

Graminia School Council Meeting Minutes
6:30pm Wednesday November 6, 2024
Graminia School Library

Attendees Angie Gehlert (Chair), Amber Darragh (Vice-Chair) Anna Liska (Vice-Chair), Amanda Bird (Secretary), Christine Bileau (Principal), Luke English (Vice-Principal), Aimee Hennig (Trustee), Kate LaFavor, Brandon Weber, Sheila Avison, Kerri Golka, Amanda Hunter, Angayla Waterman, Becky Christensen

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1. Meeting called to order by Angie Gehlert at 6:40pm.
- 1.2. Land acknowledgement read by Angie Gehlert.

2. Adoption of Agenda

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

3. Adoption of October Minutes

- 3.1. October minutes were reviewed and approved by Amber. Seconded by Anna. Carried.

4. Trustee Report - Aimee Hennig

- 4.1. PSD received funding approval for Spruce Grove Composite High School. There is a 3-4 year timeline for the project's completion. Horizon Stage will remain on-site (will be owned by the City of Spruce Grove).
- 4.2. Bill 27 - use of pronouns in public schools. The bill was in second reading in the Legislature yesterday. Once I know how this bill will impact our students, I will let you know, and I will also let you know our plan to advocate for students.
- 4.3. Question about a bus from Graminia to Memorial Composite High School in Stony Plain - transportation reviewed the feasibility of the request and it was determined that it wouldn't work for afternoons due to bell schedules. In addition, in the parent survey results, not enough parents expressed interest in their child using that bus. The cost would be approximately \$130,000.00 to run that route and school end-times would have to be changed, making an afternoon run not feasible. An attendee asked if a morning only route would be considered. Aimee said she will ask to see if a morning route could be considered further and what the minimum number is to develop a new route.

5. COSC Update - Angie

- 5.1. The meeting's focus highlighted the operations and governance roles of trustees.
- 5.2. The superintendent mentioned that many schools are struggling with behavioural incidents, especially in grades 4-6, including a lack of respect for authority figures.
- 5.3. COSC Engagement Night, scheduled for November 27 from 6:45-8:30pm at École Broxton Park School, will be focusing on behavioural concerns for grades 4-6.
- 5.4. Principals shared their respective reports and attendees talked about agenda ideas for their meetings.
- 5.5. Next meeting is scheduled for February 4 at Graminia School, and will focus on budgets and insurance.

6. Principal's Report - Christine Bileau

Welcome! November is here and we have some great updates to share with you! Thank you all for taking the time out of our evenings to attend School Council—we really appreciate your perspectives and support of Graminia School.

An Overview of the Past Three Weeks:

- Staffing Updates
 - Mrs. Haidari has left Graminia and we thank her for her work while she was here.
 - We are pleased to welcome Ms. Jyka Tan
- Socktober - we brought in over 3100 pairs of socks! Mrs. Shea-Pecoskie's car was filled to the roof when she brought the donation to the Mustard Seed
- Athletics Updates
 - Volleyball - we are so proud of our athletes, student coaches and coaches for all of their hard work and dedication this season! Our junior boys finished 2nd in their division, and our junior girls brought home the banner! Our senior teams played well throughout the season and showed a great deal of growth. We had 4 students play in the PSD's AllStar games this afternoon, which is pretty awesome.
 - Basketball - we are looking forward to the upcoming season. Ms. Lewis is planning for tryouts after Fall Break!
- Literacy and Numeracy
 - We are working on developing our writing skills across grades. Division Literacy Staff created a fantastic Scope and Sequence that we are using to ensure alignment with curricular outcomes
 - First writing benchmark to take place prior to Nov. 22.
 - We are planning some small group numeracy intervention groups for when our literacy intervention blocks are completed.
- Band Update
 - Sound School was a fantastic experience for our grade 6s and they had a blast! Thank you to our School Council and Foundation for supporting our students.
- Hawks' Spirit Assemblies
 - Generosity Assembly showcased our choir as well as our first buddy group. We were so pleased with how many parents attended!
 - Responsibility Assembly will be held on November 29th at 10:35 am.
 - Attitude Assembly will be slightly shorter, and held on December 19 at 1:30.
 - Thank you again for your feedback regarding the awards—it was fantastic to share why our students were honored for their generosity!
- Book Fair - thank you for all of your support—we sold over 900 books which means that we could add 170 new books to our library. Ms. Danielle considered our Graminia Virtues when looking at what was available to purchase through Scholastic, and we will showcase these books throughout the year in our library and our display case.
- Options - successful first term for options. Term 2 will be starting after Fall Break. The sign up form will be shared very soon.
- Our Remembrance Day Ceremony is happening tomorrow. We are looking forward to spending this important time with our school community tomorrow.
- We have a request to use our contingency spending fund for two rolling drying racks for the Art Room; the cost is \$464.99 each plus GST.
- Our first Health Day is complete! The curricular focus was on addictions and risky behaviour, with physical wellness activities planned throughout.
- The vast majority of our Grade 9 students took part in Take Our Kids to Work Day
- Our GSA held its first meeting on November 4 and will meet on the first Monday of each month

What's Coming Up Next:

- PD Day - AI in classrooms and schools, Numeracy and PAT Data Analysis in the morning, Self-Directed in the afternoon (PSD facilitators and Division Principals are running sessions for teachers and Educational Assistants)
- SOS Q - Information letters will be coming home after Fall Break, administration will happen before the end of November.

- The week of November 18th is Bullying Awareness Week. We will also observe Metis Week - your child's teachers will share more information.
- Christmas Concert Season!! Here are the details, hot off the presses:
 - December 10 - Grades 1-3 and Choir
 - 10:00 - Lunch Recess Dress Rehearsal (Open to Parents)
 - 1:00 pm - Main Concert December 12
 - Grades 4-6, Band, and Choir
 - 1:00 pm - Afternoon Concert (parents and students attend)
 - 6:30 pm - Evening Concert
- Spirit Days (Student Led) - I will meet with students after Fall Break and we will plan a number of spirit days to brighten up the weeks before the holidays.
- Attendance - graphics shared and signage out front - we are so happy to welcome everyone in every day, and don't want a late start to the morning to be a barrier to coming. Just a reminder that we get going right away in the morning and that late minutes add up! Consider also that a 90% attendance rate, although it sounds high, means that, timewise, one month of school is missed per year, which adds up over time.
- Coffee with Mrs. Bileau - once a month I will have coffee/tea and timbits in the library first thing after supervision (7:55-8:25), and I welcome our parents to stop by, grab a warm beverage and share what's on your mind. Our first one will be on Tuesday, November 26.

7. **Round Table Questions** - it is results review season, and looking at the annual education results survey (grades 4, 7, and 9) at the provincial and divisional levels, there are discrepancies between how teachers, parents, and kids are feeling about socio-emotional areas of development.

#1 - Students Model Characteristics of Active Citizenship

- What are some examples of active citizenship in schools?
 - The facilitated buddy program is an important and exciting element at our school that fosters a sense of community and looking out for one another.
 - GSAs
 - Board games, chess clubs, etc.
 - Caught ya being good
 - Sports teams/groups
- What would you like to see at Graminia School?
 - Minecraft club / STEM club
 - More school yard cleanup
 - Parent volunteer groups
 - Graminia community initiatives

#2 - Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments

- What is working at Graminia School?
 - School administration welcoming students in the morning and saying goodbye after school.
 - Heavy administrative presence in hallways is effective.
- Please share your suggestions for next steps.
 - More control over the language being used at school.
 - Curbing homophobic language.
 - Stronger repercussions for disrespectful language and behaviour on field trips.

#3 - Access to Supports and Services

- We will discuss supports and services that are available to our students.
 - distance learning, psychologists, literacy and numeracy support,
- What additional supports and services would you like to explore?
 - Providing literacy and numeracy supports for students who may need to be more challenged.
 - There are an abundance of parents interested in volunteering with hot lunch; could parent volunteers support in other areas (reading to students, folding lost and found, etc).
 - Create a Parent Volunteer Coordinator to help connect parent volunteers with the supports that students and teachers need.

#4 - Parental Involvement in Decisions about their Child's Education

- What does this look like to you?
- What are some celebrations?
- Please share some suggestions for additional ways to get involved.

8. New Business

8.1. Parking lot maintenance for a future meeting.

9. Adjournment

9.1. Angie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm. Seconded by Angayla.
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: December 18, 2024 at 6:30pm