

Graminia School Council
6:30pm Wednesday April 12, 2023, in the Graminia School Library

Attendees Angie Gehlert (Chair), Amber Darragh (Vice Chair), Cassandra Graham (Secretary), Treena Neumann (Principal), Erin Chessor (Vice-Principal), Aimee Hennig (School Board Trustee), Serge LaBrie (PSD Director of Facilities), Sheila Avison, Christine Gehlert, Kerri Golka, Trudy Hochachka, Kate LaFavor, Rose Leder, Anna Liska, Britany Preece, Melanie Tonhauser, Tanya Vogel, Angayla Waterman

1. Meeting Called to Order and Introductions

- 1.1. Meeting called to order by Angie Gehlert at 6:31pm
- 1.2. Land Acknowledgement

2. Adoption of Agenda

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

3. Adoption of March Minutes

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

4. Special Presentation by Serge LaBrie, PSD Director of Facilities

- 4.1. Funding for the operations and maintenance of PSD buildings and facilities is separate and not related to education funding. There is a set amount of funding to operate the buildings, cleaning, maintenance and upgrading. A funding increase was granted for the upcoming school year.
- 4.2. Infrastructure maintenance renewal (IMR) is separate from capital maintenance renewal (CMR) and is used for facilities maintenance such as flooring, paint and any upgrades to the buildings.
- 4.3. Capital maintenance renewal (CMR) is categorized as the funds allocated to extend the life of PSD buildings such as boiler replacements and roofing replacements.
- 4.4. IMR funding has remained consistent and is budgeted at approximately 1.5million for the entire school division.
- 4.5. CMR funding is new and came into place around the time of COVID-19. Some schools were not allocating money towards building maintenance and therefore those schools were in poor condition and needed to be condemned due to misspent funds. PSD's solution to this problem was creating a separate fund for building maintenance and the CMR category of funding was created as a separate fund from the IMR.
- 4.6. During COVID-19 the government gave extra money towards CMR funding, but now they have reduced the funding and are even clawing back money which was previously given over the next few years.
- 4.7. Four people run the facilities department: a director, a maintenance supervisor, a custodial supervisor who oversees approximately 100 custodians (each school receives approximately fifteen to sixteen hours per day of custodial services) and a secretary/finance employee who deals with emergencies and displaces jobs of fourteen to fifteen certified trades people such as electricians, carpenters and plumbers.
- 4.8. Renovations for PSD buildings are three to five years in waiting. There is a backlog for building maintenance and upgrades. At approximately fifteen years old buildings start to fail. At this point in their lifespan they need major maintenance such as boilers and roofing. There is a grading system to evaluate building maintenance which is used to categorize renovation and maintenance needs within the division.
- 4.9. Graminia School has recently received building maintenance. All classrooms in Graminia School were renovated within the past two years. New flooring, counters, doors, millwork and ceilings were installed.

- 4.10. 1.2million was spent on renovations to Graminia School. These renovations included boilers, sewage and pump replacements. Graminia School is on a priority list for renovations to the front office and front entrance. For security and safety the renovation will be done. This will likely happen the summer prior to the 2024-25 school year.
- 4.11. PSD took over Athabasca Delta school in Fort Chip. Fourteen housing complexes are also maintained in Fort Chip for staff. Fort Chip is a fly in fly out community.
- 4.12. As per the Northwest Trade Agreement anything over \$200 000 has to be contracted out.
- 4.13. The Millgrove School Modular Replacement Project is underway and the goal is to replacing seven or eight modulares. Fifteen trades will be installing modulares and this will take five months to complete.
- 4.14. PSD is building an outreach centre in Spruce Grove. The current outreach centres are leased and there is no funding for leasing. An outreach campus is being built near Broxton Park School and will be owned by PSD. PSD obtained the land after the closure of a pool located on the land near Broxton Park School. The plan is to construct a fully integrated outreach centre. Modular buildings are moving this summer from Tomahawk, Entwistle and Blueberry Schools to the outreach centre.
- 4.15. A question was asked by a parent stakeholder about air conditioning in the school and HEPA filters for school air quality. PSD has obtained one hundred air conditioning units that will outfit all of the modular units within PSD. The goal is to have all of the air conditioner units installed this summer.
- 4.16. There are no HEPA filters in PSD schools. Since COVID-19 air exchange rates have been maxed out. Thirteen MERV filters have been added where they have been able. Filters have not been added to most classrooms. Lots of research was done on air quality during COVID-19. Studies have shown that stand alone filters are not an ideal solution and can create their own set of challenges. Air circulation is greater across rooms due to filters and can be problematic. Increasing air flow is what was recommended during COVID-19.
- 4.17. The Graminia School front entrance renovation will be massive and will only be able to be done in the summer. The plan is similar to the recent renovation at Broxton Park School. The targeted date is summer 2024.
- 4.18. Gophers have been an ongoing issue and have created many holes in the field surrounding the school. The gophers pose ongoing challenges. Facilities maintenance have tried trapping and poisoning them in the past. They are currently not allowed to poison the gophers for legal reasons and past attempts to poison the gophers have failed. The gophers at Graminia School are simply too prolific. The current plan moving forward is to trap the gophers, this plan will likely also fail.
- 4.19. A parent stakeholder asked about the ongoing problem with foxes inhabiting the school yard and infecting students with fleas. The foxes have been playing on the playground equipment and have been using the space between the school and modular buildings as shelters. Investigations into solutions to the fox problem have shown that the school is unable to intervene in the fox population and neither can Alberta Fish and Wildlife. For now the foxes will stay.

5. Trustee Report by Aimee Hennig

- 5.1. As per PSD's Board Policy an annual plan for advocacy in promoting student well being and success has been established. Recent activity related to advocacy included a meeting on March 20 with Trustee Lorraine Stewart, Superintendent Shauna Boyce and Spruce Grove Mayor, Jeff Acker, to discuss support for the Spruce Grove Composite High School replacement. The new high school will not include a theatre and stage to the same calibre as Horizon Stage. The role of PSD in regards to the Horizon Stage was discussed.
- 5.2. Key messages were developed to help parents/guardians, school councils and the public advocate for public education leading up to the general election. Messaging will

focus on local priorities and includes: funding, including weighted moving average, access to funding and reserves, capital planning of new schools including modernization to schools and installation of modulars, physical and mental health needs, inclusive education and transportation including funding, insurance and staffing. Election key messages related to education will be shared as points to discuss with candidates if they were to come to a stakeholder's door.

- 5.3. A delegation of students and staff from Spruce Grove Composite High School, Ecole Broxton Park School and Ecole Meridian Heights School came to discuss the French Immersion Program. A full French Immersion Program is offered by these schools. French immersion starts with 100% French in kindergarten and as students progress to higher grades French is scaled back and supplemented with English.
- 5.4. A free information session on secure attachments will be presented for PSD families on April 25 from 6:30-8pm via online webinar. The concept of secure attachment and the important role it plays in creating a strong and supportive emotional climate within the family system will be discussed. A link to this webinar is on PSD website.
- 5.5. An online movie "Backpack Full of Cash" is available for viewing and explores the effect of privatization in schools in America. It also offers a model for improving schools. It is available online through the Public School Board of Alberta has been narrated by Matt Damon.
- 5.6. The board recognized long time Trustee and former Chair and Vice Chair, Eric Cameron by announcing his nomination for the Public School Board Association of Alberta (PSBAA) Dick Baker Legacy Award. The award is bestowed on a public-school board trustee who has modelled values of integrity, compassion, respect, mentoring and leadership. The winner will be announced in June at the PSBAA's AGM.
- 5.7. On March 21 the school board met with high school students from Connections for Learning, Memorial Composite High School and Spruce Grove Composite High School. Engagement topics included, Supportive Learning Environments, Learning Experiences and Peer Relationships and Wellness. The full report summarizes thoughts the students shared with Trustees and is available on the PSD website.
- 5.8. A question was brought forth related to transportation about the changes to eligibility requirements for bussing. Nothing has been promised and it will not take effect until the 2024-25 school year.

6. Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) Resolutions Vote by Angie Gehlert

- 6.1. Proposed resolutions to governing documents have been forwarded for members to review and vote upon. School council can put a vote to the resolutions by proxy if no one from the Graminia School Council is able to attend the 2023 ASCA annual general meeting (AGM). There are six proposed advocacy resolutions and three proposed resolutions to governing documents for the Graminia School Council to vote on.
- 6.2. Council discussed each resolution and cast a vote. The choices are to amend, maintain or archive the existing ASCA Advocacy Policies.
- 6.3. Section I is Proposed Advocacy Resolutions for Member Review.
- 6.4. Mandating criminal record and vulnerable sector checks. The recommendation for ACSA to advocate to the Minister of Education for amendments to the Education Act to require candidates for the position of School Board Trustee to publicly disclose the resets of a Criminal Record and a Vulnerable Sector check. This recommendation was supported by the majority of Graminia School Council members.
- 6.5. Supporting integrated educational funding. The recommendation is for ACSA to advocate to the Minister of Education for a collaborative funding model with other Ministries, including but not limited to Health, Children's Services, Community and Social Services, and Indigenous Relations, to share the burden of funding integrated services in Alberta's schools, including but not limited to community liaison workers, counselling services, mental health services, and First Nations, Metis, and Inuit

education. The majority of the Graminia School Council abstained from supporting or disapproving this resolution.

- 6.6. Integrate climate and biodiversity education throughout the K-12 curriculum. The recommendation is that the ASCA Board of Directors advocate to the Minister of Education to implement a framework for embedding environment, energy, sustainability, climate and biodiversity education in all K-12 classes in Alberta schools which will incorporate hands-on learning experiences with a focus on critical thinking, climate justice, equity and Indigenous rights. The majority of the Graminia School Council did not support this resolution.
 - 6.7. Add rights of victims and bullying to the Education Act. There were two recommendations to support this resolution. The first recommendation is that the ASCA advocates to the Minister of Education to amend the Education Act to align with best practices in addressing the rights of victims of bullying and violence. The second recommendation is that the ASCA advocates to the Minister of Education to consult with a broad range of stakeholders to ensure all voices are heard and reflected in any changes to the Education Act related to addressing the rights of victims of bullying and violence. The majority of the Graminia School Council abstained from supporting or disapproving this resolution.
 - 6.8. Required consultation opportunities for proposed changes to legislation, regulations, or established programs or practices. The recommendation is that ASCA advocates to the Government of Alberta and the Minister of Education that ASCA always be offered opportunities for meaningful consultation and presentation of the parent perspective expressed through its member school councils when changes are being proposed to legislation, regulations, or established programs or practices that will impact school councils, students and/or parents. This recommendation was supported by the majority of Graminia School Council members.
 - 6.9. Setting and meeting a student to school counsellor ratio to improve mental health. The recommendation is that the ASCA advocates to the Minister of Education to increase the amount of qualified mental health support personnel (registered counsellors, psychologists, Child and Youth Care Counsellors or social workers) in all Alberta public schools to meet a recommended 250:1 ratio by 2024. The majority of the Graminia School Council abstained from supporting or disapproving this resolution.
 - 6.10. Section Two, Proposed Resolutions to Governing Documents for Member Review of the Resolutions Package was then discussed and voted upon.
 - 6.11. The acknowledgement of COSC in the Alberta Education Act. Majority abstained.
 - 6.12. Individual parent membership in ASCA. Majority abstained.
 - 6.13. Parent as defined in Actions One and Two in the Education Act to replace in the Family Law Act. Majority abstained.
 - 6.14. At the AGM voting delegates will vote by secret ballot vote. Voting delegates will elect Directors to available positions by secret ballot vote every year. Majority abstained.
- 7. Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) Conference by Angie Gehlert**
 - 7.1. There are two paid spots to attend the ASCA Conference. The conference is all in person and there is an opportunity to learn lots from other school councils. It is Friday, Saturday and Sunday April 20-22. Any school council stakeholder wanting and willing to attend the conference could have a paid spot for the weekend.
 - 7.2. The Graminia School Council was asked if anyone was willing to attend the conference. No one volunteered at the meeting. Angie will wait to hear back once council members check their schedules to see if anyone is able to attend.
- 8. Principal's Report by Treena Neumann**
 - 8.1. Everyday full day kindergarten is open for registration and there is space for two to three more students.
 - 8.2. MyPath Graminia is moving forward for students in grades four to six. Registration is still open as there are eight more spots for grades four and seven more spots for

grades five and six. The MyPath students will be grouped in two cohorts: grade four and then grades five and six. The enrolment for grades seven to nine was under ten students. There were not enough interest in grades seven to nine due to unpredictability of activities. The school hopes to offer MyPath for those grades in the 2024/25 school year.

- 8.3. High School course selection is April 13 for the grade nine students.
- 8.4. Hawk Spirit Assembly is April 27 at 1:30pm. Presenting classes are 1P, 6K and the French and Leadership classes.
- 8.5. The contract for a before and after school program is in the last stages of planning and negotiating.
- 8.6. Hawk helpers are returning at the end of this month.
- 8.7. RCMP presentation from the ICE (Internet Child Exploitation) team is scheduled for April 25 at 6:00pm.
- 8.8. Sun Run students leave for Vancouver on Saturday and will return on Monday.
- 8.9. Spring League basketball is starting up. Information letters will be sent home this week.
- 8.10. The FitSet Ninja field trip has been booked. Information and permission forms will be sent home this week.
- 8.11. Dallas Arcand is presenting at Graminia School on May 4 using the cultural funds for the school. Dallas Arcand is an Indigenous artist, hoop dancer, and performs by drumming and playing the flute.
- 8.12. There is a link to an application for a grant the school could use in any way. The grant is through Kidoodle TV. More details will be shared on April 15 when the application opens.

9. New Business

- 9.1. A parent stakeholder was concerned based on reports from her junior high aged student that morale within the school junior high students was low. This concern was brought forth, specifically related to the student's lunch time eating arrangements. An explanation was provided by Treena Neumann as to why junior high students eat in designated areas and that aside from eating time students are given ample choices where to spend their free time outside of eating time. A proposal was made to brainstorm ideas which would boost junior high morale next year.
- 9.2. There was a discussion related to the use of a \$500 grant for the Graminia School Council to use. The Graminia School Council has a total of \$1000 in grant money because they did not use the grant from the previous year. A vote to use the money for learning modules was held. These modules include how to make a plan to benefit school council legislation in school plans, legislation in school environment, and how to formulate a one year plan for school council. Tanya Vogel made a motion to approve the three learning modules to spend the provincial council government grant from the ASCA. Angayla Waterman seconded. Majority rule.

10. Adjournment

- 10.1. Tanya Vogel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41pm. Angayla Waterman seconded. Carried.

Next council meeting date: May 10 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.