

Graminia School Council Meeting Minutes
6:30pm Wednesday January 17, 2024

Attendees Angie Gehlert (Chair), Amber Darragh (Vice-Chair), Amanda Bird (Secretary), Treena Neumann (Principal), Erin Chessor (Vice-Principal), Aimee Hennig (School Trustee), Serge Labrie (Director of Facilities, PSD), Kate LaFavor, Rose Leder, Kerri Golka, Sheila Avison, Sami Mesh, Mandy Lussier, Megan Woodman, David Kavanagh, Heather Fritz, Katie Martin, Angayla Waterman, Kassandra Boisvert

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1. Meeting called to order by Angie Gehlert at 6:35pm.
- 1.2. Land acknowledgement read by Angie Gehlert.
- 1.3. Council member introductions were made.

2. Adoption of Agenda

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

3. Adoption of December Minutes

- 3.1. December minutes were reviewed and approved by Sheila. Seconded by Amber. Carried.

4. Trustee Report - Aimee Hennig

- 4.1. 2024-25 school year calendar coming out within the next month or so, pending Board approval. Factors that need to be considered when building the calendar include the following: government exam dates, instruction hours, STATS/holidays, and PD days.
- 4.2. Registration opens February 12th - March 22nd. The sooner registration is submitted, the sooner transportation can get routes and bus passes in order.
- 4.3. Share A Thought survey still available - under Quick Links tab of PSD website.
- 4.4. Cold weather and bus cancellations: policy AP750 outlines the following:

The Superintendent or Principal shall consider specific indicators in amending or cancelling school activities, or school transportation;

7.1. For clarity, the indicators are used in the consideration of determining how a specific activity may be impacted by a specific type of weather.

Provincial Weather Indicators:

7.2. Any notification of severe weather, for any type of weather, received through Alberta Emergency Alert.

Cold Weather Indicators:

7.3. Temperature, experienced with or without wind-chill, of -40°C or below;

7.4. Outdoor activities, greater than 10 minutes, at any temperature at or below -23°C;

7.5. Snowfall accumulation greater than 10 cm overnight; and

7.6. Snowfall removal plans for primary and/or secondary roads

- 4.5. 2023/24 Provincial Satisfaction Surveys will be conducted via telephone and online surveys. These surveys gather responses from a random sample of parents, the public, high school students, teachers, principals and school board trustees, as well as employers of recent high school graduates. Surveys are confidential and no individual

responses will be reported. Telephone and online surveys will begin January 15th and are expected to be completed in May 2024.

5. Playground Project - Sheila Avison

5.1. Project Update Presentation: Sheila & Brenda

5.1.1. Costs for new playgrounds come entirely from fundraising, which is currently underway. The projected timeline for playground replacement is 2030; the earliest that equipment would be updated is summer 2025.

5.1.2. RFPs went out in summer of 2023; subcommittee was formed to review proposals - Blue Imp the successful company.

5.1.3. Blue Imp based out of Medicine Hat. Products meet and exceed all CSA standards, and everything is made in Alberta.

5.1.4. Coordinated in-school engagement with students and teachers in December 2023

5.1.4.1. stakeholders were asked what they liked about the existing playgrounds (responses included parallel bars, large slides, saucer swings, climbing items, spinning seats)

5.1.5. Blue Imp supplies a grant writer to request funding outside of fundraising efforts.

5.1.6. Attendee Questions:

5.1.6.1. How much money has been raised to date? As of December 2023, \$17,000.00.

5.1.6.2. Will the final plan be wheelchair accessible? Yes, accessibility will be factored into the development, and some elements will be specifically suited to children with disabilities. Rubber matting and wood chips are accessible materials.

5.1.6.3. What is the lifespan of a playground? 25 years is the time when pieces may need replacement; the structure typically lasts 35 years.

5.1.6.4. What happens to a playground after it is decommissioned? It is demolished, and third party agreements with demolition companies are in place to ensure they are not resold.

5.1.6.5. Can corporate sponsorship be a part of your fundraising efforts? Yes. The playground will include a recognition wall.

5.2. Attendee engagement: attendees invited to identify their colour preferences and to share what they like about the current playgrounds.

6. Principal's Report by Treena Neumann

6.1. Parking Lot - thank you to facilities for updating the entrance for the parking lot to increase safety and traffic flow.

6.2. Christmas Concerts were amazing! Huge thank you to the music teachers!

6.3. Hawks Assembly in January will focus on Humility (assembly is January 25th at 1:30pm).

6.4. Report Cards come out January 30th.

6.5. Health Day and Career Day are February 1st.

6.6. Complementary courses have been updated for grades 7-9.

6.7. Basketball season is in full swing.

6.8. MyPath meeting scheduled for February 7th at 6pm. This is for currently enrolled students only.

6.9. The gym is opening for winter lunch for grades 7-9. This is a no tech opportunity for movement. Board games are also available for use in the library during Library Mondays.

6.10. Kindergarten open house is February 15th and the full day option will be discussed.

6.11. Open house for prospective MyPath students TBD.

6.12. Staffing Update:

6.12.1. Ms. Lorena Silva is replacing Mrs. Wolff

- 6.12.2.Mrs. Kisiloski teaching grades 8 and 2 (michelle.merkus@psd.ca)
- 6.12.3.Mrs. Evans on maternity leave and Learning Loss funding is much less than previous years
 - 6.12.3.1.Ms. Marshall - Literacy Lead
 - 6.12.3.2.Mrs. Duncan - Numeracy Lead

7. New Business

7.1. Fire Alarms & Evacuation Procedures

- 7.1.1.Attendee asked what the evacuation procedure is when temperatures are below freezing. Director of Facilities is contacted, children need to be evacuated. Treena is looking at purchasing heating blankets for situations when kids needs to leave the school in cold temperatures. This is a fire code requirement: if the alarm goes off, the school needs to be evacuated. Risk is assessed once the school is empty.
- 7.1.2. Another attendee asked why risk is assessed after evacuation rather than assessing risk first before determining whether or not an evacuation is warranted. All schools are required to follow procedures laid out in fire code.
- 7.1.3.Treena reviewed existing procedures with staff, discussed the procurement of blankets and other warming materials, go bags, and discussed how to ease being outside in cold temperatures, and brainstormed how they can reduce the amount of time kids are outside.
- 7.1.4.Another attendee mentioned their experience with muster point sheds containing seasonally appropriate safety materials, which is something the school could consider implementing. It was also suggested that on cold days, a policy could be implemented to put their jackets on the chair at their desks (ex. on indoor recess days, coats need to be with the kids at their desks).

8. Adjournment

- 8.1.Angie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14pm. Amanda seconded. Carried.

Next council meeting date: February 21, 2024 in the Graminia School Library.

Next Foundation Meeting Date: January 24, 2024 at 6:30pm

If you have questions or thoughts that you think the School Council should look at please speak to our Chair Angie Gehlert, Vice Chair Amber Darragh or Principal Treena Neumann.