

Spitzee Elementary School Council Minutes

April 9 2025

Attendees: Phil Irwin, Bill Holmes, Shannon Culbert, Marcia Law, Jody Hoogwerf, Rozlyn Neighbor, Karalee Fox

Regrets: Tiegna Jamison, Tricia Swallow, Dannielle Woodruff

Call to order @ 6:30PM

Welcome & introductions: current council exec & staff

Chairperson- Jody Hoogwerf

Vice Chairperson- Tiegna Jamison

Treasurer- Tricia Swallow

Secretary- Tess Pfeifer

Fundraising Chair - Dannielle Woodruff

Teacher Rep-

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 - Roz Neighbor

Second - Tess Pfeifer

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

Foothills Footnotes ... found on the FSD website

"Informed Insights: Setting the Stage for Balanced Decisions" ... with insights into how education is funded in the province, how education property tax works, and how our Division Office teams are set up to support the division.

[Footnotes March 2025](#)

System-Based Delegations & Presentations

- Chase Ellis – Professional Learning & Education Partner Relations
- Kevin Gushulak – Facility Services
- Dinah VanDonzel – Student Learning (JK-6) & Staff Learning
- Ecole Secondaire Foothills Composite High School – FI Program Review
- Charity Tegler – Indigenous Learning and Equity N.B.

The common theme and focus of Engagement-Support-Success found in the school division's 5-year Education Plan continues to be evident and celebrated in each presentation made to the Board.

Information / Discussion / Action Items

- The Board approved FSD's Three-Year Capital Plan after Kevin Gushulak and Drew Chipman presented the division's priority list of building projects moving forward.
- Policy 8: Policy and Review received final reading and was approved.
- AP Update: AP 315, AP 408, A P544, AP 215, AP 200, AP 365, AP 426, AP 117, AP 316
- CUPE members and FSD agreed to and signed a Memorandum of Agreement, and employees who were out on strike returned to work on Monday, March 24th.
- FSD's Edwin Parr Nominee for Zone 5 is Justine Johnson – a French Immersion teacher from Ecole Joe Clark School.
- Our very own Kookum – Virginia Aldoff / Pinay has been nominated for this year's ASBA "Friends of Education" Award for her ongoing work and influence in Foothills School Division supporting the application of foundational knowledge about First Nations, Metis, and Inuit in our schools. .

Board Committee Responsibilities and Reports

- Trustee professional learning has been ongoing with the Board meeting twice in the last month. We were able to reflect on our efforts in practicing good governance in recent months to make sure we were meeting our responsibilities as trustees and Board members. Divisional / Ward 5 Highlights and Initiatives
- Congratulations to Justine Johnson, and to the Ecole Joe Clark staff by extension, for being chosen to represent the division as its nominee for the Edwin Parr (first year teacher) Award.
- The Board applied and has been accepted to present at this year's CSBA's annual conference in Winnipeg in July. They will be presenting on the topic, "Systemness in Action: Governance Structures and the Power of Reflective Practice".

Friends of the Foothills Presentation - Marcia Law

[Friends of Foothills Schools](#)

- Marcia Law presented to the Board an update on the Friends of the Foothills Schools Foundation funding, communication, feedback and upcoming fundraisers.
- Some feedback from the Board regarding the application process:
 - The process was fair and did not cause a lot of stress
 - Where can information be found online?
 - Is there a cap on the funding?

- [The Heart of Education Gala](#) was a success raising \$9200!
- [The 2nd Annual FORE Education Golf Tournament](#) is for Saturday June 14 2025, 1:00PM Shotgun Start at Highwood Golf Club.
 - \$225/Each or \$800 a foursome
 - Would like each school to commit to one foursome.
 - Registration is on the website.
- AGLC granted \$20,000 lottery
 - More info to come in September.
- Working on a new website that will not be linked to the school division.
- Strategic Planning took place Nov 2024 - Jan 2025- Find the Annual Reports on the website under AGM.

Admin report- Mrs. Culbert/Mr. Holmes (15 minutes 5 minutes discussion and questions)

Our Ed Plan is posted to our website. Under the “Our School” menu, click on “2024-2029 Education Plan”. While we take steps toward each of our goals, our BIG focus to start the year is:

Engagement: Communicating learning to parents (min. twice a month)

Support: Advancing Wellness and Well-being - [Executive Functioning skills](#)

[Kids’ Activities to Develop and Strengthen Executive Functions](#)

Success: Advancing First Nations, Metis, and Inuit student success – enhance the application of foundational knowledge, support cultural learning and accurate depiction of Indigenous worldviews.

What to DO, sing, pLaY, read, SAY

- [Brain-Building Through Play: Activities for Infants, Toddlers, and Children](#)
 - Includes downloadable PDFs
- [25 Self-Control Activities from Pathway 2 Success](#)
 - From a great website – LOTS to explore
- 7 Easy Games from The OT Guide
 - ▪ Video if you need to listen NOT read
- Read-Alouds from Whole Child Counselling
 - Who doesn't love a good book?!
- [10 Fun Impulse Control Activities for Kids](#)
- [Expert impulse control techniques for kids! Build self-discipline with clear boundaries, rewards, and problem-solving skills.](#)

A Few more links to explore.....

- [8 Easy Impulse Control Activities for Kids](#)
- <https://www.yourtherapysource.com/blog1/2017/05/16/games-practice-self-regulation-skills/>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=H_O1brYwdSY
- <https://thehomeschoolresourceroom.com/2021/07/22/impulse-control-activities-for-kids/>

In addition to learning about Impulse Control and Response Inhibition, these days at Spitzee...

- Kindergarten students are practicing their writing: holding thoughts in their minds, sounding out words, including finger spaces. They are sorting 2D shapes and 3D objects. They are looking at sets of objects and wondering, “How many more to get to 10?”
- Grade 1 students have been building a community answering the question: How does a community work together to meet the needs of everyone? They have been working on longer

words using the suffixes /s/, /es/, /ed/, /ing/ and using syllables to write longer words. In math, they continue to work on story problems using addition and subtraction.

- Grade 2 students are learning about Fairy Tales and Earth systems, using vocabulary such as “interactions” and “relationships”. Students presented their musical instruments to wrap up the Sound Energy Unit. Congratulations to the Gr 2’s for their great work on home reading. Math – Reviewing addition and subtraction strategies.
- Grade 3 students will connect previous learning of punctuation, proper sentences, labelling for clarity and clearly sharing their understanding with some new creative tasks! Students will focus on finding missing numbers in equations and growing their understanding of what equal means! In Science, 3’s are learning how does the ability to change matter affect our quality of life? In Social Studies we will discuss the parts of a culture and learn how to develop an informative and creative infographic
- Grade 4 Students are applying their understanding of non-contact forces in science to design and build toys and games. They will be doing procedural writing to create rules or instructions for their toys/games. They also got to make smoothies with the help of Mrs. Neighbor to learn about healthy food choices. They created their ultimate kid smoothie in art using cutouts from the different grocery store flyers and will be doing a write up to describe how to make their ultimate smoothie. Nature journaling – we have been spending one afternoon a week with Mrs. Calabrese as part of our Science, Language arts and art learning to do nature journaling out in the forest areas west of the school. Students have learned to listen and notice and represent what they notice or wonder in visual ways. We have had lots of questions come out of our trips and the class has extended their learning beyond our time outside to learn more about the living systems in our area. In Math they are doing order of operations and balancing equations
- Grade 5 is focusing on Weather and Climate in Science, Indigenous Peoples of Canada and ancient civilizations in Social Studies, subtraction and addition with money and Novel Studies (both as small groups and “Underground to Canada” as a large group) in LA.

Upcoming Important Dates

- April 8, 10, 15, 17 Gr 2’s Swimming
- April 16 RCMP – CST Foley – ANTI-BULLYING PRESENTATIONS
- April 18 – 27 Easter Break
- May 2 Volunteer Appreciation
- May 5 Bus Driver Appreciation
- May 8 Students’ Matters Meeting
- May 9 Jersey Day
- May 5, 7, 12, 14 Grade 1’s Swimming
- May 6, 8, 13, 15 K’s Swimming
- May 11 Mother’s Day Market – Spitzee Gym (want to get involved?)
- May 14 School Council @ 6:30
- May 14 to 21 Bottle Wars vs. Joe Clark School

Council Business:

- We have been approved for the PC Charity Grant for next year.
 - \$8294.40 has been awarded and we will be able to continue our Good Food Box Program for the kids.
 - Funds will be released in October. Rozlyn will budget some of our left over funds from this year to cover September 2025

Meeting adjourned @ 8:00PM

Fundraising Meeting opens @ 8:00PM

-Treasurer report: Karalee Fox

General account: \$6124.69

Casino: \$2005.64

Playground: \$4262.17

PC Food Support: \$3458.06

Online Motion: Jody Hoogwerf made an online motion on March 31st to pay \$107.95 from the General Account for dinner for the Teachers for the Student Led Conferences on April 3rd.

Second: Rozlyn Neighbor

All in favor. Motion carried

Online Motion: Tricia Swallow made an online motion on March 24th to purchase blenders for \$272.97 from the General Account for smoothie days in the School Kitchen.

Second: Jody Hoogwerf

All in favor

Fundraising Update

- Rozlyn Neighbor brought up a potential fundraiser with WetJet for plane tickets.
 - Rozlyn will look into setting up our WestJet account and starting that process

Request for Funds

- Heritage Park Picnic for Patrollers
 - Gr 5 x 21 patrollers x \$11 (ride bracelet) = \$231.00
 - 1/2 the bus cost (sharing with Joe Clark)

Motion: Karalee Fox Motions for the Board to spend up to \$500 from the General account for the ride bracelets and bus fees

Second: Rozlyn Neighbor

All in favor

- Gr 2 - For our upcoming Living Things unit in science, Chelsea and I could use some funds to purchase potting soil, seeds, and possibly small planting containers. We wouldn't need much – max \$30. We could also use a globe for teaching Earth Systems. Those are approx. \$30 each. – Total \$60

Motion: Tess Pfeifer motions to spend \$60 from the General account for the planting supplies and globe.

Second: Karalee Fox

All in favor

- Tables for the gym (price to come) (U-line \$160)

Motion: Jody Hoogwerf make a motion to spend up to \$1000.00 from the General account on tables for the gym

Second: Tess Pfeifer

All in favor

Meeting adjourned @ 8:18PM

Next meeting- Wednesday May 14th at 6:30PM