

Graminia School Council Meeting Minutes1
6:30pm Wednesday December 18, 2024
Graminia School Library

Attendees Angie Gehlert (Chair), Amber Darragh (Vice-Chair), Amanda Bird (Secretary), Christine Bileau (Principal), Luke English (Vice-Principal), Chris Graham (Guest Speaker), Kassandra Boisvert, Robyn Williams, Sheila Avison, Kerri Golka, Becky Christensen, Amanda Hunter, Angayla Waterman, Lisa Dyjak, Megan Woodman

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1. Meeting called to order by Angie Gehlert at 6:36pm.
- 1.2. Land acknowledgement read by Angie Gehlert.
- 1.3. Attendees introduced themselves and shared their favourite Christmas movie.

2. Adoption of Agenda

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

3. Adoption of November Minutes

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

4. Trustee Report - Aimee Hennig

- 4.1. Unable to attend.

5. Rink Update - Chris Graham, President, Graminia Rink Society

Update on the Arnold Semeniuk Memorial Rink:

Flooding & Rink Opening

Last year due to several stretches of warm weather we were unable to open the rink until well into January. This year the weather has been much more cooperative and we are now ready to open the rink. The flooding this year has been entirely done by teenage volunteers, who resisted the Rink Society's offers to have water hauled in. The boys committed to flooding the rink by hand using only a hose and the rink well. This equates to better quality ice as there are no ridges formed where the water truck pumped from but it requires somewhere in the area of 100 man hours as the ice is only built up 1/8th of an inch per flood. The flooding process was nearly complete two weeks ago, when we received a heat wave that set the boys back several floods. The ice is now set and while the boys still plan to put down a few more floods over the coming weeks, we believe it is safe, and good enough to open. Once the current dump of snow is cleared, the rink gates will be left unlocked and the ice will be available for skating. Official notice will go out via newsletter and social media this weekend.

New Rink Shack

By far the most common negative feedback the society has received since the rebuild of the rink is that there was not a warm and dry area to lace of skates. That changes this season with the opening of our new heated rink shack. Finishing touches are still being put on the shack including the installation of hooks for hanging gear inside and outside signage, and building of a temporary wall to block off the bathroom. The bathroom is not currently operational, but will be plumbed in next summer for use in 2025. Just like the rink itself, we are relying on the community and our awesome volunteers to keep the rink shack in good shape (cleaned, garbage emptied, windows not broken, etc...) We have several local businesses to thank for their support of the rink shack project including: Chemco for providing the dirt work and site prep. GST Logistics for the transport and craning of the building, DeM Modular Construction

for donating and installing skirting for the building, Spruce Grove Feeds for donating a good part of the cost of the building itself, and 3 Bros Site Services for installing the shack's electricity. Also thanks to Nektar Inc. for the donation of modifications to the companion sea can storage building which will house the Rink Society's equipment going forward.

Volunteers

If you want (or know anyone who wants) to get more involved with the Rink Society as a volunteer or board member please join the Rink Allstars WhatsApp group, or reach out to the society via email, Facebook, or GraminiaRink.com. Early in 2025 we will be hosting an info session on how to operate the rink equipment, well, flooding apparatus, etc. Stay tuned in the Whatsapp group for the date.

Annual 50/50

One of our main fundraising events for the year is our annual holiday 50/50. It is live now. Make sure everyone you know buys their tickets. The draw will happen on New Year's Day. In the past winners have taken home anywhere from \$800 to \$6000 dollars. The jackpot currently sits just over \$1400. Get tickets at <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/graminia>

Chris can be contacted at 780-915-5105 or via email at president@graminiarink.com

- 5.1. Question: are all board positions filled? Yes - there are a couple of new board members Danny Bourgoïn joined as VP and there are some new Directors at Large.
- 5.2. [graminiarink.com](https://www.graminiarink.com) is a good place to find up-to-date information.

6. PSD Stakeholders and Parent Engagement Night Update - Angie Gehlert

- 6.1. Everyone who has a child in grades four through six was invited to attend the evening: 35 parents across the division attended.
- 6.2. The focus of the evening was to discuss the behavioural problems that have arisen division-wide within the 4-6 grade range.
- 6.3. Angie encouraged people to access the Share a Thought feature because PSD Trustees do read them.
- 6.4. Angie's focus group talked about:
 - 6.4.1. lack of respect for authority figures at school;
 - 6.4.2. wide range of access to social media in this age group;
 - 6.4.3. sleep, nutrition, and extra-curricular activities affecting sleep;
 - 6.4.4. difficulties with emotional regulation.
- 6.5. Christine's focus group talked about how since Covid there is a lack of trust in the school system and in school staff.
- 6.6. Amber's focus group talked about the homeschool / public school differences, and also talked about the different volunteer roles that could include more parents.
- 6.7. One attendee mentioned that she thinks part of the problem is that her child isn't afraid of her, and is struggling with how to effectively handle that challenge.
- 6.8. One attendee asked about the no cell phone policy in elementary school - there is a no cell policy for all grades, but those rules don't apply to school busses. Christine explained that there is provincial legislation in place to ban smart devices in schools; the challenge is to manage that. The school isn't able to monitor 500 students' backpacks on a daily basis.
- 6.9. One attendee asked if Graminia School is seeing similar behavioural problems at our own school. Christine says she is concerned with the grade 4-6 cohort (swiping culture, short attention spans).

6.10. Angie asked if hosting a speaker who could speak about emotional regulation in our kids would be better suited to be held at a future council meeting or a separate meeting. It was agreed that a separate meeting would be beneficial.

7. Principal's Report - Christine Bileau

Happy December! The past month has been full of all kinds of learning opportunities and I am grateful for the chance to share some highlights with you. I hope that all our Graminia families have a wonderful holiday and Luke and I wish you all the very best in the New Year!

An Overview Since Last Meeting:

- Graminia Gives! Our students, staff and families worked incredibly hard to help make a difference over the holiday season. Here are the totals:
 - Kinette Hampers - This year, Graminia donated 504 gifts and gift cards to the Spruce Grove Kinette Hampers - 430 toys and 74 gift cards! Thanks to Mrs. Duncan for starting this up and to Mrs. Kisiloski for taking on the organization and delivery of these items.
 - Christmas Cards for Seniors - Our Buddy Classes worked together to make over 380 cards for local seniors! Thanks to Miss Weiland for spearheading this initiative
 - Cookies for the Cure - parent and community volunteers baked hundreds of cookies for the fundraiser, which was held in memory of Naomi Nevesley, and we raised over \$3000 during our two days of Christmas Concerts! Thanks to Mrs. Sloan for organizing and last minute baking!!
 - Toonies for Tunes - we raised over \$720 for GSBS! Thanks to Angie Gehlert for organizing this in support of Graminia's Concert Band!
- Athletics Updates
 - Basketball - We are running a number of teams:
 - Junior Girls 1 and 2
 - Senior Girls
 - Junior Boys
 - Senior Boys
 - We will add a Junior Boys B team (grade 6) in January
 - We are grateful to our coaches for creating this opportunity for our students! Thanks to Miss Lewis, Ms. Ramos, Mr. Kawa, Mrs. Holst, Ms. Weiland, Mrs. Kisiloski, as well as our parent coaches, Melissa Bowles and Hannah James!
- Literacy and Numeracy
 - Literacy Intervention Groups were extended until Winter Break to reinforce concepts learned
 - Nine of our students took part in the Canada Jay Mathematics Competition, put on by the Canadian Mathematical Society. This is an open competition for students in grades 5-8—we found out about it last minute and had to register over fall break, so participation was limited this year, but we would like to take part again next year and expand the opportunity. It was a 15 question set and students had 90 minutes. I am very proud of all of our students who participated, and am pleased to announce that Alex Gill, in Grade 8, was one of three students in Alberta who earned an Honorable Mention (meaning he had a score that put him in 4-6th place).
- Hawks' Spirit Assemblies
 - We had our Responsibility Assembly in November
- SGCHS came out to speak with our Grade 9 students about prerequisite marks

- Christmas Concerts - what a fabulous turnout, and such a good opportunity to bring together our school community. Graminia students have a lot of talent, and they put on an excellent festive show! Kudos to Mrs. Tepes and Ms. Ramos for their vision and dedication, and for their countless hours bringing everything together. All of our staff played a role in preparing for the concert and running things throughout the performances, I would like to especially thank Mr. West. Mrs. Rupp, Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. Butler, and our student volunteers for all of their extra work. Also thanks to Mrs. Sloan and Mrs. Kerr-Arnston for putting on lovely Kinder Concerts
- Options for Term 2 are going well - some courses of note are :Electronics, Coding and Pottery
- Spirit Days - Going on all week- tomorrow is dress like your favourite holiday character and Friday is pajama day.
- Coffee with Admin - we've held two since our last School Council meeting, it is great to connect with parents as they drop off their children and we'll continue this over the rest of the year
- In School Field Trips - Teachers' Pet- it was awesome to see our parent volunteers, and shoutout to our parents who came for the grade 2/3 workbee!
- Grade 1 went to John Janzen Nature Centre, Concert Band went to see the Nutcracker at the Winspear

What's Coming Up Next:

- Reminder about Share-A-Thought Survey : use this QR code to share what's on your mind!



- Learnathon Planning - information to come out the first week we are back in January!
- Reminder that Term 1 Report Cards will be released at the end of January, with IEP updates to follow the week after
- Mindfulness Assembly
- Literacy and Numeracy Screens will be taking place throughout the month
- Jan 22- Educational Assistant Appreciation Day
- Literacy/Numeracy Volunteers - Miss Marshall is working with teachers and parents in grades 1-4 to organize volunteers to come in and do literacy and numeracy enrichment. We had a lot of parent responses, which is fantastic, and Miss Marshall and I will run a Volunteer 101 training session in January.

Hot off the Presses - PSD's 2025/2026 School Calendar: <https://www.psd.ca/download/477713>

- 7.1. One attendee asked if filling out digital permission forms via Powerschool is something that can be considered (as opposed to relying on printed forms coming home). Christine will look into it.
- 7.2. One attendee wanted to thank the teachers who came out to support the kids playing basketball on the weekend.
- 7.3. One attendee asked if more children are eligible for the subsidized hot lunch program. Christine said yes, and she will follow up with the Foundation.
- 7.4. One attendee asked if drama is going to start up again at the school. Christine doesn't know but will follow up.

8. New Business

- 8.1. No new business.

9. Adjournment

9.1. Kerri made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35pm. Seconded by Amber . Carried.

If you have questions or thoughts that you think the School Council should look at please speak to our Chair Angie Gehlert, Vice Chairs Amber Darragh or Anna Liska, or Principal Christine Bileau.

Next Meeting Date: January 15, 2025 at 6:30pm.