

## **Spitzee Elementary School Council Minutes**

### **March 12 2025**

Attendees: Tiegan Jamison, Rozlyn Neighbor, Shannon Culbert, Bill Holmes, Cathy King, Krista Mace, Jen Livesey-Moore, Tricia Swallow, Jody Hoogwerf, Tess Pfeifer, Jaki T., Kaitlynn McCraig, Amanda ?, Jamie Yasinski, Kylie Siggelkow  
Regrets: Phil Irwin, Karalee Fox, Danielle Woodruff

Call to order @ 6:33PM

**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-

### **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 - Tiegan Jamison

Second - Tricia Swallow

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

Due to strike action, Trustees are not able to attend Council Meetings at this time, Mr. Irwin provided his monthly update online.

Foothills Footnotes ... found on the FSD website

February 2025: How we continue to advance innovation and design

[Footnotes February 2025](#)

#### System-Based Delegations & Presentations

- Angie Zimmer – Human Resources
- Monica Crane and Rob Gallacher – Foothills Digital School & Outreach Program
- Andrea Laubman – Longview School Education Plan
- Chase Ellis – Professional Learning & Education Partner Relations
- Doug Stevens – Student Learning

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 February 10th for a "movie night" to watch "Backpack Full of Cash" – a look at the impact of public funding being used by governments for charter schools.
- Policy 8: Policy and Review is currently out for review
- AP Update: AP 403 (Harassment Prevention Reporting and Investigation)
- The Board met with the Board of Christ the Redeemer School Division on February 27th to discuss education-based concerns that both boards are facing.
- The Alberta Budget was delivered on the afternoon of February 27th and initial thoughts about its impact on our system were shared.
- CUPE members from FSD gave 72-hour strike notice to the division on February 20th and are currently exercising their right to strike. .

#### Board Committee Responsibilities and Reports

- Trustee Penzo reported on the success of the Friends of Foothills Foundation's Gala held on February 7th with local musician George Canyon providing the entertainment.
- Trustee Molyneux reported on the February 6th Students Matters meeting that had student representation from all four High River Schools.
- Trustee Irwin and Evans reported on the Rural Caucus meeting held at this year's Alberta Rural Education Symposium in Edmonton from March 2-4.

#### Divisional / Ward 5 Highlights and Initiatives

- Teachers attended the Palliser Teachers' Convention in Calgary on February 20th and 21st. Convention is an important part of each teacher's professional development and a great opportunity to network with colleagues from a number of school divisions in relatively close proximity to the City of Calgary. Respectfully submitted, Phil Irwin – Trustee for Ward 5 / High River

### **Learning Update-** Cathy King, Krista Mace

- Critical Thinking and Creative Thinking
- Krista and Cathy gave us a fun demonstration on how they like to engage the kids in different ways of thinking and make deeper connections
- We were shown a zoomed in picture of something and had to make a guess of what the item was and then justify the thinking.
- There is no right or wrong answer
- Other examples were sets of numbers that have one that does not belong, given an image of a line and asked to finish the picture.
- It helps the kids look at something they are familiar with and see it in a different way.

### **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://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...**

- Feb 19th PD Day – Morning – We heard a presentation from the ATA on Executive Functioning ~ Afternoon – We worked on developing our Eagle Culture
- Teachers attended a variety of sessions at Convention
- Learning to support our students with 12 less staff

- Activities which have been scaled back or postponed due to the Labour Action:
  - Two Schools One Book
  - Signing out library books
  - Outdoor Learning Trips
  - Grade 5 Electives
  - Guitar Club
  - Reading Club
  - Badminton
  - Playground has been reduced in size
  - Alternating “large playground” recesses (K to 2 & Gr 3 to 5)
  - Some field trips
  - Talent Show
  - Run Club
  - Field Day / Sports Day
  - Spitzee Carnival

#### **Upcoming Important Dates**

- March 21 PD Day
- March 24/25 Regular School Days for students & staff
- March 25 Jr Kindergarten Screening
- March 28 Beach Day
- March 31 PD Day
- April 2 Student Led Conferences – 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.
- April 3 Student Led Conferences – 3:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- April 7 Green Shirt Day – Organ Donor Awareness
- April 9 School Council @ 6:30
- April 8, 10, 15, 17 Gr 2's Swimming
- April 18 – 27 Easter Break

#### **Council Business:**

Spitzee Council would formally like to recognize the 12 staff in Spitzee school and the close to 6000 staff across the province of Alberta who are taking strike action at this time. Council recognizes the insurmountable work the Support Staff put forth in order to make schools for ALL children a safe, respectful, flourishing environment in which to learn. Their absence in the school does not go unnoticed, and we the parents of the children they have chosen to teach, support and love stand with them.

Council would like to show the same level of respect and admiration to the teachers for elevating their already incredible efforts in regards to our children's education while our support staff are on strike. We formally thank all of Spitzee teachers for working over and above while their fellow faculty can't be here.

**Meeting adjourned @ 6:59PM**

**Fundraising Meeting opens @ 6:59PM**

-Treasurer report: Tricia Swallow  
General account: \$7359.78  
Casino: \$3197.84  
Playground: \$6121.45  
PC Food Support: \$5265.55

**Fundraising Update** by Dannielle Woodruff

All fundraising efforts will be put on hold due to the strike action. Council does not want to put any asks out to the teachers at this time due to their increased workload without Support Staff in the building. Fundraising efforts will resume when the strike action is over.

- Use \$150.00 from the general account to pay for lunch for picketing support staff to be paid out of the general account

Motioned by: Jody Hoogwerf

Seconded by: Danneille Woodruff

All in favor: Yes

- Use \$150.00 from the general account to pay or lunch for the teaching staff

Motioned by: Danielle Woodruff

Seconded by: Tiegan Jamison

All in favor: Yes

**Request for Funds**

- MegaPhone with handheld microphone – 16 – 30 watts - \$173 – Sportfactor
  - For use at Sports Day, Outdoor events

Motioned by: Tess Pfeifer

Seconded by: Tiegan Jamison

All in favor: Yes

- Climbing Wall on the stage – **Waiting for a quote**
  - Used during student regulation activities
  - Used for PE (e.g. Mission Impossible), Field Day Station, Regulation of Students

- Chromebooks - \$363 each (includes GST).

Discussion: Purchase 10 in June with proceeds from Hot Lunch, then 10 in Jan 2026 (after casino), 10 in June 2026, etc

### Questions/Comments

- Kaitlynn McCraig - Is there a wishlist of items that the teachers need at this time?  
How can parents help?
  - Bill will put out an ask to the staff.
  - Parents can ask their teachers
- Great communication from the council at this time!

**Meeting adjourned @ 7:23PM**

**Next meeting-** April 9, 2025 @ 6:30PM