

**Graminia School Council Meeting**  
**6:30pm Wednesday March 12, 2025**  
**Graminia School Library**

**Attendees**, Amber Darragh (Vice-Chair), Anna Liska (Vice-Chair) Amanda Bird (Secretary), Christine Bileau (Principal), Luke English (Vice-Principal), Kristen Chorney (Guest Speaker), Jody Friesen, Kerri Golka, Sheila Avison, Sarah Lassu, Robyn Williams, Mandy Lussier, Samantha Mesh, Becky Christensen

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- 1.1. Meeting called to order by Amber Darragh at 6:32pm.
- 1.2. Land acknowledgement read by Amber Darragh.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

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

**3. Adoption of February Minutes**

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

**4. Special Guest Speaker: Kristen Chorney, Graminia's Indigenous Lead**

- 4.1. Parkland School Division's Indigenous Lead developed a cohort called *Weaving Together*. This has been the most transformative experience I've had in a long time.
- 4.2. I sat in a talking circle with Elder Phillip and was invited to a Sweat Lodge, and it was an experience in my life that I will never forget - it was amazing.
- 4.3. I'm attending these opportunities, and I ask myself how I can share these opportunities with the kids.
- 4.4. Medicine Wheel teaching with Elder Bob of Enoch Cree Nation - used the Medicine Wheel Handbook curriculum by Carrie, Kelly, and River Armstrong, that can adapted for all grades.
- 4.5. Elder Wilson Bearhead will be coming April 9th and will be holding a full school assembly where he will impart the teachings of drumming. Breakout sessions will then take place in the library for students.
- 4.6. The staff will go on a nature walk with Dr. Dwayne Donald (of the University of Alberta) - to learn about traditional medicines. We are trying to create more visual learning opportunities for the students: we have bulletin boards in the works focusing on Treaty 6.
- 4.7. I have shared information about talking circles with teachers - they are an opportunity where every participant can show and receive respect through speaking.
- 4.8. Attendee questions:
  - 4.8.1. Do we ever connect with Enoch? Elder Bob is from Enoch - are you thinking of the school there? Attendee referred to truth & reconciliation and how PSD could potentially work with the school at Enoch and build relationships between the two schools. There is a protocol regarding hosting an elder at our school, and it isn't as simple as just inviting them to come - we are working on this.
  - 4.8.2. Is there an opportunity for multiple PSD schools to work together on this initiative? There is an Indigenous grant available through Memorial Composite High School. Working with Enoch School would be a decision that would be made by Enoch School.
  - 4.8.3. When I was in elementary school, I had a buddy and we wrote letters throughout the year and then met at the end of the school year and made bannock - maybe we could explore something like that.

4.8.4. Does the Blanket Exercise still happen? Christine replied that there were details of the exercise that became problematic and it was paused.

## **5. Trustee Report - Aimee Hennig**

- 5.1. Due to the labour dispute, Aimee is unable to attend this evening; Amber spoke on Aimee's behalf (see report at the end of the minutes).
- 5.2. Amber will reach out to Parkland County Councillor Sally Kucher Johnson about Graminia's speed limit bylaw.

## **6. COSC Update: Amber Darragh**

- 6.1. The most recent COSC meeting was held on March 4th, and because this was the same night as the Graminia Taste & Sound event, no Graminia representatives could attend the meeting. An attendee provided the following notes:
- 6.2. Topic of Discussion: Insurance and Budgets, shared by Associate Superintendent Scott McFadden:
  - 6.2.1. Budget:
    - 6.2.1.1. Government of Alberta announced budget last week. PSD will need to look into further detail at the announcement and the funding manual which will be released in April 2025. Board has some ability to direct funds but some funding is through grants which restricts what funds can be spent on.
    - 6.2.1.2. PSD is the 7th largest school division in Alberta and runs the largest regional transportation system (over 8000 students). Funding has been updated to be a 30/70 split over a two year average (vs the three year weighted average model that existed before).
  - 6.2.2. Insurance
    - 6.2.2.1. When the Alberta School Board Insurance folded, PSD was facing a 274% rate increase as a division. As a result, PSD, with five other boards, created a new insurance consortium: *Alberta Risk Managed Insurance Consortium* (ARMIC).
    - 6.2.2.2. SPHERES (*School Physical Activity, Health & Education Resource for Safety*) by the University of Alberta and Alberta Education, is a set of guidelines for risk management and a guide for teachers with safety guidelines related to physical safety. Visit <https://myspheres.ca/en/>

## **7. Principal's Report - Christine Bileau**

March is here and exciting things are happening at Graminia! I want to thank our parent community for all your support and patience over the past two weeks. Please reach out if we have missed anything or if you have any questions.

### **An Overview Since Last Meeting:**

- Athletics Updates
  - Our basketball season has wrapped up and we are very proud of our teams! Our Senior Boys played their hearts out and finished off the year as Div 1 silver medallists! Our Senior Girls placed 4 (by one point!). Our Junior Teams had a great season as well and we are looking forward to next year. We have some students heading to play in the All Star Games - congratulations to Conner and Austin for making the Boys team, and to Peyton, Alia and Cassidy for their spots on the Girls Team. The games are on March 18 at SGHS: the girls play at 4:30 and the boys play at 5:30.
  - Badminton tryouts began this week.

- Hawks' Spirit Assemblies - we had our Inclusivity assembly in February. Thank you to Mr. Sloan, Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Tepas for their work putting it all together! We focused on being kind and being upstanders to bullying, which tied in well with Pink Shirt Day.
- Learnathon was a hit, and Mr. English had to wear a unicorn onesie! We are very grateful to our parent community for supporting this fundraiser, and thank you to the Foundation Committee for all their work organizing the prizes and parties!
- Classes held various Valentine's Day celebrations on the 13th.
- Our PD day on the 14th went well. Our support staff, along with staff from other schools in PSD, took part in Non-Crisis Intervention Training at Graminia. Teaching staff continued to look at data and use this information to plan for instruction, and spend time in their grade teams to plan strategies for student supports.
- It was great to be able to support Rink Day by having the school open for use of the washrooms. It is too bad that the ice was melting, but a lovely day nonetheless!
- Taste and Sound was a huge success! What a fantastic evening! It is wonderful to have the chance to welcome in our community and give everyone a chance to see our students in action. We are so proud of our student band members and for all of the work and dedication of Ms. Ramos. Our teacher band rocked it as well, so thank you to all the staff who took part. A very special thank you to Angie, Jessica, and the rest of the Swingin' Band Society for putting on this fundraiser in support of the arts at Graminia!
- Our Grade 7 Kindness Cart Committee made a special delivery this week.
- Our Grade 9s are being excellent mentors at recesses by helping organize and ref mini sticks for our Grade 2s!
- Registration reminder - please have your registrations completed by March 28. Let me know if you need any help.
- We will have more information on the MyPath registration process - stay tuned!
- Our Virtue for this month is Nature - students in older grades will have a chance to take part in challenges to win archery lessons with Ms. Shea!
- Huge thanks to Mrs. Jacobs and Mrs. Butler who are organizing this year's drama production. Save the date for May 8th!
- We have three student teachers with us from the University of Alberta. They started with us officially on March 10 and will be here until April 22. Mr. Boey is with Ms. Shea, Ms. Hoffman is with Mrs. Rupp and Ms. Semple is with Mrs. Chorney. We are so glad to have our student teachers here as part of our team!
- Our Grade 7s completed the Alberta Education Assurance Survey, and our Grade 4s will complete theirs this week. Surveys will be sent to parents of students in grades 4, 7, and 10.
- Mrs. Kerr-Arnston will start her maternity leave on March 17th. We wish her all the very best! Mrs. Kelsey Kiers will be filling in for her for the remainder of the year - welcome to Mrs. Kiers!
- Thank you to our School Council for the One Small Thing survey. Words of encouragement from our parent community mean a lot, and we are very grateful to have a Council that makes sure that there is a way for our staff to be recognized. We really appreciate you!
- RCMP constable was here - we spoke about the speed bylaws and discussed the vandalism in our bathrooms. The constable will coordinate with bylaw to patrol speeds in our school zone.
- Fire inspectors came and did their routine inspection.

### **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>
- SGHS Course selection planned for March 13th is postponed - new date TBA
- March 14 - Grade 6s are heading to the Alberta Legislature for the day
- March 17-21 - Grade 1 swimming at the Tri
- March 17 - Choral Celebration

- March 17 - Ski Trip - Grades 7-9 going to Marmot Basin for the day
- March 18 - Jr High Health Day
- March 18 - Sr All Star Basketball Games at SGHS
- March 19-20 - Grades 7-9 Band Camp at Nakamun
- March 25 - Hawks' Spirit Assembly at 1:30pm- Virtue this month is Nature;
- April Virtue is Imaginative
- March 28 - PD Day (no school for students)
- March 31 - April 4 - Spring Break
- April 9 - Whole School Cultural Event with Elder Wilson Bearhead - Drumming
- April 16 - PSD Education Planning Day
- April 16 - Junior High Health Day

#### **8. Year End Wrap Up Community Event - Brainstorming Ideas of what type of event**

- 8.1. Plan is to host a community day at the school on Saturday May 31st - historically we have held the Bike Rodeo, but are looking to host a community wrap-up this year.
- 8.2. Teachers are welcome to attend, but they don't have to. Idea is to run online auction for playground fundraising and to close the auction during this event. Foundation members would staff the concession.
- 8.3. Ideas include: Amazing Race, Minute to Win It, carnival theme, Survivor, family picnic, scavenger hunt, family dance party, summer olympics, prize wall, kid-made comic book fundraiser, Fear Factor, bingo card activity, geocaching, local musicians to perform, drawing station, craft centre (finger painting, colouring), sidewalk chalk, face painting, bounce house.
- 8.4. The school will be open.

#### **9. New Business**

- 9.1. Angie received a call from transportation and was informed that bussing to/from Memorial Composite High School in Stony Plain for outgoing grade 9 students isn't possible due to budget constraints. It is possible, however, that students could be added to an existing route. Transportation will know the routes in June, so if you are interested in the possibility, contact the department then. Spruce Grove Composite is the official catchment high school in PSD.

#### **10. Adjournment**

- 10.1. Angayla made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39pm. Seconded by Kerri . 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.




# MARCH 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

March 11 at 9am. The Board of Trustees, welcomes you to attend virtually.

Questions for the Board to answer during the Public Question Period may be emailed to [Board@psd.ca](mailto: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.indigooveofreading.org/grants/adopt-a-school/>

## LABOUR ACTION UPDATES

Please refer to Parkland School Division website for all current labour action updates.

<https://www.psd.ca/employment/unions-and-negotiations/labour-action-updates>

## 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](mailto:aimee.hennig@psd.com)



## BYLAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

On November 28th 2024, a patrol file was opened with enforcement services with concerns of speeding in the Blueberry School Zone.

Since then, there has been four school zone patrols and two enforcement speed operations in this location.

These actions have resulted in a total of 9 violation tickets being issued.

The enforcement action will continue.

## OUR BOARD

The Board of Trustees is elected to represent five urban and rural wards during municipal elections that take place every four years.

### The Board's Primary Responsibilities:

Governance

Allocating resources

Monitoring, evaluating, and reporting student and organizational program and achievements

### The Board's Assurance Elements in Governance:

Trustees Assure Quality Learning and Wellness

Trustees Engage, Listen and Advocate

Trustees Demonstrate Responsibility

Trustees Plan for Continual Improvement

Trustees Foster Community Relationships

### Advocates for Children

Our Trustees' first and greatest concern is the welfare of every child - without distinction as to who they are or what their background may be.

Trustees recognize that the future welfare of our area depends largely on the quality of education we provide in our public schools to fit the needs of individual learners.