

Graminia School Council

6:30pm Wednesday February 15, 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 Trustee), Kristin Appleton (Constable), Sheila Avison, Kassandra Boisvert, Kerri Golka, Kate LaFavor, Rose Leder, Anna Liska, Melanie Tonhauser, Tanya Vogel, Megan Woodman

1. Meeting Called to Order and Introductions

- 1.1. Meeting called to order by Angie Gehlert at 6:30pm
- 1.2. Land Acknowledgement

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 January Minutes

- 3.1. January minutes were not forwarded to the school council as the council secretary was not present at the January meeting. A plan was made to send out the January minutes after the February meeting and they will be approved along with the February minutes at the meeting in March.

4. Special Presentation on Hate Crimes by CST. Kristin Appleton

- 4.1. Constable Kristin Appleton who has been involved with Graminia School since the rainbow crosswalk incident in October was in attendance to provide a presentation on hate crimes.
- 4.2. Hate incidents are non-criminal actions or behaviour against a person or property that involves or is associated to hate, bias or prejudice against a person's real or perceived ancestry, race, national or ethnic origin, language, color, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, gender identity or sexual orientation.
- 4.3. Once hateful communication targeted towards another person or group of people turns into a threat, then it becomes criminal. Slurs are considered racism and racism is not illegal in Canada. Hate crimes are hate motivated offences.
- 4.4. To consider a crime a hate motivated offence, the motivation of hate has to be proven. The crown prosecutor must convince the judge of hate motivation.
- 4.5. It is difficult to look at statistics because hate crimes are underreported. Only about one in ten hate crimes are reported for various reasons.
- 4.6. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms was reviewed.
- 4.7. Impacts of hate crimes include heightened social isolation and vulnerability of the victim group, severe stress for members of the community, an escalation of social tensions between groups, and hate crimes send messages that anybody with the victim's characteristics are not welcome within the community.
- 4.8. Constable Appleton encouraged the reporting of all hate crimes and possible hate crimes to police. Constable Appleton said to err on the side of caution when reporting. It is important for police to start an investigation early because there could be repeat offences. To provide a report and support an investigation she encouraged witnesses to provide specific details of the crime, actions, behaviour and exact words of the offender. Make note of pertinent details of the offender/victim description and share videos or photos of the incident.
- 4.9. Examples of crimes which could be motivated by hate are assault, arson, and vandalism.
- 4.10. How to talk to your kids about hate crimes was covered. It can be very comforting for children to talk about tough issues with parents. Provide age appropriate information. Let your child know that the actions of one do not dictate the actions of all people. Create a safe space, discover what your children know and watch for any signs of distress. Start with small doses and pick one issue or topic. Listen deeply to the

discussion, concerns and questions. Learn more together through books, podcasts and resources. Keep ties to the conversation and reaffirm that no topic is too taboo to bring to you.

- 4.11. The hate crime that occurred at Graminia School in the fall was not discussed specifically.
- 4.12. Interpreting internet and social media credibility was also discussed. Questions to ask to be able to discern the accuracy of information on social media were shared. A slide was also shown on how to spot fake news. Points to help discern real from fake news are to consider the source, check the author, check the date, check your biases, read beyond, investigate supporting sources, consider the possibility that the news is a joke and to ask experts about the credibility of what you have read.
- 4.13. Mrs. Neumann inquired about the prevalence of youth targeting via social media and radicalization. This occurs frequently and the possibility of hosting a presentation about online safety at a future school council meeting was brought up.
- 4.14. There was a discussion about busses and bus safety as well as the inappropriate sharing of media between students by personal cell phone use on busses. Every Parkland School District (PSD) bus has four cameras. The cameras have audio and video and when a complaint is made about an occurrence on a PSD bus with Graminia students the videos are watched by Mrs. Chessor. Both Mrs. Neumann and Mrs. Chessor encouraged parents to report any concerns about bus related incidents to them.

5. Trustee Report - Aimee Hennig

- 5.1. School tours were completed from the schools at the west end of PSD by MLA Shane Getson and NDP candidate Natalie Birnie. There is a possibility of private school coming to the west end of PSD. This is significant because there is a chance that PSD could have to close one or more public schools if a private school were opened.
- 5.2. The PSD school calendar is being released very soon. The first day of the 2023/2024 school year will be September 5. In the last twenty years half of the time the school year starts before Labor Day long weekend and half of the time it is after. Fall break for the 2023/2024 school year will be November 13-17. The school calendar is supposed to be released by March 1. The calendar is available on the PSD website.
- 5.3. Building Futures is a program for high school students in grade 10. Working with a local builder in Spruce Grove, students are able to earn credits toward their diploma by working together to build a house from the ground up. Starting next year the Building Futures program will be available for students in grades 11 and 12. (<https://cfl.psd.ca/programs/building-futures>)
- 5.4. School registration is now open. Please register for the upcoming school year.
- 5.5. PSD has been involved in the Toonies for Tummies program. It is a partnership with Freson Bros. that ended February 2. Freson Bros. had partnered with multiple school divisions to help feed children who are at risk of going to school on an empty stomach. 100% of donations will be donated directly to schools with Freson Bros. matching donations up to \$5000. (<https://www.freson.com/toonies-for-tummies/>)
- 5.6. Transportation was discussed with the underlying message being, "Keep praying for more money." There is an assumption that there will be an increase in funds. The school board has given direction to senior administration to find money for transportation without taking it out of classrooms. Different options include increasing route lengths and removing a route, which would increase ride times or increasing ridership fees. Ineligible riders are those who live within 2.4km from the school. These families already pay more for bussing.
- 5.7. A question was asked whether the parents and the school could privately fundraise to cover transportation costs. Treena Neumann will send an email to Scott McFadden, associate superintendent of finance to inquire whether transportation can be privately fundraised for.

- 5.8. There will be a transportation presentation meeting at the next school council meeting in March.
- 5.9. On February 10 the school trustees and superintendents went to a presentation by Tareq Hadhad. It was incredibly inspirational. Tareq Hadhad spoke about his family who started a chocolate factory in Syria which was bombed. They are now refugees to Canada and are set to be the number two chocolatier in Canada. There is a movie about the family on Crave. Aimee encouraged the council to check out Tareq Hashed's inspirational story. <https://www.tareqhadhad.com>

6. Principal's Report by Treena Neumann

- 6.1. Hawks basketball is running awesomely! Both the senior and junior teams are doing very well. The teams are being coached by Mr. Kawa, Mrs. Lewis, Ms. Kraus and Mrs. Valiquette and they are doing an amazing job.
- 6.2. Preparations for the Sun Run in Vancouver are underway for the junior high students.
- 6.3. The grades 7, 8 and 9 Band went to Camp Nakamun.
- 6.4. Kindergarten open house is February 16 at 6:00pm. The upcoming full time kindergarten program and the steps around the program will be discussed.
- 6.5. The MyPath program will be offered at Graminia School next year. The MyPath enrichment program information session will be held in the library on February 22 at 6:00pm. The MyPath program is geared for grades 4 to 6 and grades 7 to 9. Students are welcome to attend.
- 6.6. The next Hawks Spirit assembly is at 1:15pm on February 24. The theme is love and there will be a performance by the school choir as well as songs performed by grades one, four and five and presentations by Mr. Sloane and Mrs. Kinsella's classes as well as grades 7, 8 and 9 French as a Second Language.
- 6.7. Register your children for the upcoming 2023/2024 school year. Three reasons for this are: bussing, bussing and bussing! The budget plan for bussing for the upcoming school year is developed based on eligible riders. The budgeting for the bussing is started the day before spring break. There is a bus driver shortage and knowing how many students will be riding helps with planning.
- 6.8. The MyPath enrichment program also needs registration numbers so they can know who is going to enrol in MyPath. You must be a Graminia student. Connections for Learning in Stony Plain have developed this program. The MyPath program provides an opportunity for students to experience a variety of experiences in a non traditional school setting. The cost is \$100 -\$150 per month and program activities will occur two afternoons per week. MyPath provides a holistic approach to learning for students with a variety of hands on experiences. There is an interest survey that parents can complete to help them develop the program and tailor the experiences provided by the program.

7. New Business

- 7.1. No new business.

8. Meeting Adjournment

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

Next council meeting date: March 8 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.