

Graminia School Council Meeting
6:30pm Wednesday September 18, 2024
Graminia School Library

Attendees Angie Gehlert (Chair), Amber Darragh (Vice-Chair), Amanda Bird (Secretary), Christine Bileau (Principal), Luke English (Vice-Principal), Lisa Dyjak, Tammy Klippert, Kerri Golka, Sheila Avison, Cassandra Graham, Megan Woodman, Morgan Douziech, Robyn Williams, Sarah Lassu, Stephanie Worrell, Leslie Preece, Angayla Waterman, Kate LaFavor, Anna Liska, Aleah Waterhouse, Mandy Lussier, Sami Mesh, Brandon Weber, Becky Christensen

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1. Meeting called to order by Angie Gehlert at 6:43pm.
- 1.2. Land acknowledgement read by Angie Gehlert.
- 1.3. Attendees introduced themselves and indicated which grades their children are in.

2. Adoption of Agenda

- 2.1. Sheila made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Kerri seconded. Carried.

3. Adoption of June Minutes

- 3.1. Minutes were reviewed and approved by Anna. Seconded by Angayla. Carried.

4. Trustee Report - Aimee Hennig

- 4.1. Unable to attend due to scheduling error.

5. Council Overview - Angie Gehlert

- 5.1. Council is a place where we can come together and collaborate with our trustee and admin team. Issues that affect the whole school are discussed; we ask that you reach out to Luke and Christine if your topic is related to a specific student or teacher.
- 5.2. Council votes include votes of attendees.
- 5.3. Some topics throughout the year will fall under a round-table model allowing each attendee to share their point of view, ask a question, etc.
- 5.4. If you have topic suggestions, please reach out to me, Amber, or our admin team.
- 5.5. One change for this year is that the Principal's Report will be sent out after our meetings, rather than before-hand. Printed copies will be available at meetings as well.
- 5.6. Council of School Councils (COSCC) meets roughly five times a year; all school council chairs are invited to work together with school trustees and the PSD superintendent. The first meeting is October 8th at 6:30pm at PSD headquarters in Stony Plain.

6. Principal's Report - Principal Christine Bileau

Thank you all for taking the time to join us today and for your help and support over the past few weeks. Mr. English and I feel that the relationship between the school and our stakeholders is critically important, and appreciate all your contributions that help make our school culture so vibrant and welcoming. We look forward to the coming school year, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or suggestions.

An overview of the Past Three Weeks:

- Staffing Updates
 - New Educational Assistant Positions:
 - Brandy MacLowick
 - Erin Taylor
 - Susan Alhaz Haidari

- Janice Klatt
 - Danielle Roebuck Library Tech
- Building Updates - met with our Facilities Director and we are in good shape. We will work with students to reduce litter outside (we may need to install additional garbage cans).
- Student Enrolment (so far) - we are slightly over our projection at 532 students, will have an updated count at the October meeting.
- Transportation Updates - Bus routes are settling, thank you for your patience with the start up.
- Options Updates - our grades 7-9 students have begun their complementary courses. With two reporting periods, it made more sense to have 4 terms instead of 3, which means that students will have an additional chance to try something different or take a class that was full in another term.
- Junior High Updates
 - Grade 7s are heading to Muttart Conservatory in October, Grade 8 and 9 fall field trips are in the works.
 - Report Cards - PSD has shifted to percentages only for junior high, grades 90%+ will have *with distinction* added.
- Supervision Updates
 - Access to the school - we are asking students to go to their assigned doors in the morning as we don't have supervision in the hallways beyond Breakfast Club. Students are being very diligent in going to their locations.
 - We have staff assigned to the different playground zones at recess times. If students have any concerns we encourage them to let a supervisor know immediately. Staff can radio in to the office if they need additional support, and Mr. English and I are out and about during all recess times as much as possible to help mitigate any issues.
 - Students who play soccer in the outdoor classroom are doing this by choice - they have shared that they really like the natural goals that the rocks make. They are welcome to play soccer in the field as well, any time they like.
 - Inside, staff are assigned to cover classrooms and hallways during eating time.
- School Events
 - School supply drop-off, Graminia 101, and Hawks' Hangout were great ways to connect with families! Thank you to our Foundation for running the concession, and to our Council and Society members for taking part in the presentation.
- Athletics Updates
 - Volleyball - we are running 4 teams - Miss Lewis, Ms. Marshall, Ms. Ramos, Mrs. Butler, Mr. Kawa and Mr. Lygo are coaching.
 - Cross Country - a lot of interested runners, the season has started and goes through October - Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Kerr-Arnston, and Miss Lewis are coaching and organizing.
- School Leads
 - Literacy/Numeracy - Ms. Marshall
 - Athletics - Miss Lewis
 - IEL - Mr. English
 - School Health - Mr. Lygo
 - Indigenous Education Lead - Mrs. Chorney (this is a new position in PSD this year)
- My Path Updates
 - Due to increased interest in the program, we were able to offer MyPath programming on M/W Fridays!
 - Working with CFL to minimize need to bring oversized items on the bus.
- Literacy and Numeracy Benchmarks
 - Work is ongoing throughout September, we will use this data to inform our programming.

- Nutrition Program Update
 - Snack baskets in each classroom to minimize time out of class.
 - Breakfast is up and running.
- Choir Update
 - Practices at lunch on Tuesdays, Grades 3-6.

What's Coming Up Next:

- PD Day
 - Focus: Collaboration and Communication
- Terry Fox Run Thursday, Sept 26 @ 1:30
 - We have raised over \$400 so far
- Truth and Reconciliation Week and Orange Shirt Day
 - Classes will have various lessons and students and staff are encouraged to wear orange.
- No school Sept 30
- World Teachers' Day Oct 4
- Volleyball Tournament Oct 3-5
- Custodial and Maintenance Workers' Appreciation Day Oct 7
- Picture Days October 9 and 10
- World Mental Health Day October 10
- PD Day October 11, no school Thanksgiving Monday
- Hawks' Spirit Assembly - Question for the Group
 - We are looking forward to continuing our Hawks' Spirit assemblies and are planning our first one for the end of October. It is important that we maintain our focus on character education and honour students who are exemplifying the virtues that we hold to be important. We are proposing that we expand our virtues this year from the 7 Sacred Teachings, and one thought is that we use the word GRAMINIA and assign a virtue to each letter. 8 letters = 8 months, Oct-May. Thoughts from Council? We will engage our students and staff as well love the next couple of weeks to firm this up.
 - For example:
 - **Generosity**
 - **Resilience**
 - **Acceptance**
 - **Mindfulness**
 - **Integrity**
 - **Nice**
 - **Imagination**
 - **Appreciation**

6.1. Attendee feedback regarding Hawks' Spirit Assembly idea:

- 6.1.1. appreciate that talking with students is a priority - engage with the kids to develop their own words;
- 6.1.2. concerns over exclusivity of award winners
- 6.1.3. another word for the letter "I" could be Inclusion
- 6.1.4. make the awards relevant to the kids
- 6.1.5. have conversations with the kids about receiving awards and conversations about not receiving them
- 6.1.6. if one award is given out per class, maybe all students who exhibit the traits can have their name drawn
- 6.1.7. meritocracy a good thing; kids excel with external motivators
- 6.1.8. award winners should be chosen by teachers rather than by students so that popularity contests are avoided.

6.2. General Questions/Comments related to Principal's Report:

- 6.2.1. Are there lunch monitors in the classroom for our elementary students? While I understand there is staff walking the hallways, there have been stories coming home where I've heard that "so and so is choking". Maybe something that is worth exploring again. **Answer: (Angie)** In pre-Covid years, there were older students who were "lunch helpers" - it was a student-led group of kids who would eat lunch in the classrooms of younger students.
- 6.2.2. Cross country: I have a kinder student who was told that she wasn't able to participate in the running, although PSD does allow kinder. It should be K-9 who is included in that. **Answer:** Christine says she is all for kinder participating in cross country.
- 6.2.3. Literacy & Numeracy benchmarks: do parents get individualized info about their respective kids? **Answer:** assessments are administered by the province and the results are submitted to Alberta Education. The raw data isn't always accurate - it's given to the government who then determines where our kids are as a province. If you are interested in individual raw data, that's something we can explore.
- 6.2.4. The rock circle: my son came home with a concussion from hitting his head on the rock circle. Can we maybe think about soccer nets to enhance the appeal for the kids to play on the actual soccer fields?
- 6.2.5. Garbage cans: can we keep in mind that not every small child can use/reach the latches of the garbage cans? Another possibility is for teachers to bring out garbage cans during recess and high peak times that are in close proximity to the students. It would be nice if we could incorporate practices where students have to go out and collect garbage, and teach that being of service and helping out is an important part of community.
- 6.2.6. Recess bins - last year there were supplies and broken objects that kids were using. There wasn't enforcement to put those supplies away after recess. **Answer:** Miss. Lewis has been working on rebuilding them. They used to be stored in the shed and they will now be stored in classrooms so that can be stored more securely.
- 6.2.7. Microwaves for junior high - are we able to add one or two more to reduce wait times to use them? **Answer:** we have to use industrial microwaves, but we can look into getting additional ones.
- 6.2.8. We used to do something called a "Hawks Helper" to assist with lunch, garbage collection - maybe something to consider doing again.

7. New Business

- 7.1. Parent-teacher interview format: there was mixed feedback on the student-led presentations; not all parents got the status update that they needed. It would be good to have a conversation about this at a future time. Christine indicated that she and Luke will be talking with staff about this.
- 7.2. Future meeting presentation ideas: library, phys ed., have ICE team come again

8. Adjournment

- 8.1. Angie adjourned the meeting at 7:57pm.

The October Council meeting will contain the elections for the positions of Council Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. These positions are filled by volunteer parents. If any parent is interested in becoming more involved in school council, they should speak to either Angie Gehlert (Chair) 780-977-8257, Amber Darragh (Vice Chair) 780-886-3387 or Principal Christine Bileau 780-963-5035.

Next Meeting Date: October 9, 2024 at 6:30pm