

Spitzee Elementary School Council Agenda

January 8, 2025

Attendees: Bill Holmes, Phil Irwin, Jody Hoogwerf, Karalee Fox, Tess Pfeifer, Tiegan Jamison, Dannielle Woodruff, Marney Thomas, Barbara Calabrees, Tricia Swallow
Regrets: Rozlyn Neighbor

Call to order @ 6:35PM on January 8 2024

Welcome & introductions: current council exec & staff

Chairperson- Jody Hoogwerf

Vice Chairperson- Tiegan Jamison

Treasurer- Tricia Swallow/Karalee Fox

Secretary- Tess Pfeifer

Fundraising Chair - Dannielle Woodruff

Teacher Rep- Barbara Calabrese

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 - Karalee Fox

Second- Jody Hoogwerf

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

Foothills Footnotes

- For November - How evidence-informed decisions advance continuous improvement
[Footnotes-2024 11](#)

System-Based Delegations & Presentations

- Sandy Stewart from Transportation reported on bussing within the division:
 - 72 routes and fulltime buses ... with 13 spare buses
 - 13 spare bus drivers
 - Grade level of students dictates the size and number of buses needed
 - New drive limit changes dictate that 8 additional buses will be needed for next year
- Caroline Roberts shared the school division's Annual Education Results (AERR) with the Board on the website.
- Drew Chipman presented the Audited Financial Statements for the 2023-2024 school year. The division came in under budget but still had to rely on using some of the reserves that the Board had agreed to tap into to meet the division's financial needs on the website.
- Dave Roberts and Carolyn Lenstra presented their school's Education Plan focused on engagement, support, and success. Their presentation was followed by a detailed and informative report by the school's French Immersion department highlighting its areas of success, areas for growth, and next steps.
- Dave Barton, Director of Risk and Materials Management, gave a presentation that included updates on training, site inspections, hazard assessments, and incident reviews. 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 petitioned the Minister of Education to enter into a Loan Agreement to purchase 10 buses in order to meet the walk limits scheduled to come into effect next September. As well, the Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding between FSD and the Bus Driver Assoc.
- The Board discussed the recent COSC meeting held in FCHS. The meeting was well-attended by school council chairs and members. The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2025.
- Changes to AP 423 re: "Instructional Time" were reviewed.
- Trustees, Exec Team members, and/or some FSD officials will be attending the numerous concerts that will be taking place with the division before the Christmas break. In the High River area alone, there are five such programs with some being offered more than once so all parents can attend:
 - Highwood Jazz Concert – Thursday, November 28th
 - Highwood High Christmas Concert – Tuesday, December 10th
 - Spitzee Christmas Concert – Tuesday, December 10th and Thursday, December 12th
 - Joe Clark Christmas Concert – Thursday, December 12th
 - Senator Riley Christmas Concert – Tuesday, December 17th

Board Committee Responsibilities and Reports

- The Board was involved its own professional development session in December focusing on the needs within the system to be able to provide enhanced learning environments for all students.
- In December, the Board visited two of the schools - Blackie and Cayley - that have presented their education plans since September. We're calling it a "Celebration of the Education Plan in Action" visit. These visits replace the Boards annual visit to every school and will have a specific focus tied to each school's education plan.

Divisional / Ward 5 Highlights and Initiatives

- Phil Irwin – High River’s FSD Ward 5 Trustee and previous Director of RCASB from 2022-2024
- [Home | RCASB](#)

Learning Update-Barbara Calabrese

Barabara gave a quick presentation to the council, admin and trustees about her amazing work for her Doctorate on Nature Learning. She is working with the students in grade 4 looking at:

- Complexities in the province, insufficient emphasis on multimodal communication integration in formal learning contexts
- Neglecting to identify remove and prevent communication access barriers for communicate diverse students
- To see what representational choices that communicatively diverse grade 4 students make when engaging in place based nature journaling in sciences
- How do grade 4 students utilize the modal affordances of drawing to represent meaning
- Diversifying the understanding around these areas.

Importance of study

- Create communicatively accessible learning environments that accommodate a range of diverse communication needs
- Offer universal classroom supports, targeted interventions and strategies for individualized student learning programming
- Add multimodality place based learning nature journaling and elementary science education literature
- Grow teacher capacity, enhance student engagement

Questions

Can this be brought to other schools, to Senator Riley, so the learning does not stop here at spitzee?

Can this study go on the Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards website?

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

We are reviewing letters, sounds and numbers and continue to develop our fine motor and gross motor skills through various activities. Don't forget about the Jr. Kindergarten & Kindergarten Registration Night on Wednesday Jan 29th @ 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons.

Grade 1s

Reviewing reading skills and are grateful for the decodable books that the council have purchased. In writing we are looking back on all the sounds we have worked on before we move on to long vowels. In math, we will review identifying, creating, and extending patterns, as well as reviewing numbers to 100. We will then be moving on to addition and subtraction. We are exploring Energy in science and the movement of people and animals with a virtual field trip at the end of the month. Grade 1s continue to build intergenerational relationships with our 'Grand Friends' over at the Medicine Tree Manor. We have taught them a math game, read to them, sang our concert songs and delivered Christmas cards.

Grades 2s

In Gr 2 we have started 3 new units! Math: Patterns, Science: Light Energy, and Social Studies: a community in the north (Nunavut). We "flew" to Nunavut with airline snacks, airline seating configurations, and views from the window (simulation) to get excited about this new Canadian community. We are finding repeating patterns in our surroundings, including those in songs such as a kid-friendly version of Queen's "We Will Rock You"

Grade 3s

This month in grade 3, students will be continuing in Learning Cycle 2 to learn about the concept of communication. In ELA, we will be building our vocabulary while writing descriptive sentences that communicate a clear meaning. In math, we will be focusing on our addition and subtraction strategies to understand addition and subtraction within 1000 while exploring word problem to discover what they are trying to communicate to us. We will use our computational skills in Science to help us to also understand and read maps in social. Grade 3 is looking forward to an amazing January!

Grade 4s

Critical thinking and perseverance are the big focus in 4K along with this is how we can work together to further our own and others' understanding in all subject areas. We are doing lots of critical thinking challenges where students for example see a zoomed in picture and then think about what they think it is and why (using evidence from what they can see and making inferences based on their own reading, learning or life experiences) then they talk in small groups and then we do a share out. In math we are doing this with some algebra puzzles, in Science with See, Think Wonder or a step inside which are thinking routines that all students can approach from all levels of ability.

- Math – big focus is on multiplication and will be pairing with division as well as continued place value work and starting to look at decimals.

- Science – Energy – Forces – students will be budding engineers as they learn about different forces and how energy (forces) impact objects.
- Social Studies – continue to learn about Alberta in the past and present
- Art – exploring representing things in different ways with different materials
- Health – Goal setting and making a plan to accomplish a goal.

Grade 4 / 5

We are continuing to explore space in science, conducting iterative design challenges to discover forces such as thrust, drag, lift and weight on our parachutes and planes. In social studies we are investigating time and place by exploring elements of timelines and maps and creating our own. We will be engaging in outdoor learning as we continue to observe and experience seasons in science.

Grade 5

We are currently working on Number Sense and Fractions in Mathematics. Our class works through this as a rotation of 4 "centres" which allows small group work with me each day. In Language Arts we are building proper paragraphs, working together on reading comprehension (joining it with our Science learning), focusing on spelling of single syllable long vowel words, and editing paragraphs so that we become better at editing our own work. In Social Studies we are finishing up our study of the 7 geographical regions of Canada. In Science we are finishing our unit on Matter.

Admin Procedures

- AP 110 – School Councils
- AP 205 - Controversial Issues
- AP 240 - Guidance & Counselling Services
- AP 309 - Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities
- AP 310 - Safety & Security of Students
- AP 315 - Students Healthy and Safety [CLICK HERE](#)
- AP 316 – Administration of Medication to Students [CLICK HERE](#)
- AP 330 - Student Attendance (via Spitzee School Facebook or Instagram)
- AP 414 - Safeguarding Learning Work Life Excellence

Upcoming Important Dates

- Jan 27 - Family Literacy Day
- Jan 27 – 30 - Spitzee Literacy Week – Activities TBA
- **Jan 29 Jr. Kindergarten & Kindergarten Registration Night**
- Jan 30 - FAA
- Jan 31 - PD Day
- Feb 7 - FSD Students' Matters Meeting
- Feb 7 - Learner Profiles Go Home to Families

Council Business:

The Giving Tree Fundraiser was a huge success! \$4085 dollars raised for 15 Spitzee families.

We have had lots of great feedback and many returning donors.

Check out this story from the Western Wheel!

[High River school's Giving Tree brightens holiday season - Okotoks & Foothills News](#)

Meeting adjourned @ 7:36PM

Fundraising Meeting opens @ 7:37PM

Treasurer report: By Tricia Swallow and Karalee Fox

General account: \$12,455.32

Casino: \$3202.30

Playground: \$6241.45

PC Food Support: \$8669.41

Fundraising Update by Dannielle Woodruff

We had a busy month in fundraising with all of the Christmas events

- 50/50 from the concerts: \$1200
- The Giving Tree - \$4085
- The Christmas Market - \$523
 - Look at tables - easy for moving them around for the market indoor/outdoor tables
 - Discuss booking Santa earlier next year - October
 - Possibly use Market funds for the Ski trip transportation
- Cookies dough - \$550
 - goes to the phys ed department
 - There was some feedback that it seemed like not a lot of cookie dough for what you pay, but in general it was a successful fundraiser.

Looking forward:

- Plan a movie night - possibly for Feb 13th
 - Talk to the donut guy for food options for the movie
- Readathon - researching options
- Brag Tags and Lollipops
- The Spitzee Christmas lights display in George Lane Park - Do any of our decorations need an upgrade or maintenance.
 - Tiegan will ask Kathy.

Requests for funds:

- Motion: Funds for 2x digital cameras for "Reporters":
\$99 each
Motioned by : Jody Hoogwerf
Seconded by: Danielle Woodruff
All in Favor: Yes

- Online Motion: Funds for 10 Pack of Ipads with a 3 year Applecare Warranty package:
\$5710.00 for the whole package
Motioned by: Jody Hoogwerf
Seconded by: Tricia Swallow
All in Favor: Yes

- Online Motion: Funds for Tempura Paint /Art Supplies:
Up to \$1000.00
Motioned by: Tricia Swallow
Seconded by: Rozlyn Neighbour
All in Favor: Yes

- Next meeting:
 - Look at “Two Schools One Book - funds to reduce prices and help out families.
Cost of prizes - no movies for this book - Approximately \$10 a book
 - Funds for 2 more chromebooks

Meeting adjourned @ 8:16PM

Next meeting- February 12th, 2025 @ 6:30PM