Bussing for Skills Canada. Grades 7-9 and \$1500 Heroes Program. The Heroes Program is the a self esteem, social and emotional health program for grades 7-9.
 - 9.1.7. \$1500 Graminia Rink Outdoor Education Equipment
- 9.2. The total requested funds amount to \$18 000.

- 9.3. The school council voted on bringing forth these items for the Graminia School Foundation to fund them. The majority of meeting attendees ruled in favour of funding all of the above listed items.
- 9.4. Other opportunities for support include:
- 9.4.1. \$5000 Drama Program Support
 - 9.4.2. \$9000 Music Program. \$6000 is for new risers and \$3000 is for an in school rock group workshop.
 - 9.4.3. \$10 000 Furniture: to add furniture benches/couches to hallways for grades 7-9 and kindergarten.
 - 9.4.4. \$1500 Wheelchair rental or siege hockey rental adapted physical education for grades 6-9.
 - 9.4.5. \$15 000 Artist in Residence program to celebrate Graminia's 40th year. If the school council is interested.
- 9.5. The additional items listed above are in order of importance will be voted on at the next school council meeting on November 8. All parents who have a child in the school have to opportunity to vote on the requested funds for the upcoming school year.

10. New Business

- 10.1. Amber Darragh followed up on the discussion from the September school council meeting in relation to the school zone speed limit times. Amber reported that school zone times are voted on by Parkland County. There will be an upcoming county meeting to discuss the school zone times. The plan is for a large block of time for the entire school day rather than small blocks of times during drop off, pick up and recess.

11. Adjournment

- 11.1. Angie Gehlert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm. Sheila Avison seconded. Carried.

Next council meeting date: November 8, 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.