

Graminia School Council Meeting
6:30pm Wednesday October 9, 2024
Graminia School Library

Attendees Angie Gehlert (Chair), Amber Darragh (Vice-Chair), Amanda Bird (Secretary), Christine Bileau (Principal), Luke English (Vice-Principal), Monica Solomon (Graminia School Councillor), Maggie Barry (PSD Mental Health Clinical Educator), Jody Frieden, Kerri Golka, Sheila Avison, Brandon Weber, Stephanie Worrell, Amanda Hunter, Anna Liska, Aleah Waterhouse, Becky Christiansen, Mandy Lussier

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1. Meeting called to order by Angie Gehlert at 6:35pm.
- 1.2. Land acknowledgement read by Angie Gehlert.

2. Adoption of Agenda

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

3. Elections

- Council Chair - Angie Gehlert nominated and accepted the nomination; elected by acclamation.
- Council Vice Chair - Anna Liska and Amber Darragh nominated; both accept the nominations and they will serve as co-chairs. Elected by acclamation.
- Council Secretary - Amanda Bird nominated and accepted the nomination; elected by acclamation.

4. Adoption of September Minutes

- 4.1. September minutes were reviewed and approved by Sheila. Seconded by Jody. Carried.

5. Special Guests - Meet our School Counsellor Monica Solomon and PSD Mental Health Clinical Educator Maggie Barry

- 5.1. Christine introduced Monica and Maggie - both support the mental health and well-being of the students.
- 5.2. Monica is a provisional psychologist with experience in schools.
- 5.3. Presentation highlights:
 - 5.3.1. consider school to be like your child's job
 - 5.3.2. brain development doesn't end until age 25
 - 5.3.3. YouTube video: How Brains Are Built
 - 5.3.3.1. Serve & Return Interactions
 - 5.3.3.2. Stress (good) (and toxic - neglect, abuse, parent addiction)
 - 5.3.3.3. Executive Functioning and Emotional Regulation
 - 5.3.3.4. Development of solid brain architecture
 - 5.3.3.5. albertafamilywellness.org
 - 5.3.4. Parents are the greatest asset in supporting our children's mental health - parents don't have to be perfect, they have to be present.
- 5.4. Presentation from Maggie: Mental Health In Schools pilot project:
 - 5.4.1. pilot in two parts: data collection and creation/facilitation of universal and target mental health resource and tools
 - 5.4.2. Academic success (high school completion) needs three things: resilience, student engagement, school safety. Questionnaire (called SOS-Q) for students in grades 4-12 looks at 5 areas: school environment, self-confidence, external resilience, internal resilience (perceived ability re: self control), peer relationships

(self reporting). Questionnaire given to 5 PSD schools in April 2023 and 10 PSD schools in Oct/Nov 2023. Results compare to Canadian norms. All grades given the same questions with additional questions given to junior high and high school students.

- 5.4.3. Goal of project to grow mental health prevention and proactive mental health support (Tier 1 for all students)
 - 5.4.3.1. Existing programs: socio-emotional learning practices in classrooms; comprehensive school health approach; school-based practices.
 - 5.4.3.2. Christine talked about school-based practices, including the breakfast program so that students are ready to learn. Christine said, "It's important that we greet students in the morning and that we welcome everyone back each morning and to wish them well at the end of the school day. We take advantage of the outdoors to allow our students to feel grounded. We have student leadership opportunities, and a very well attended library club. For our students that are struggling, we find the root cause of the behaviour and understand that rather than issue consequences. Our philosophy is to approach struggling students through a trauma-informed lens. We work really hard to communicate with staff about how they can best support their students, and that is a very positive part of our culture. There are as many ways to connect as there are kids in the school." Luke added that the Buddy Classes are contributing to a positive culture - older and younger kids chat together outside of scheduled Buddy time, and it's a great thing to see.
 - 5.4.3.3. A resource library of mental health supports in schools has been made for PSD staff.
 - 5.4.3.4. Question: is there an assessment tool that tracks teachers' perceptions of the resource's efficacy? Answer: Yes - there is a feedback form, and Maggie connects with teachers for feedback. It is a living resource and can be adapted based on feedback and includes Google Analytics.
 - 5.4.3.5. Question: has there been a conversation about having some of these resources made available to parents? It would be great for parents to be partners in this. Support goes farther if resources in the school can also be used at home. Answer: I had a teacher and an EA ask if some resources can be shared with parents. This will be part of the conversations I have and I will be speaking with schools and teachers to see how we can support parents. I have also started to work with Stronger Families.
 - 5.4.3.6. Question: could teachers include links in their weekly newsletters to parents that shows what was used in their classrooms? Or could any of them be tied into the Hawk assemblies?
 - 5.4.3.7. Question: was the two year grant just for the questionnaire? Answer: no. There are long term plans in mind to make the resources sustainable.
 - 5.4.3.8. Question: how long is the funding in place? Answer: unclear. The project was supposed to end in 2024 but it has been extended.
 - 5.4.3.9. Question: what is the mental health support framework as a whole in PSD? Monica supports students, it sounds like you are supporting staff, but what is the whole picture? Focus is on Tier 1, which provides universal supports for all students. Christine briefly summarized the different levels of support throughout the division.

6. Trustee Report - Aimee Hennig

- 6.1. Unable to attend, but Angie mentioned that the city of Spruce Grove has lifted the barrier to Spruce Grove Composite's capital building project (it's an expansion). Aimee will be at the November meeting and will share an extensive report.

7. COSC Update - Angie

- 7.1. Next meeting will take place in Duffield and maybe at Graminia School in February 2025.
- 7.2. School Council Engagement Grant is \$500/year. Last year's grant supported registration fees for the ASCA conference - two representatives from Graminia attended.
- 7.3. Trustee Paul McCann was speaking about the role of the school trustee including time commitments.
- 7.4. 12,600+ students registered in the division.
- 7.5. Superintendent Scott Johnston said that the government's no cell phone policy has been well received so far. Scott also mentioned the report card change for junior high students reverting to a percentage rating.
- 7.6. Fort Chippewan attended the meeting (it is a fly-in/fly-out school).
- 7.7. Christine highlighted our school's band program and what Ms. Ramos is doing for the students. There are forty grade 7-9 students enrolled in the band program.
- 7.8. Hoping to organize a meeting for schools' fundraising committees to speak to fundraising parameters. The hope is to host two meetings during the school year.
- 7.9. Graminia is a celebrated school at COSC because of its parent engagement.

8. Principal's Report

Welcome! We have had a busy few weeks since we last met—there are exciting things going on at Graminia, and Mr. English and I are looking forward to sharing them with you.

An Overview of the Past Three Weeks:

- Staffing Updates
 - Mrs. Duncan has started her maternity leave—we wish her all the best!
 - Mrs. Michelle Kisiloski will be filling in for the remainder of the year.
- Student Enrolment- Our official count is 534 students. This is budget season, and we have submitted a balanced fall forecast.
- Terry Fox Run Thursday, Sept 26 - it was a great event—we raised over \$1600 for the Terry Fox Foundation! Thank you to Miss Marshall and Ms. Shea for their work organizing the fundraising, assembly, and run!
- Truth and Reconciliation Week and Orange Shirt Day - we had a number of interesting lessons and activities, including bannock making, beading, learning about Orange Shirt Day for the younger grades and then expanding the learning for our older students.
- Athletics Updates
 - Volleyball - shoutout to our coaches, Miss Lewis, Ms. Ramos, Mr. Kawa, Mrs. Butler and Mr. Lygo
 - Games and Tournament
 - We are proud of our student athletes—they are working hard and showing great sportsmanship.
 - Our joint junior tournament with Broxton Park went well, and our girls brought home silver, and boys brought home bronze!
 - Cross Country - thank you to our coaches, Mrs. Kerr-Arnston and Mrs Baker
- Joint Use—Graminia and Ravens Volleyball Clubs will be using our gym Mon-Thurs, 7-9. We are glad for the chance to have the school available for community use.
- Literacy and Numeracy
 - Common writing assessments coming up in November
 - Baseline data that we will use to inform our programming
 - Round 2 in the Spring

- - Band Update
 - We sent our instruments for repair–this was a hefty cost, but a necessary investment in our program
 - We are looking forward to seeing our program thrive and grow and are grateful for the support from the Swingin’ Band Society
 - World Teachers’ Day
 - Student-led Kindness Cart
 - Hawks’ Spirit Assemblies
 - The traits we are focusing on, with suggestions gathered from parents and staff, and voted on by students: Generosity; Responsibility; Attitude; Mindfulness; Inclusivity; Nature (Connection to); Imaginative; Appreciative
 - Buddy Groups will prepare a presentation
 - Date/Time of the Assembly: October 29, 1-2 pm

What’s Coming Up Next:

- PD Day - Literacy Best Practices and Team Time Goals and Planning in the morning, Self-Directed in the afternoon (PSD facilitators and Division Principals are running sessions for teachers and Educational Assistants)
- Book Fair October 15-18
- Student/Staff Volleyball Game October 16
- School Bus Safety Week - Practice Drills
- Grade 6 Immunizations
- IEPs sent home week of October 21
- Junior Volleyball Finals Week of October 28
- Senior Volleyball Finals Week of November 4
- Grade 9 Take our Kids to Work Day Nov 6

9. New Business

9.1. None

10. Adjournment

10.1. Angie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09pm. Seconded by Sheila. 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 Christine Bileau.

Next Meeting Date: November 6, 2024 at 6:30pm