

## **Spitzee Elementary School Council minutes**

**Attendees:** Phil Irwin, Shannon Culbert, Bill Holmes, Jody Hoogwerf, Kristin Ellis, Tricia Swallow, Dannielle Woodruff, Amanda LaBerge, Angela Morris, Karalee Grant

**Regrets:** Tiegan Jamison

Call to order @ 6:37pm

### **Welcome & introductions:**

Chairperson- Jody Hoogwerf

Vice Chairperson- Tiegan Jamison

Treasurer- Tricia Swallow

Secretary- Dannielle Woodruff

Fundraising Chair - Kristin Ellis

Teacher Rep- Amanda LaBerge

### **Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge this land on which we reside, work, and learn as the traditional territories of the people in treaty 7 of southern Alberta including the Siksika, Piikani, Kainai, Tsuut'ina, and Stoney Nakoda First Nations, and the Metis Nation of Alberta Region 3.

In the spirit of this acknowledgement, we hold thanks in our hearts for the beautiful gifts and lessons these lands hold.

We also acknowledge the tradition of councils that have been practiced on these lands long before our time here. We commit to the understanding that all members of this community are responsible for teaching our children, to ensure the origins of these lands continue to be honoured and respected.

### **Approval of minutes**

(all mtg minutes posted to FB page and to communication boards outside the office and on the boards outside)

Motion to approve - Kristin Ellis

Second- Angela Morris

**Trustee report**-Mr. Phil Irwin (10 minutes presentation, 5 minutes discussion and questions).

*FOOTHILLS FOOTNOTES* for March/April

[Footnotes \(foothillsschooldivision.ca\)](http://foothillsschooldivision.ca)

- with a focus on AI and Education and how Foothills is embracing advances in technology. Including a few AI sites to try out for yourself. Check it out on the FSD website or the new FSD APP.

*System-Based Delegations & Presentations:*

- Big Rock School shared their education plan on March 27th.
- Kevin Gushulak (Director of Facility Services) gave an update and reported on the improvements that will have been completed by the end of this year and what is planned for the upcoming year.
- Charity Tegler (Divisional Indigenous Learning Coordinator) gave an update on the work she is leading within schools to advance First Nations, Metis, and Inuit student success. It was exciting to see the improvement Grade 2-9 students have made academically throughout our division this past year.
- N.B. The common theme and focus of Engagement-Support-Success found in the school division's 5-year Education Plan was evident and celebrated in each of the presentations made to the Board.

*Information / Discussion Items:*

- The Division's Capital Plan was presented and approved on March 27th. Included in the plan are the Capital Plan Priorities for 2024 through to 2026.
- The Board approved a recommendation by the Awards Committee to nominate the KIDS Only Shoppe at the Millarville Market for the work they do to support our kids and our greater FSD community.
- Administrative Procedures are designed to operationalize Board policies. APs 140, 213, 350, and 155 were reviewed during the two Board meetings in January.
- An FSD advocacy document was shared with the Board that outlines the division's concerns regarding proposed changes being made to the Local Authority Elections Act that would have ballots list political affiliations alongside each nominee's name on municipal election ballots.
- Drew Chipman – Assistant Superintendent of Corporate Services – shared a preliminary budget update for 2024-2025 with the Board at the April 10th meeting. The Division meets with AB Education on Friday, April 12th, to ask them to work with us to help address the challenges we face due to our system's enrollment growth issues and other funding challenges. Board decisions regarding the new budget will be pending until after the April 12th meeting with the province.

### *Board Committee Reports:*

- On the morning of the April 10th Board meeting, the Board engaged in its annual self-evaluation as a follow-up to the work they have been engaged in relating to their newly formed Governance Quality Standards and the work they have been doing around “systemness”.

### *Division Highlights:*

- Congratulations to FSD’s Council of School Councils (COSC) who were awarded the “2024 ASCA Division School Council Engagement Award” for their advocacy work with local MLAs.
- Congratulations to Spitzee School Council who received the “2024 ASCA Excellence in Learning Partnerships Award” for the work they and the community did to build their new community/school playground. Special thanks goes to members of the Bennington family who prepared and submitted this nomination to ASCA.
- Congratulations to Sierra Havinga – a first year teacher from Ecole Okotoks Junior High School. She is this year’s FSD representative for the Edwin Parr Award in Zone 5.

**Admin report-** Mrs. Culbert/Mr. Holmes (10 minutes 5 minutes discussion and questions)

### Engagement/Continuous Improvement

- Two Schools, One Book was such a success, in great part due to the wonderful support from parents! The trivia had everyone talking, Miss Patti’s re-creations were perfect, taking Stuart and Margola into the town was meaningful (learning about our community), and the finale was just so fun at the Wales Theatre! WELL DONE!!
- Classes watched the eclipse online and did such fun lunar activities (with oreos!)
- They are learning about shadows, opaque, transparent and translucent objects
- Grade 5s are launching their Math unit with a trip to the zoo to see their enclosures and figure out “the math”
- Poetry in the Park happens in May!
- Students have been writing their “ouch” stories, adding details and trying out transition words

### Support

- There continues to be a big focus on wellness in every classroom
- Social/Emotional supports continue on a daily basis
- Therapists continue to support both students (small group) and staff (observations and suggestions)
- Mind Up continues this term in grade 4
- Literacy and numeracy interventions continue, as does Precision Reading
- Family Groupings are starting this month

## Success

- Our Grade 5 students are preparing for their next round of CTF explorations (3D printing, crocheting, nature studies, journaling, and more!)
- Advancing Truth & Reconciliation: Our mural has some "I Spy" type additions... Can you find them?
- The Montreal delegation will be coming at the end of the month to see our work...
- Teachers continue to adjust their learning plans to get students thinking more deeply about their learning
- Students are taking regulation breaks through the hallways, including the latest wall mural by retired EA Deb Gross and family
- 4C continues to observe the seasons change from winter to spring in the natural areas around Spitzee, nature journaling our notices, connections and reflections; other classes continue this place-based learning as well

## Upcoming Important Dates:

- April 22 / 23 – **Divisional Learning Days - No School for Students**
- April 24 – **Administrative Professional Day**
- April 24 – Gr 5 Doubles Badminton @ ESRMS
- April 25 – Gr 5 Singles Badminton @ ESRMS
- April 24 – Parent-Teacher Interviews – 3:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- April 25 – Parent-Teacher Interviews – 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- May 2 – **Twin Day or Dress Like A Staff Member Day**
- May 3 – **1T & 3M Start Swim Lessons**
- May 6 – Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- May 7 – **2L & 4T Start Swim Lessons**
- May 8 – School Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m. (**Friends of Foothills member in attendance**)
  - **Mr. James Holladay – ESRMS Principal re: Gr 5 Transition**
- May 9 – **Evergreen Theatre - "Snow White and the Seven Regions"**
- May 9 – **1S & 3K Start Swim Lessons**
- May 10 - Volunteer Appreciation Day 10:30-11:00am
- May 16 – **Western Heritage Day**
- May 17 – **PD Day - No School for Students**
- May 20 – **Victoria Day – No School for Students**
- May 21-24 – **BOTTLE WARS - EAGLES VS. BRONCOS**
- May 24 – **Welcome to Kindergarten Day!**

## **Council Business:**

### Nomination for 2024 ASCA Excellence in Learning Partnerships Award-Spitzee School Council

- Many ideas were put forward for this but with the end of the school year being so busy for everyone Awas agreed to keep this celebration short, simple and heartfelt. Council would like to get together in May (29th?) In the evening for half an hour or so. We will be in the school gym for a speech or two and some cupcakes. This way we can thank all those who made our playground a reality as well as using our new speaker system. Afterwards anyone interested can go and see/try the playground out. More details are still in the works and everything will be announced closer to the date.

### Rebekah Lodge request for funds:

- Unfortunately our request for the 5th grade dictionaries to be covered by the Lodge was denied. This also isn't what they are looking for funding wise. We have been invited to make another request. Our council will take our time and seriously consider this offer and what may be more in alignment with Rebekah's charity work. No new requests are on the agenda at this time.

### Position advertising on Facebook

- Advertising for Council positions is currently not gaining any traction. Going forward we are hoping to reframe some of the positions more as "teams" as opposed to single person positions. Hoping that this will make joining the council less intimidating and more fun and inviting. Council will also be adding information to the 'swag bags' for the Kindergarten meet and greet.

### Planning for Kindergarten meet and greet next month

- Planning for the Kindergarten meet and greet has begun. May 24th we are looking forward to greeting approximately 42 new students and their parents. We have a few volunteers to greet the parents (but we can always use more!), with current plans including 'Swag bags', a kids draw for Spitzee gear and that's just the start.

### PC Charity Application

- Updated from Angela that she received an email allowing us to apply for support again next year. As of the time of this meeting our status is under review. Fingers crossed we can get support from this wonderful charity again for the 2024-25 school year.

**Meeting adjourned @ 7:43pm**

## **Fundraising Meeting opens @ 7:43pm**

### **Treasurer report:**

General account: \$11,706.56  
Casino: \$21,716.50 (all spent)  
Playground: \$6,687.45  
PC Food Support: \$5,139.40

### **Fundraising Update** by Kristin Ellis -.

#### Flower Fundraiser

- Flower Fundraiser is well underway. Currently on sale until midnight April 24th. Flowers are set to be delivered on May 8th (time TBD). We are still looking for volunteers to help unload the delivery truck and help guide/organize those who are pick up their orders. We need a minimum of 2 volunteers but preferably 4.

#### Bottle Drive

- Planning for the annual Bottle Drive Battle between the Eagles and the Broncos had begun. We are hoping to set up for May 21-24. With plans for Sign Wars and plenty of Social Media hype.

#### Bacon Fundraiser

- Council is in pre-planning for our annual Bacon Fundraiser. Hoping to offer both thin and thick cuts of Bacon. Tentatively thinking of selling Mid to late May with the Deliver/Pick up hopefully scheduled the first week in June.

### **Request for funds:**

Request made to be allowed to move money, \$235.00, previously allocated to cover the cost of an in class scientist visit. Grade 5L doesn't currently have space in the class schedule for this due to receiving a grant to fund part of a science field trip. They would like to use this money to help cover other costs for that trip.

Motion to approve : Tricia Swallow

Seconded: Jody Hoogwerf

All In Favor: Yes      Motion granted

**Meeting adjourned @ 8:03pm**

**Next meeting-** May 8, 2024 @ 6:30pm

