

Spitzee Elementary School Council minutes

Attendees: Phil Irwin, Shannon Culbert, Bill Holmes, Jody Hoogwerf, Tiegan Jamison, Kristin Ellis, Dannielle Woodruff, Angela Morris, Cathy King, Kylie Sigglekow, Maureen Misura

Regrets: Tricia Swallow

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

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 - Angela Morris

Second- Kristin Ellis

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

FOOTHILLS FOOTNOTES for January/February:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAF7SU2wcYI/5Msg_6jaIAwNFuJZufRTw/view?utm_content=DAF7SU2wcYI&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=editor

- With a focus on the 2024-2025 Calendar. Some of the commitments and considerations the division must be mindful of when building its academic calendar. Check it out on the FSD website or the new FSD APP!

System-Based Delegations & Presentations:

- The admin teams from Ecole Foothills Composite High School (February 14th) and Doctor Morris Gibson School (March 6th) presented their Education Plans that highlighted the great things that are happening in their respective schools to support students, their learning and wellbeing, and their school communities.
- Employee Services Annual report – Angie Zimmer, Manager of Human Resources
- Director of Student Learning JK-6 – Dinah Van Donzel
- Staff and Wellness Learning presentation by Director Chase Ellis
- Communications & Community Engagement update with Sara Fox – Manager of Communications and Community Engagement 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.

Information / Discussion Items:

- Administrative Procedures are designed to operationalize Board policies. APs 224, 250, 430, 417, and 309 were reviewed during the two Board meetings in January.
- The Policy Review Committee met on February 15, 2024, to review the Appendixes of Policy 2 –Role of the Board, ensuring the most 'up to date' documents are located on the Division website as the Board moves closer to its first evaluation using the new Board of Trustee Governance Quality Standards.
- The Board met with CTR on Feb. 29th to discuss areas of concern, cooperation, and celebration.
- The provincial budget was announced on March 1st and the determination of the implications and impact to the division are pending further study and investigation.
- The new high school has moved to the design stage of funding in the March 1st budget.
- A short six question survey related to Policy 14: A Place for All was sent out to school council chairs. Due to a minimal response, the deadline has been

extended until Easter Break. Please complete this so that your voice is heard re: admin procedures related to the policy.

Board Committee Reports:

- The Board continued its work on Governance Learning relating to its focus on the importance of “system-ness” and how that is demonstrated and implemented within Foothills S.D.
- The Policy Review Committee met and, in consultation with Caroline Roberts, have set in motion the use of AERR and the division’s parallel survey to help guide budget decisions based on identified needs and areas for growth as a result of these two surveys.
- Trustee Irwin and Evans attended the Alberta Rural Education Symposium in Edmonton.

Division Highlights:

- In February and March, the Board conducted local tours of the four High River schools in addition to Highwood’s two rural feeder schools – Cayley and Blackie.

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

Engagement/Continuous Improvement:

- Our younger students are reading decodable readers, blending sounds
- They are creating/finding patterns and exploring lines of symmetry in math
- Students are focusing on cause and effect and making scientific connections in reading
- They are learning about the festivals in Iqaluit, including throat singing and traditional Inuit food
- Students are ranking the most important items in space and are recording sunrise and sunset times
- They are practicing to have quick recall of 6x, 7x, and 8x facts (and their related division facts)
- Using “The Day the Crayons Quit” as a model, they are using their creativity and expressive vocabulary as they pattern their writing to create “The Days the Teachers Quit”
- Our Grade 5 students enjoyed a great day of skiing at Castle Mountain last Friday
- We are hearing great feedback from students about the Two Schools One Book “Stuart Little”
- 10 new IPADs have arrived so that we can start to use them again in Gr 1 & K groupings.

Support:

- Classes are continuing to be engaged in place-based learning
- Literacy & Numeracy interventions have begun for some students
- We hired 1.5 new EAs through Jordan's Principle funding; they have both been with us for a few weeks now
- Teachers are signing up to work with our Learning Coach to further develop their classroom support plans
- We have two student teachers, 1 in grade 5 and one in grade 3
- Our Family School Liaison Counselor is teaching Mind Up in grade 5 and, coming soon, grade 4

Success:

- Kindergarten students are using simple coding with our bugbots
- Badminton Skills / Spring Training – Baseball Type Activities and Games
- Bird research continues – Welcome Jim Critchley "The Bird Man"
- Advancing Truth & Reconciliation
- Communication of assessments, learning
- Teachers are preparing for another day of working with Garfield Gini-Newman, looking at Learning that Transfers and..
 - How to engage students in their learning
 - How to get students thinking more deeply about their learning
 - How to reduce teacher workload

Upcoming Important Dates:

- **March 28 – Pajama Day**
- **March (28) – Talent Show – Live & Recorded – Gym Only (11 – Noon & 1 – 2 p.m.)**
- **March 29 to April 5 – Easter Break**
- **April 8 – Classes Resume**
- **April 9 – Green Shirt Day**
- **April 10 - School Council Meeting - 6:30 pm**
- **April 11 – K Miss Daisy & 5R Start Swim Lessons x 4**
- **April 22 / 23 – Divisional Learning Days - No School for Students**
- **April 24 – Administrative Professional Day**
- **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.**

Council Business:

PC Charity fund is not accepting applications at this time and we will not be considered for the funds for the 24/25 year.

Q: Are there other things we can reach out to?

-Some suggestions and ideas were thrown out. Advertising in the Biz for donations of food items or asking for specific items for parents to add an item or two to their weekly shop? WildRose Food Connexx may have some information? Possibly look into the 100 Women program? Council will let this sit for this month. Allow more information to be collected and will revisit this issue in next month's meeting.

AP 350 Review/Feedback: Council reviewed and discussed the questions on the survey and Jody will draft the answers and submit our council feedback.

Council Positions:

Q: should we start to advertise now? Council will start advertising for new positions starting now. Hopefully we can start getting replies and answers from parents in the near future.

Q: At what intervals? Bi-weekly? Monthly? We will highlight a different position bi-weekly on the Council's social media. Hopefully with these posts and parents sharing these posts we can get more people interested and hyped up to join us in the upcoming months to prepare for the next year.

Money for gift cards - amazon, dollar store, class ask money.

Looking into the possibility of draws for teachers who bring parents to monthly meetings, draws to enter for parents who are able to attend and check out our monthly meeting. Also, discussed having the council at the Kindergarten meet and greet on May 24 to answer questions from the parents that will be new to the school in September as well as encourage them to come check out the council meetings and see what we can do in our children's school.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:12 pm

Fundraising Meeting opens @ 8:13 pm

Treasurer report:

As submitted via email March 13, 2024. (Although the casino account still shows a large balance, this is money that had been approved to be spent)

General account: \$14,241.44

Casino: \$21,722.57

Playground: \$6,689.75

PC Food Support: \$5,147.15

Fundraising Update:

- Candygrams from February had a profit of \$288.85 which has been promised (and delivered) to the school library.
- Planning and organizing has begun for our Mother's Day fundraiser in May. Looking to order flowers, baskets from Growing Smiles. With sales dates mid April and Delivery the week before Mother's Day (May 12th).
 - We will need to source volunteers for delivery day. (off loading trucks, directing pickups etc)
- Planning for Bacon sales to be set up for mid May
- Also looking into setting up the Bottle Drive competition with Ecole Joe Clark for the weekend after the May long weekend (May 25-26)

February Spending meeting update:

Here's the list of recent Casino fund purchases that the school now has.

- 10 iPads
- 1 class set of Rekenreks (updated abacus)
- 7 sets of binoculars
- 12 gel printing plates and brayers for printmaking
- 2 class sets of whiteboards
- 2 chairs for the Learning Commons (ordered but not delivered yet)
- Cricut machine
- 16 journals
- Shelves for extra clothing

Also to note:

- The sensory paths have been installed in two hallways
- The school has borrowed a stationary bike to try as a regulation tool

Request for funds:

- School is requesting help purchasing prizes for the Carnival at the end of June.
 - Motion was made to cover up to \$200 for treats.
Motion: Jody Hoogwerf
Second: Kristin Ellis
All approved
- Request was made for help covering the costs of kids going to see the Stuart Little movie at Wales Theater on March 26. Council voted to cover the entire cost.
 - Motion was made to cover up to \$2000. This will cover the cost of each student to see the movie as well as any extra can cover the costs of any books for Two Schools One Book still owing. Students and teachers will go in two groups on March 26th. One at 11 am and one at 1pm to see the movie at the theater.
Motion: Jody Hoogwerf
Second: Angela Morris
All approved

Meeting adjourned @ 8:35 pm

Next meeting- April 10 @ 6:30 pm