

Graminia School Council

6:30pm Wednesday December 7, 2022, 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), Sheila Avison, Kerri Golka, Kate LaFavor, Melanie Tonhauser, Tanya Vogel, Angayla Waterman

1. Meeting Called to Order and Introductions

- 1.1. Meeting called to order by Angie Gehlert at 6:33pm
- 1.2. Land Acknowledgement

2. Adoption of Agenda

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

3. Adoption of November Minutes

- 3.1. November minutes were reviewed and approved by Shelia Avison. Seconded by Amber Darragh. Carried.

4. Trustee Report by School Trustee Amiee Hennig

- 4.1. Attendance rates throughout PSD have been poor due to respiratory illness.
- 4.2. Fall break helped curb and bring down the absence rate which was very high prior to fall break due to the respiratory illness outbreak. Absence rates have been much lower following fall break.
- 4.3. PSD has been working with AHS. If the school absence rate is more than 10% of the school population then an outbreak is declared within the school.
- 4.4. No current masking changes will be made to PSD. Students are welcome to mask if they choose, but it will not be mandatory.
- 4.5. A targeted funding grant approved for \$700,000 will be used to support mental health in schools. The grant partnerships with Westview Patient Care Network. This is a two year project in which the baseline data of student's mental health needs will be collected. In-school mental health clinics will be set up and they will be hiring a social worker.
- 4.6. The second grant is a targeted intervention learning loss grant which allocates \$264,000 for 1250 students in grades 2-4 with an average of \$197 per student and 12-16 weeks of targeted intervention for lost learning this school year.
- 4.7. The third grant awarded of \$500,000 is for curriculum implementation supports. This provides resources for professional development days.
- 4.8. A Ukrainian refugee grant was awarded to PSD for \$45,000. The grant supports 9 students within PSD as of the end of September, and is expected to increase to 15 students. This grant assists with transportation costs and student specific supports.
- 4.9. There is also a grant for snow removal, to pile snow to a maximum of three feet high. This avoids additional costs in snow clearing and will not impact school parking. The grant is aligned with Evergreen and Edmonton Public School districts.
- 4.10. The bus driver recruitment event led to the recruitment of one new bus driver.
- 4.11. A school naming committee for the new school in Stony Plain has been formed. PSD is also looking for name suggestions for the renaming of Stony Plain Central School and an email will be sent out seeking suggestions to rename the school.

5. ASCA (Alberta School Council Association) Parent Engagement Event Update by Angie Gehlert

- 5.1. There were five main topics of discussion: funding, curriculum, staffing, mental wellness and physical wellness
- 5.2. Mental Health in students was a main discussion topic. A memorable quote was shared: "If you do not make time for your wellness you will be forced to make time for your illness."
- 5.3. Scales of mental health to illness were discussed:

- 5.3.1. self awareness
 - 5.3.2. self management
 - 5.3.3. social awareness understanding
 - 5.3.4. relationship skills
 - 5.3.5. responsible decision making
 - 5.4. A poll within parents who attended the conference showed they were most concerned regarding the mental health of teachers and students.
 - 5.5. There was a vision of Public Education discussion in which stakeholders were asked to share their vision of public education.
 - 5.6. The ASCA also taught stakeholders how to request a resolution should there be any issues.
 - 5.7. During the Parent Engagement Update an online ASCA auction was held and raised \$9000 across the province.
 - 5.8. The Alberta School Council Engagement Grant was discussed. There is a government grant of \$500 for School Councils to spend. The grant is regulated with specific allowable spending. PSD has applied for this grant on behalf of the Graminia School Council. Our school council still needs to submit a proposal for how we want to spend the funds.
 - 5.9. The Graminia School Council can carry forward the unused grant from last year which is \$500, therefore our total would be \$1000.
 - 5.10. The ASCA grant can be used for:
 - 5.10.1. Workshops for parents to increase capacity for school council members.
 - 5.10.2. Information sessions on how parents can support student learning at home and at school
 - 5.10.3. Parent resources and workshops on important topics such as, mental health and well-being, cyber bullying, healthy living, etc.
 - 5.10.4. Programs to support multi-cultural and Indigenous families including, English language learners and First Nations, Metis and Inuit learners.
 - 5.10.5. Parent resources and tools in multiple languages.
 - 5.10.6. Events to engage parents on important local issues.
 - 5.10.7. Parent engagement in promoting the value of arts.
 - 5.10.8. Trainer/facilitator costs for the professional development, workshops or sessions associated with the above.
- 6. PSD Stakeholder and Parent Engagement Night Update by Amber Darragh**
- 6.1. The Engagement Night event was held on November 29 and was attended by Amber, Angie, Angayla, Erin, and Treena. The goal of the event was for the trustees to receive vision and purpose from the stakeholders who attended.
 - 6.2. The stakeholders were divided into breakout groups and were asked to discuss two main questions: Issues and or concerns you believe have the greatest impact on children and youth? As a parent how would you advocate for diversity, equality, and community and belonging in our school environment?
 - 6.3. Amber shared that the biggest concern discussed was mental health. A summary for the feedback from the breakout groups will be submitted and discussed.
- 7. Principal's Report by Treena Neumann**
- 7.1. On PSD's website is the calendar vote for next year, please review and vote for your most preferred schedule.
 - 7.2. Report Cards are accessible, they are on Power School and should be digitally signed off. Ms. Neumann is able to see how many parents are viewing their child's report cards on Power School and many report cards are not being viewed.
 - 7.3. Individualized Education Plans are being updated and shared. Parents will be notified and asked to sign off digitally prior to winter break.
 - 7.4. Bulletin boards are up and in use. There are enough boards for the music and drama program to have their own boards.

- 7.5. A hate crimes presentation with a RCMP constable related to the situation involving vandalism of the school's rainbow crosswalk in October is confirmed for February 15. Hate crimes constable Christine Appleton has been supporting Graminia School since the incident. Christine 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.
- 7.6. The Remembrance Day Ceremony was well attended. The first performance of the choir, which is new to the school this year, was amazing and the choir did a phenomenal job. Members from the Devon Legion, parents that have served and a speaker from the Canadian Armed Forces attended the ceremony.
- 7.7. The second Hawks Spirit assembly took place with focus on the sacred teachings of the Bear and its trait of courage. Students shared their learning of what courage is through videos and students who displayed courage within their classrooms were awarded. The presentation was well done, especially with the Family Feud game.
- 7.8. The school Winter concerts are coming up with separate concerts for grade levels as well as winter parties for the kindergarten classes.
- 7.9. Hawks Holiday Spirit is going well with planned clothing, hair and pyjama days for students to participate in.
- 7.10. Volleyball season is over. The season wrapped up with the staff vs student game. All three student teams played. Parents were welcome to watch.
- 7.11. Basketball season is well underway and will last until March. The senior teams have been chosen and Graminia has already won the High park tournament. The junior team tryouts will be held this week.
- 7.12. Graminia has started combined Reading Comprehension Assessment Tool (RCAT) informed literacy interventions for all grades 7-9 teachers and for work in common English Language Arts blocks for literacy interventions with the RCAT program. Follow up sessions for planning junior high intervention for small group instruction is underway. This includes common literacy for grades 7-9 and the older students engaging in literacy with the younger students.
- 7.13. Pull out intervention groups focusing on literacy and numeracy are still continuing and Graminia is using grant money to fund these pull out groups. Provincial supports for learning loss have been confirmed and is less than last year for pull out intervention.
- 7.14. Divisional supports advises that the pull out intervention method is not a long term solution because there are always going to be students who need intervention.
- 7.15. To target and identify students PSD is advocating for a push in/teacher support model with a literacy and numeracy lead within classrooms. Training is underway with the goal to teach staff how to provide interventions within classrooms rather than pulling students out of the classroom to intervene.
- 7.16. The current literacy and numeracy pull out groups will run for the remainder of the school year.

8. New Business

- 8.1. Please show appreciation for your teachers via "One Small Thing." The link is on the school website and in the flyover and a QR code is displayed in the school foyer.
- 8.2. A discussion was held regarding the possibility to set up a box by the office for students to fill out comments for their teachers. This could be called a brag box.
- 8.3. Council ideas are to feature a few teachers per month, but the brag box will be open to comments for all teachers from all students as well as parents.
- 8.4. Update by Amiee: Amiee encouraged stakeholders to advocate to their MLA for a new Spruce Grove High School. Amiee will be sharing a template letter which parents can use to advocate to their MLA.
- 8.5. Amiee updated the council with the answer to a question about school bus over capacity asked earlier the meeting: Buses can accommodate 73 students per bus with 3 students per seat and a maximum of 2 adults per seat.

9. Meeting Adjournment

- 9.1. Angie Gehlert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27pm. Sheila Avison seconded. Carried.

Next council meeting date: January 11 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.