

**Graminia School Council Meeting**  
**6:30pm Wednesday April 10, 2024**  
**Graminia School Library**

**Attendees** Angie Gehlert (Chair), Amber Darragh (Vice-Chair), Amanda Bird (Secretary), Treena Neumann (Principal), Erin Chessor (Vice-Principal), Aimee Hennig (Trustee), Monica Tepes, Isabela Ramos, Kerri Golka, Sheila Avison, Cassandra Boisvert, Rose Leder, Amanda Hunter, Angayla Waterman, Stephanie Worrell, Becky Christensen, Erin Brennan, Melanie Tonhauser, Trudy Hocachka, Jody Friesen, Dave Kavanagh, Brandon Webber, Morgan Douziech

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- 1.1. Meeting called to order by Angie Gehlert at 6:32pm.
- 1.2. Land acknowledgement read by Angie Gehlert.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

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

**3. Adoption of March Minutes**

- 3.1. March minutes were reviewed and approved by Sheila. Seconded by Kerri. Carried.

**4. Music Program - Isabela Ramos, Monica Tepes**

- 4.1. Mrs. Tepes: teaches structure and pitch of music at elementary level. We want to teach students to enjoy making music and develop independence to perform without teacher support.
- 4.2. Teach students with Kodaly music method through symbols; also incorporates the Orff method of improvisation, learning through exploration and imitation. These combined methods foster a well balanced teaching method. Skills are learned through singing, playing instruments, and can leverage these skills in junior high through band.
- 4.3. Beginning in Grade 1 students can play instruments with xylophones, various drums - teach dynamics, rhythms, forms, and timbers. In Grade 2, students begin playing string instruments (ukulele), recorders.
- 4.4. Our choir and band perform in festivals.
- 4.5. Ms. Ramos - my overall goal is to develop a love of music that carries on with students throughout their lives. I am incredibly passionate about music education - I bring a lot of theory and technique to read and play music, but I bring things to do with world music into my teaching as well.
- 4.6. Grade 5 students did a "found sound" project where they created beach sounds using paper, paper clips, and other nonconventional tools to create sound. I also teach phys.ed and I like to incorporate movement into my music education.
- 4.7. We teach Indigenous music and repertoire, which the kids really enjoy.
- 4.8. Attendee questions:
  - 4.8.1. How many days a week do kids get music? Schedule was changed for K-6 and it depends on the grade level and on how art, health, and music is scheduled. Our music program for Grade 6 includes band but we have music exploration as well that explore musical cultures and theory.
  - 4.8.2. Do you give tests in music in Grade 2? We do rhythm dictation, and on a piece of paper they need to write down a rhythm pattern.
  - 4.8.3. I'm curious to know how much music instruction students receive in a 35 minute music block, considering the transition time that is needed to get between classes. Answer: 30 minutes.

4.8.4. Is band mandatory for Grade 6? Yes. Includes music theory, composition, exposure, and learning about other cultures and repertoires, taught by Mrs. Tepes and Mr. West.

4.8.5. If a student is in MyPath in Grade 6 do they still get music? Yes - every second day.

## 5. **Trustee Report - Aimee Hennig**

5.1. Edwin Parr Award - the winner will be announced on May 24th. All PSD nominees will be acknowledged at the May Merits & Milestones award night. PSD has one nomination, and this is Graminia's first year teacher Isabel Ramos.

5.2. PSD Staffing Update:

5.2.1.40 new substitute teachers hired;

5.2.2.15 new casual Educational Assistants hired;

5.2.3.36 Education Assistants moved into regular positions due to Jordan's Principle funding.

5.3. Tomorrow is our Education Planning Day at Heritage Pavilion. 135 people are confirmed to attend.

5.4. A \$65,000.00 Nutrition Grant top up was received and distributed within the division

## 6. **Principal's Report - Treena Neumann**

6.1. "Caught you being good" is an incentive for students who demonstrate Hawks Spirit.

6.2. Graminia's Got Talent is scheduled April 25th from 1:00-2:30pm.

6.3. Parent Night April 25th at 6:00pm.

6.4. Planning for next year is underway; the budget funding manual was released last week. We anticipate being able to share this in May after it is approved by the Board.

6.5. Provincial Achievement Test for English Language Arts and Math in Grade 6 have been canceled by Alberta Education.

6.6. Registration for Everyday Kindergarten and MyPath is still open. Families will be contacted at the end of April.

6.7. Athletics Update:

6.7.1. Badminton is in full swing;

6.7.2. Basketball has ended and we had a great season;

6.7.3. Next up: Track and possibly golf.

6.8. We are in the process of working on next years staffing and education planning and are looking to build a small working group to review the Draft Education Plan to offer feedback. Please email me if you are interested in this. The date that is open is on April 25th at 4:00pm - supper will be provided as that is the night of the parent session. The link to the plan is here: <https://graminia.psd.ca/download/420727>

## 7. **Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) Resolutions Vote - Angie Gehlert**

7.1. There is room for one more registrant to attend the ASCA conference. If you want to attend, please let Angie know right away. The conference is the last weekend in April; Saturday would be the most beneficial day to attend.

7.2. Each resolution was read allowed, and general discussions ensued. Attendees voted on the following resolutions:

7.2.1. Proposed Advocacy Resolutions:

7.2.1.1. P24-01: Integrate Climate and Biodiversity Education Throughout the Curriculum from K-12. Vote result: **NO**

7.2.1.2. P24-02: Funding for More Assessment of Learning Disabilities. Vote result: **YES**

7.2.1.3. P24-03: Improving Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) in Alberta Classrooms and Shared Environments. Vote result: **NO**

7.2.1.4. P24-04: Equity in Playground Funding. Vote result: **YES**

- 7.2.1.5.P24-05: Preserving Safe and Inclusive Spaces for 2SLGBTQI+ Students  
Vote result: **NO**
- 7.2.1.6.P24-06: Resource Support for French Immersion Teachers (Available Before Implementation of Curriculum Changes) Vote result: **YES**
- 7.2.1.7.P24-07: Enhanced Reporting of and Support for Class Size and Complexity
- 7.2.2.Administrative Resolutions. Vote result: **YES**
  - 7.2.2.1.A24-01: Maintain Advocacy Policies: 94-8, 02-15, 03-9, 04-15, 14-3 Vote result: **ABSTAINED**
  - 7.2.2.2.A24-02: Amend Advocacy Policies: 02-13, 02-12, 02-04; and to Revise ASCA Advocacy Policies 03-07 and 08-06. Vote result: **ABSTAINED**.

## **8. New Business**

- 8.1. An attendee inquired about the school's drinking water and testing system; Treena followed up with Serge LaBrie, PDS's Director of Facilities:
  - 8.1.1.Is the water tested at Graminia - by whom and how frequently? Water from the reverse osmosis system and directly from the well is tested every month. PSD takes the samples and AHS does the testing.
  - 8.1.2.The Reverse Osmosis system feeds water fountains, staff cold water taps, the handicap washroom, the prep/hot lunch kitchen, and classrooms with a fountain at the sink. The sinks in the classrooms are a combination of well water and Reverse Osmosis water but all are potable.
- 8.2. County trails near the school; it would be nice if kids could walk to school. Aimee mentioned that joint meetings between PSD and the county discuss this on an ongoing basis.

## **9. Adjournment**

- 9.1. Sheila made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm. Seconded by Kerri. Carried.

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.

Next Meeting Date: May 8, 2024 at 6:30pm