

Spitzee Elementary School Council Minutes
January 10, 2024
6:30pm

Attendees(online only due to weather and illness): Christopher Fuzessy, Shannon Culbert, Bill Holmes, Jody Hoogwerf, Phil Irwin, Krista Mace, Tiegan Jamison, Cathy King, Karalee Grant, Tricia Swallow, Kristen Ellis, Kylie Sigglekow, Dannielle Woodruff, Romel Penaojas, Cathy Anderson
Regrets: Pam Milligan

Call to order @ 6:32pm

Welcome & introductions: current council exec & staff

Chairperson- Jody Hoogwerf
Vice Chairperson- Tiegan Jamison
Treasurer- Tricia Swallow
Secretary- Dannielle Woodruff
Fundraising Chair - Kristin Ellis
Teacher Rep- Cathy King & Krista Mace

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 - Kristen Ellis

Second- Karalee Grant

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

FOOTHILLS FOOTNOTES for December:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAF1YX1QAMw/uKiajltwKtc5wDR0rh-3dQ/view?utm_content=DAF1YX1QAMw&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=viewer

- Annual Education Results Report (AERR)- A Quick overview of what is included in the AERR. What is reviewed from last year and what will be considered in the upcoming plans.

Presentations:

- Wanda le Roux - Director: Transportation Services – gave an update on FSD's transportation successes and challenges re: costs, staffing, and recent provincial developments.
- Deputy Superintendent Caroline Roberts presented the AERR to the Board that demonstrates the great work being done in the division to support and carry out its Education Plan.
- The Division's 2022-23 Audited Financial Statement was presented and accepted by the Board. An infographic visual financial statement was created to help both trustees and the public understand what the numbers mean in layman terms.
- Dave Barton presented his Risk and Materials Management Presentation to the Board updating them on changes in his area of responsibility within the division.

Action Items:

- Final reading of Policy 12 re: School Configurations was given final reading and approved by the Board at the November 29 th Board meeting.
- At the December 13 th Board meeting the Okotoks K-9 Attendance Boundary Review report was presented.

Information Items:

- Administrative Procedures 352, 310, and 133 were reviewed.
- Alberta Summer Games have asked us to submit a request for some of the surplus funds they generated that will provide a legacy for the communities involved relating to athletic facilities and/or equipment.

Discussion Items:

- Alberta Education's \$30 million Supplemental Enrolment Growth Grant
Delay in implementation of Transportation Regulations for one year

Board Committee Reports:

- Trustees Irwin and Evans attended the Rural Caucus Fall General Meeting the same weekend as the ASBA AGM.
- Trustees Nichols and Molyneux attended the ATA Employee Joint Liaison Committee meeting along with Superintendent Chris Fuzessy.
- Trustees Irwin and Molyneux attended and participated in a PD session pertaining to the generational differences in school staff and what that means for those that lead and promote professional learning in the division.
- Trustee Professional Learning session on December 6 th focusing on "system-ness". The key question asked was, "Can effective governance take place in the absence of 'system-ness'?"

Division Highlights:

- Trustees Penzo, Evans, and Letendre attended the Fall General Meeting of ASBA in Edmonton in November.
- Foothills received the School Board Innovation and Excellence Award for the Vertical Farming Initiative at Oilfields High School.
- The Board conducted school tours in RDL, Heritage Heights, and some of the Okotoks schools.

Superintendent Report: Mr. Chris Fuzessy (15 minute presentation, 15 minutes discussion and questions).

A Thoughtful Moment for December 2023

[ATM: Our Successes and Challenges in the AERR \(foothillsschooldivision.ca\)](https://www.foothillsschooldivision.ca)

- A quick and concise explanation of the AERR. Where the data comes from. Where we are doing well and where we need to improve.

Information Items:

- We are nearing the end of our 3 year Education Plan. Soon to move into a 5 year Education Plan - more like an operational plan. Will be less focused on adding in new plans and more focused on trying to maintain current objectives. So we can continue to improve across our system. Also want to reassure parents that they will be heard. Discussions are in the works for next year.

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

Engagement/Continuous Improvement

- Students were amazing in there many December activities (Tripleball, Choir, Christmas concert)
- Students sang at the manor in Dec. (community engagement)
- Choir has come to a close and had their wrap up
- PE classes have been working on Sending and Receiving Skills using the game of Tchoukball. This game was created by a Swiss Biologist who was concerned about high impact accidents in games like soccer, basketball, etc. He wanted a game that was exciting and safe! K to 2 students learn to throw against the rebounder and then work on skills through handball games.
- Gr 5 Basketball has begun with games every Wednesday and our wrap up tournament happens at the Aldersyde Field House on Feb 7. Twenty eight students are involved in basketball this year. Mrs. Livesey-Moore is helping out when she can and Mr. Holmes' daughter Keara, is coaching at the final tournament so we can enter two teams. Keara is a Mustang alum and coached at Lethbridge, Cayley and at Highwood as a volunteer.
- Spitzee and EJCS staff had a wonderful day together looking at the curriculum with Garfield Gini-Newman. They concentrated on 'How can we get students excited about learning?' 'How can we deepen student thinking?' 'How can we decrease teacher workload?'
- Teachers looked at student data, planning how to support students who struggle with self-confidence, resilience, etc.

Support

- "We Thinkers" event was a big success. We had a turn out of 14 families (40 people) who made a plan to 'sail the seas'. These lessons continue in Kindergarten this month.
- Our PD committee continues to plan in a way that honors staff wellness
- Classes continue to work together to build our Spitzee Eagle culture, very much spurred on by the beautiful mural going up in the common area
- Family School Liaison Counselor and Youth Development Coach continue visiting classrooms, teaching aspects of wellness, relationships, and optimal learning
- We have communicated with the Div Office that we are ready to begin Literacy & Numeracy interventions, just waiting for the "OK". We continue having great volunteers in classes, supporting students with Precision Reading, and various other projects

Success

- Gr 5 teachers continue having their CTF options for students (coding, place-based learning, art)
- Place-based learning continues (maybe not Thur,Fri)
- Teachers continue to work on communication of learning, and are working hard to prepare Learner Profile comments (LP's coming home before Feb break)
- Our mural continues to inspire our work around Truth & Reconciliation

Admin Procedures

- AP 309 Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Gender Expressions –

[309-learning-environments-updated-sept-23.97474d16323.pdf](https://media.foothillsschooldivision.ca/media/Default/medialib/policy-14-a-place-for-all-updated-september-2023.6a769416482.pdf)
([foothillsschooldivision.ca](https://www.foothillsschooldivision.ca))

- Policy 14 - A Place For All - To achieve the FSD's Vision, Mission and Organizational Purpose, the Board believes that each community member has a responsibility and role to play in contributing to, enhancing and promoting inclusive environments within all FSD schools and facilities.

<https://media.foothillsschooldivision.ca/media/Default/medialib/policy-14-a-place-for-all-updated-september-2023.6a769416482.pdf>

Upcoming Important Dates

- Jan 18 - FSD Family Caregiver Series - Teen Brain Development 6:30-8:30
- Jan 24 – Gr 5 Basketball Game – TBA
- Jan 31 – Gr 5 Basketball Game – TBA
- Feb 1 – 60's, 70's, 80's Day
- Feb 1 – *Jr. K / K Open House*
- Feb 7 – Final Basketball Tournament
- Feb 8 - FSD Family Caregiver Series - Mental Health & Anxiety (K-6) (see above link)
- Feb 14 – Twin Day
- Feb 14 – School Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
- Feb 15 – Learner Profiles emailed out
- Feb 19 to 21 – **Family Day/No School**
- Feb 22-23 – **Teachers Convention – No School**
- Feb 28 – *Pink Shirt Day*
- Mar 1 – Swim Classes start

Council Business:

- Rebekah Lodge letter sent early January, will have a response after their January meeting. Council will revisit this in next month's meeting. In the meantime the pathway has been purchased. (Yay!) Plans for install are underway and we are hoping to have it completed over the February break.
- Playground Shade device: (Tiegan) *currently outside of budget abilities- far exceeds what's left in the playground account.
- *may revisit at the next council budget/spending meeting.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:36pm

Fundraising Meeting opens @ 7:37pm

Treasurer Update by Tricia Swallow -

General account: \$16,130.84

Casino: \$34,040.21

Playground: \$6687.45

PC Food Support: \$7323.90

Fundraising Update by Kristin Ellis -.

- Update on Gift Card fundraiser: A total of \$4005.00 raised. 17 families were supported.
 - As per Mrs. Mace the families overwhelming response to this initiative was “Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!”. Families were thankful that the school and parent council were supporting families as well as students. Amazing community and staff support.
- 50/50 raised \$1292.50 between the 4 concerts. This money is allocated to the music department.
- Plans are underway for Candy grams in Feb

Hot Lunch Update by Pam Milligan -

- Orders are going well. Volunteers are sadly still lacking, coverage is minimal and usually the same group of people.
- We will/have added a note to the teachers weekly email to parents. Hopefully this will make more parents aware of the need.

3-year plan update:

- Basic reviews have been done by council members since the last meeting. Agreement was made that the numbers looked to accurately reflect council budgets and spending allocations
- Money allocations for programs that have been selected to be the recipient ie: dance=Phys Ed Department, concerts 50/50= music department– do those teachers know the allocations that are available to them? Most teachers are aware of these funds to be spent. Reminders will go out to make sure all teachers are aware.

Funding request:

- Teacher allowances were discussed - it was decided to increase these this year. Teachers shall receive \$150 each as well as EA's receiving \$50 each. With a total of 17 teachers and 10 EA's there is a total allowance of \$3050.00.
 - Jody Hoogwerf motioned to approve \$3050.00 from the general account for teacher supplies
 - Seconded by Dannielle Woodruff
 - All were in favor
- Teachers requesting funds to have "Scientist in School" come to classrooms (Virtual Field Trip)
- Cost Recovery for sleds for recess - \$250?

Meeting adjourned @ 8:08pm

Next meeting- Feb 14th @ 6:30pm in the learning commons