

Spitzee Elementary School Council Minutes

February 12, 2025

Attendees: Danielle Woodruff, Kayla Baxter, Karalee Fox, Mollie Esau, Kayla Altstadt, Phil Irwin, Shannon Culbert, Bill Homes, Tricia Swallow, Tiegán Jamison, Natalie VonRaven, Denise Saunderson, Kaitlyn Saunderson, Tess Pfeifer
Regrets: Jody Hoogwerf, Pam Milligan, Rozlyn Neighbor

Call to order @ 6:27PM

Welcome & introductions: current council exec & staff

Chairperson- Jody Hoogwerf

Vice Chairperson- Tiegán Jamison

Treasurer- Tricia Swallow

Secretary- Tess Pfeifer

Fundraising Chair - Danielle Woodruff

Teacher Rep- Denise Saunderson

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 - Danielle Woodruff

Second - Tess Pfeifer

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

Foothills Footnotes ... found on the FSD website

- For January ... How FSD has and continues to offer choice in education

[Footnotes-2024-12](#)

System-Based Delegations & Presentations

- Sally Smith – Director of Tech Services
- Charity Tegler – Director of Indigenous Learning and Equity
- Marica Law – Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation
- Ecole Okotoks Junior High French Immersion review/presentation
- Sara Fox – Manager of Communication and Community Engagement 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

- COSC met on January 20th ... attended by Superintendent and Board Chair
- Policy 8 re: Policy Making was reviewed and presented to the Board along with a review of Policy 2: Role of the Board appendixes
- AP Update: AP 153 (advertising and distribution of materials), AP 163 (alcohol and drugs), AP 491 (volunteers), AP 110 (school councils), AP 157 (flag protocol), AP 375 (graduation exercises), AP 231 (home education), AP 230 (flexible learning programming), AP 167 (emergency health issues), AP 316 (administration of medication), AP 130 (organization of school year), AP 260 (field trips and student exchanges), AP 540 (school facility capital planning)
- The Board met with High River's MLA Chelsae Petrovic on Jan 23rd. Senator Riley is at the top of FSD's modernization requests and a tour of that school by the MLA is being set up by admin.
- The revised calendar for 2025-26 was presented and approved by the Board.
- The impact of pending US tariffs on provincial funding was discussed with a wait and see approach being taken by senior admin and the Board.

Board Committee Responsibilities and Reports

- The Board was involved in its own professional development session again in January focusing on tying up loose ends regarding programming and resources that are tied to governance issues.
- Three of our trustees attended an online PD session on strategies when advocating to the provincial government for programming and operational support.

Divisional / Ward 5 Highlights and Initiatives

- Ecole Senator Riley Middle School is currently at the top of the division's school modernization list.
- 42 art pieces created by Highwood's Holocaust Studies students were on display at the Calgary Central Library in January as part of "Art and the Holocaust" sponsored by the Calgary Jewish Federation.
- Two High River schools – Senator Riley and Highwood -- received funding for special projects from the Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation.

Learning Update- Denise Saunderson Grade 1

Denise gave a quick presentation to the council, admin, trustee and parents about the recent conference she had attended about reading. Reading can look different for everyone, it is a multi layered process. Denise discussed the importance of building phonetic awareness with her students and demonstrated and discussed some of the activities she uses in her classroom.

- We participated in a demonstration of “Map It”, a reading, phonetic activity that maps the words with sounds to the letters.
- Other techniques discussed were Boom/Clap/Swipe, “Chopping” words (ch-a-t)

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...

- Learner profiles have gone home, if you are having difficulty accessing them on the portal, contact the office.
- Cold weather has forced changes to the supervision schedule. The kids have not been outside.
- Mrs. Culbert is back part time, Mrs. Speelman has been assisting.
- Spitzee swag has arrived and will be going into "To Go" bags for guests that come to the school.
- Time of the year for surveys, if you receive an email with a survey it is greatly appreciated if it is completed.
- Potential strike could cause major changes. In the event there will be no support staff or office staff in the school. We will know what this will look like in the coming weeks.

Labour Relations CUPE Local 5040-

[For information read the news releases on foothills school division website](#)

Upcoming Important Dates

February 24 - Two Schools One Book Kick off

February 11-13 - Friendship Grams

February 17-21- Family Week/ Teachers Convention Break- No School

February 26- Pink Shirt Day

Council Business:

- Scientists in school - everyone is very appreciative and children loved it.
- Ipads have arrived
- A big thank you to the council for the ukuleles and humidifiers for the music program.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:33PM

Fundraising Meeting opens @ 7:37PM

Treasurer report: Karalee Fox / Tricia Swallow

General account: \$11348.92

Casino: \$3200.07

Playground: \$6121.45

PC Food Support: \$7323.83

Fundraising Update by Dannielle Woodruff

- Decorations in the park update- Kathy said we are good to donate and do whatever we would like. She is always taking on new decorations. Bill had an idea of somehow designing the heritage wing building out of lights and metal?! Everyone put their thinking and creative caps on!
- Friendship Grams- Sales have been slow in some classes. Almost \$300 raised!
- Movie Night - Might have to be tabled for now. Not enough volunteers
- Looking at doing a pierogi and bacon fundraiser
- Mothers Day Market in the Gym - Bill has said we will make it work. More info to come.

Request for Funds

- Online Motion made January 23 2025 for the "Two Schools One Book"
\$1200 will cover half the cost of the books
Motioned by: Jody Hoogwerf
Seconded by: Tricia Swallow
All in favor: Yes

Meeting adjourned @ 7:48PM

Next meeting- March 12th 2025