

Graminia School Council Meeting
6:30pm Wednesday February 12, 2025
Graminia School Band Room

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), Serge LaBrie (Director of Facilities, PSD), Angayla Waterman, Sheila Avison, Kerri Golka, Jody Friesen, Robyn Williams, Tammy Klippert

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1. Meeting called to order by Angie Gehlert at 6:36pm.
- 1.2. Land acknowledgement read by Angie Gehlert.

2. Adoption of Agenda

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

3. Adoption of February Minutes

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

4. *Special Guest Speaker: Serge LaBrie - Director of Facilities: Serge will be speaking about how maintenance works at schools.*

- 4.1. Three areas of focus at Graminia in the past year:
 - 4.1.1.replaced sewer line;
 - 4.1.2.replaced gym floor;
 - 4.1.3.generator repair work.
- 4.2. Awaiting budget announcement before confirming priorities for 2025 - modular units at Memorial and Meridian Heights are a primary focus.
- 4.3. Approximately 2.5M dollars spent on classrooms over a 2-3 year span; would like to focus on renovating the office in 2025 or 2026; washroom renovations second in priority to Brookwood School.
- 4.4. Angie asked Serge to explain snow removal:
 - 4.4.1.prior to covid the snow removal budget was 75K; prices have increased since Covid, so now PSD does its own clearing and has the budget for 4-5 snow clearing jobs.
 - 4.4.2.Field maintenance: grass is cut 7 times per year; we have been actively managing the gopher population over the last three years on Graminia's fields.
 - 4.4.3.Attendee questions:
 - 4.4.3.1.How old is our school compared to others? Tomahawk is 1945 up to our most recent school, Westview, which opened for the 2023/24 school year.
 - 4.4.3.2.Are there emergency funds for unexpected facility issues? Yes - we don't spend our whole budget, so we have room to resolve unexpected issues as they arise. Roof replacements, for example, are completed on four schools annually - we have a systematic approach to all of our schools.
 - 4.4.3.3.Who plans the design of new schools? There is typically a committee made up of teachers and administrators, and are led by the Deputy Superintendent (Mark Francis). The design process takes approximately one year, and then we get going with construction.
 - 4.4.3.4.Can you tell us a bit about the Comp? Spruce Grove Comp has 90% of its design renderings complete. The old school will be demolished and the new one built on-site. Horizon Stage will most likely be its own building and not attached to the new school. Alberta Infrastructure does not pay for parking; parking lot spaces are determined by the municipality - a parking increase will

reflect a percentage of spaces according to the number of students enrolled at the school. Acoustic panelling to muffle sound is being considered (there isn't baseline testing in place for this yet). Serge has confirmed that construction is slated to begin this spring, with construction to last two and a half years. Four general contractors have been retained.

4.4.3.5. Shared gender bathroom spaces in schools - why has the division moved towards this open model? The design team goes through various concepts and they are inspected to ensure they meet code. I can tell you most kids, in the design interviews I've attended, are fine with it - they don't care. I don't think there is one design that will hit the nail on the head. Where I think we've done a really good job on the schools that have these bathrooms, the stalls are fully enclosed and we have protocols and procedures to get through those doors when needed. They have been designed very purposefully.

4.4.3.6. What's happening with painting over the leak stains in the library? I will add it to my work order in the morning to get that fixed.

5. Trustee Report - Aimee Hennig

Please see report attached at the end of this document.

Attendee Questions:

5.1. Why are afternoon busses cancelled when it warms up quickly during the day? Aimee will look into that. Christine thinks that perhaps the reason is that we don't know how many kids will be taking the bus and what the drop off times would look like. Stony Plain is the location that the weather is based on for the division. Is it possible to compare other division's protocols for bus cancellation?

5.2. Bus cancellation & new learning policies: up to teacher discretion based on the number of students present. There isn't a set number of students that have to be present to continue with learning (see policy AP750). PowerSchool has a code to note missed days due to bus cancellations.

6. COSC Update - Angie Gehlert

6.1. Last meeting was held at Graminia School last week - attendees really liked the Band Room.

6.2. Labour disruption was a topic discussed: Lorraine Stewart, Paul McCann (Stony Plain Trustee) and the Deputy Superintendent were speaking a little bit about it, but couldn't provide detailed information because the negotiations are ongoing.

6.3. ASCA conference will be online in 2025, so registration fees have been reduced. The conference is scheduled for April 26th, 2025.

6.4. Paul spoke very highly of Graminia's council and its investment in the school.

6.5. Next COSC meeting is March 4th at 6:30pm at the Centre for Education in Stony Plain. The topic is on insurance parameters related to field trips and Scott McFadden will be speaking on aligning PSD's policies with industry standards.

7. Principal's Report - Christine Bileau

Mid-February is here and we have had a busy month since we last met! I just want to thank our parent community for your flexibility and understanding during the days when our buses weren't running. Although our attendance was over 50%, it just feels a whole lot better when all of our students are here and it's business as usual!

An Overview Since Last Meeting:

- Athletics Updates
 - Our basketball teams are showing a lot of growth and dedication over the season! There are a number of tournaments coming up along with finals, and these will be some great opportunities to see our Hawks in action! We are so grateful for our staff and parent coaches who put in time and energy into providing this opportunity for our students, and our fans in the stands who support us at the games.
- Literacy and Numeracy
 - We held our parent orientation meeting for the volunteers who are doing literacy and numeracy enrichment with our grades 1-4 students. Volunteers started this week, and it is simply awesome to see all of this in action - we are so grateful for our volunteers!
- Hawks' Spirit Assemblies
 - We had our Mindfulness Assembly in January and 4M won the mindfulness challenge and received a free yoga class from our guest speaker!
- Learnathon has begun! Mr. English will give us an update.
- Our Grade 6 students made beautiful dioramas of different habitats and displayed them in the library. They did a fantastic job, and it was nice to have this student work on display when we hosted PSD's Council of School Councils meeting on Feb 4.
- I just want to give a shoutout to Angie and her team for all of their work supporting School Council and Graminia School. At COSC, Trustee McCann spoke very highly of Angie and of all the work that our parent community has done to make Graminia such an outstanding school - very well deserved recognition!
- Breakfast Club of Canada visited our breakfast program and will support us in updating the fridge and freezer in the kitchen.
- We celebrated Education Assistants' Appreciation Day with a little gift and a charcuterie lunch. We are grateful for our team who make such a difference in the lives of our students.
- Junior High Health Day #2 happened this week; the focus was on ways we can support our Mental Health. Miss Monica presented on the importance of sleep, and our division psychologist Josee Huston came out to present to our grade 7s on this topic as well.
- Registration is open - I know that there have been some glitches, and appreciate your feedback and patience as we fix any bugs so things can run as smoothly as possible. If you have any questions, please reach out.
- Round Three of CTF/Complementary Courses has begun!
- Our Virtue for this month is Inclusion.

What's Coming Up Next:

- Reminder about Share-A-Thought Survey: follow this link to share what's on your mind!
<https://graminia.psd.ca/home/news/post/graminia-school-share-a-thought>
- Feb 14 - PD Day and Feb 17 is Family Day. Our January 31st PD Day focus was on complex needs, and our Feb 14 session will continue with that focus.
- Tournaments: Feb 14/15 - Juniors @ Wetaskiwin, Feb 20/21 - Seniors @ Woodhaven, Feb 27/28 - Junior Boys @ PLC.
- Basketball playoffs start on Feb 18 for Juniors and Feb 24 for Seniors
- Feb 23 is Rink Day
- Feb 25 - Pink Shirt Day
- Feb 26 - Hawks' Spirit Assembly - Virtue this month is Inclusion
- Feb 27 - Learnathon Prize Day!
- March Virtue is Nature
- March 4 - Taste and Sound 6:30-8:30pm; doors open at 6:00.

- March 10-14 - Substitute Teacher and Casual Educational Assistant Appreciation Week
- March 17 - Choral Celebration
- March 19-20 - Grades 7-9 Band Camp at Nakamun

7.1. Attendee question: if the strike goes ahead, what happens with MyPath? Christine was not able to provide specific information, but she did iterate that contingency plans are in the works and will be shared as per Superintendent Boyce's email. Parents of children who will be affected will be notified.

7.2. Anna suggested supporting the E.A.s and other support staff (librarian and secretaries) by sending them a One Small Thing message.

8. New Business

8.1. Support our school staff by sending them a One Small Thing message.

9. Adjournment

9.1. Anna made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm. 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 Chairs Amber Darragh or Anna Liska, or Principal Christine Bileau.

Next Meeting Date: April 16, 2025 at 6:30pm.

TRUSTEE REPORT

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

♥ School Registration is now open!

Registration is required to be completed by 4:30pm on Friday, March 28, 2025. This deadline will facilitate the routing of buses, bus pass production and data verification before the summer break while schools are still operating.

♥ Upcoming Board Meeting

February 18th at 2pm. The Board of Trustees, always welcomes you in person or virtually.

Questions for the Board to answer during the Public Question Period may be emailed to Board@psd.ca prior to the meeting start time. Questions may also be submitted in writing at the Board Meeting, prior to the Public Question Period.

GRANTS

♥ ASCA Grant- Trustees agreed to continue allocating \$6,000 to school councils to attend the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) Conference and Annual General Meeting. - Virtual this year

♥ 2025 Adopt a School Fundraiser and Grant Program- Indigo Kids

Adopt a School is a fundraising campaign and grant program designed in partnership with Indigo, Coles, Chapters, and Indigospirit stores to raise funds for literacy in schools across Canada. What makes this program so unique is that 100% of the funds raised by each store location goes directly to their partner school for the purchase of new books and literacy materials for their school and classroom libraries.

<https://www.indigoloveofreading.org/grants/adopt-a-school/>

SUSPENSION OF SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

Cold Weather Indicators that factor into the decision to suspend bus services include:

- Temperature, experienced with or without wind-chill, of -40°C or below.
- Snowfall accumulation greater than 10 cm overnight; and
- Snowfall removal plans for primary and/or secondary roads.

Please refer to [Administrative Procedure 750: Severe Weather](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

☑ Indigenous Canada Certificate- University of Alberta- In progress

☑ Making Canadian Schools Inclusive- Source for Inclusive Education- In Progress

☑ PSBAA Trustee Modules Program- PSBAA - In progress

ALBERTA EDUCATION ASSURANCE SURVEY

The Alberta Education Assurance survey gathers feedback on the quality of education provided by school authorities and their schools. Schools and school authorities use this information to understand how they are doing and plan for the future.

The AEA survey is sent to parents or guardians of students in Grades 4, 7 and 10. In schools with fewer than 120 students in Grades 4 to 12 and most charter and private schools, survey are sent to parents or guardians of students in Grades 4 and above.

Teachers and students complete the survey online at school.

Parents or guardians receive a survey invitation package by mail and have the option to complete the survey on paper or online using the provided Random Access Code (RAC). Parents or guardians with more than one student in an eligible grade will receive a separate survey invitation package for each child.

Only parents or guardians of students in participating grades will receive a survey invitation package to complete the survey. Responding to the survey is voluntary.

HOW TO CONTACT ME

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me.

Phone or Text - 780 886 4807
Email - aimee.hennig@psd.com