

Spitzee Elementary School Council minutes

Attendees: Shannon Culbert, Bill Holmes, Phil Irwin, Jody Hoogwerf, Dannielle Woodruff, Tricia Swallow, Karen Larter, Denise Sanderson, James Holladay, Griffin Ellis, Karalee Fox, Amanda (Gr 5 parent), Louise (Gr 5 parent), Kylie Sigglekow, Tiegan Jamison, Angela Morris, Jared Tailfeathers, Marica Law
Regrets: Kristin Ellis

Call to order @ 6:30pm

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- Denise Sanderson & Karen Larter

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- Angela Morris

Presentation from Friends of Foothills Foundation (presented by Marica Law)(10 minutes, 5 minutes for questions/discussion)

What are we?

CRA-registered Foundation & Alberta Society

Who are we?

Foothills community members, Voting members (Retired teachers, business owner, community members, FSD staff), Non-voting members (FSD trustee, FSD administration)

Relationship with FSD

Independent | Arms length – provided seed money toward operational costs

Vision

To remove financial barriers that impede academic success

Mission

To build a community that empowers the students of Foothills School Division

What is the need?

Public funding from Alberta Education addresses basic education opportunities

Students will benefit from enhancements in their education

We need to get your input

Personal presentation

Questions sent through 'Bang the Table'

What does our Foundation see as it's mandate?

Enhanced Learning Support

Every child can succeed when equipped with the right resources

Support for mental health, technology, psycho-education assessments

Emergency Relief for Families

Provide opportunities to level the playing field by offering equal opportunity & access

Assist students with emergent needs that prohibit them from participating fully in their education

Empower Flourishing Communities

Encourage & support students to engage in innovative projects that are self-sustaining, encourage community engagement, & environmental sustainability

Fund Development vs FundRaising

Long term sustainability for the Foundation

Grants, endowments, donations, lottery funds

Long term goal

To be fully sustainable within 5 years

To work collaboratively with Parent Councils to enhance educational success for our students

Projects

Picnic with a Purpose – George Lane Park, Sunday, June 9

Golf Tournament – Tuesday, August 22, 2024

Bang the Table Survey (List of Questions for Your Input)

This survey response is for the following School Council

- How do you determine your funding priorities?
- What are the three greatest needs within your school, besides human resources that you could address if you had the funds?
- For what needs is your School Council currently raising funds? How are you fundraising in the year?
- What are the biggest obstacles you encounter when trying to raise funds?
- How do you see FFSF supporting your School Council?

If you have any input on this survey you would like included. Please forward your information to the Spitzeecouncil@gmail.com on or by May 25th to have it added to council's response.

Web Site: [Friends of Foothills Schools \(foothillsschooldivision.ca\)](http://foothillsschooldivision.ca)

Contact the Foundation: hello@foothillsfriends.ca

403.422.0274

FFSF Fast facts: Did you know? In the High River area stats show that child poverty affects 13.8% of children. That works out to 200+ kids in our area!

Presentation from James Holladay (Ecole Senator Riley Middle School) (30 minutes)

Council had a quick presentation from James Holladay & Griffin Ellis regarding the Grade 5 transition to Ecole Senator Riley. Some of the highlights:

- Senator is a Cell free school (for the 3rd year in a row)
- Daily (50 min) P.E. classes - Highly beneficial for this age group
- Many activities, clubs and sports for kids to join
- Encouragement of students to use their voices in all areas
- Plenty of Extra Interventions for Literacy and Numeracy
- Band is mandatory in Grade 6 and optional afterwards
- Try to schedule on 'option' per day – Band &/+ Drama/French/Art
- Created "Friday afternoons" a 2 hr block that staff schedule in a multitude of wellness afternoon/ experience classes that rotate and change each month. Examples: shop, cooking, fishing, curling, bowling, coding, pottery, cartooning.
- "Greatest Fear moving into Gr.6? Locks and lockers! Senator offers plenty of options for touring the school as well as presentations for the students on how the lockers work. They also offer locks to take home over the summer to practice.
- First school tour is currently booked for June 21st**

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

Foothills Footnotes

- for April & May 2024

https://media.foothillsschooldivision.ca/media/Default/medialib/footnotes-2024-04_final.b2518918930.pdf

Focusing on setting a balanced budget within the current funding profile set out by the provincial government for FSD.

https://media.foothillsschooldivision.ca/media/Default/medialib/footnotes-2024-05_final.a67a0a19134.pdf

Focusing on how we are ensuring First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Education for all learners.

System-Based Delegations & Presentations (April 24th and May 8th Board Meetings)

- French Immersion Report from Andrea Laubman - fulltime K for JC & Pegler numbers permitting, focus on retention grade 9 through 12, and improved overall reading levels.
- Student Learning (7-12) & Assurance Data by Director of Student Learning Doug Stevens - focusing on Continuous Improvement Assurance and Advancing Innovation and Design strategies and data.
- Inclusive Learning & Student Well-Being Report by Director Cora-Leah Schmitt - "Building a Trauma Informed Culture" two-day workshop on April 22nd-23rd.
- Risk and Materials Management by Dave Barton - focusing on school inspections and assessments, field trips, and school furniture and equipment.

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 made to the Board.

Information / Discussion Items

- Superintendent of Corporate Services Drew Chipman and his staff continue to work with the Alberta Ed and Exec Team regarding the funding challenges facing the school division as they prepare the budget for the upcoming school year.
- During its self-evaluation, the Board recognized that their Governance Quality Standards document needed to be tweaked to better reflect its duties and responsibilities. Advancing a Culture of Learning was revised both in title and focus to Supporting Effective Governance.
- The Minister of Education and Minister of Mental Health and Addiction have been invited by the Board to attend the Foothills Youth and Mental Wellness Summit in Okotoks on May 14th.

Board Committee Reports

- ASBA Zone 5, Young Authors Conference, ATA PD Committee, Staff Advisory, and Milestones

Division Highlights

- The Board visited Longview School and Turner Valley School in April in its ongoing commitment to be in schools throughout the division to see firsthand the impact of the governance decisions that are made to support ongoing student learning and well-being.
- Sierra Havinga -- a first year teacher from Ecole Okotoks Junior High School and this year's FSD representative for the Edwin Parr Award -- will be attending the Zone 5 banquet and ceremony this month along with her administration, ward trustees, members of Exec Team, and our trustees who serve on the Zone 5 committee.

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

Engagement/Continuous Improvement

- Poetry in the Park is coming!
- Butterflies in Kindy
- Gr 5 Badminton Tournament @ ESRMS
- Twin / Dress like a Staff Member Day – May 2
- Various Field Trips
- Run Club is under way again – Bronco Bolt is June 5
- Planning for Volunteer Appreciation – May 10

Support

- We had our first Family Groupings session; it seemed like a big success. We talked in the gym with the whole school ahead of time about feeling a little nervous (tried to normalize this). Two more family groupings this year, then direct into next year.
- Support Staff PD: Interventions to Enhance Executive Functioning Skills
 - Interventions to Enhance Executive Functioning Skills
 - Self-Regulation & Big Emotions
 - Working with Highly Emotionally Dysregulated Children
- Playground schedule so older students can have time for their “fast games” without having to worry about knocking over their little buddies
- Mental Health Awareness Week
- Trauma Informed Learning Conference: Our plan, after 2 days of learning, is to strengthen connections through 3 practices:
 - Family groupings with intentionality
 - Starting staff meetings with connections
 - Making positivity phone calls

Success

- Our Grade 5 students are enjoying their next round of CTF explorations and building relationships with new adults in the building
- Advancing Truth & Reconciliation: Our mural has some “I Spy” type additions... Can you find them?
- Montreal delegation, which included staff and students from QC, thoroughly enjoyed touring the school, our work with Indigenous Learning, IMC and even better, participating in the field study with 5L
- Kookum is coming to visit classrooms tomorrow
- Grade 1 students are learning about the past, visiting the museum and Sheppard Family Park

Our incoming Kindergarten students will be here for an hour on May 24th to have fun with their teachers and their peers. While the kids are in the classroom, School Council members are going to be here to answer parent questions about what school is like and how they can support their child's learning.

Upcoming Important Dates

- May 16 – **Western Heritage Day** (Indigenous students or staff may want to dress in their traditional clothing)
- May 17 – **PD Day - No School for Students**
- May 20 – **Victoria Day – No School**
- May 21-24 – **BOTTLE WARS - EAGLES VS BRONCOS**
- May 24 – **“Welcome to Kindergarten Day!”**
- May 29 – **Senator Riley Band @ Spitzee to perform**
- May 29 – **ASCA Awards Night @ Spitzee**
- June 4 – **Crazy Hair Day**
- June 5 – **Bronco Bolt– Run Club Event**
- June 12 – **School Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m.**
- June 14 – **Sports Day**
- June 20 – **Orange Shirt Day**
- June 21 – **PD Day - No School for Students**
- June 25 – **Gr 5 Farewell**
- June 27 – **Family Carnival & Magician – LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS**
- June 28 – **Operations Day – Staff Only**

Council Business:

- Award presentation update: Our Parent Council ASCA award night is scheduled for May 29 at 6pm. The guest list includes ASCA representatives, the Mayor, FSD trustees, a representative from our local paper. We are also hoping to get as many Spitzee school staff and parents available, volunteers from all steps of building our amazing playground and hopefully some of our amazing Spitzee students to show off all the ways our playground can be used! It will be a quick evening with some thank yous and a quick speech or two. We're hoping to have some cake and water for everyone to enjoy.
- Welcome day for kindergarten update: Kindy Meet & Greet is scheduled for May 24th 8-3:30. We have 5 groups of parents/kids coming in on this day to meet teachers and check out their classroom. We will have parent volunteers on hand to answer parent questions about the school, parent council, and anything else they may query. Also have Tiegan, Angela and Tricia working on “Swag bags” for parents with information on school and town services & draws for a planter or Spitzee clothing items. Hoping to provide coffee & treats for parents as well.
- Bottle Wars update: Scheduled for May 21-24. Trailers to be in the school lot to collect bottles. Sign wars to start up and social media has already started spreading information and “Trash” talk.

- Council still working on recruiting for new council members. Possibly need to work on getting together this summer to make a plan for a more 'Old school' approach in the new year. (ex. Bake sales, picnic in the park, saturday morning 'coffee with council', Spot the council member - get a Colossi's coffee) Hopefully we can destigmatize the "scariness" and "strict etiquette" of council meeting and council roles.

Treasurer report:

General account: \$13,688.18

Casino: \$21,714.42

Playground: \$6,687.45

PC Food Support: \$4,104.27

PC Charity application has been approved. We now have plenty to spend on 'healthy' choices for our year end celebrations. The \$4000 needs to be spent by end of year and we have been approved for \$8000 for the 2024-25 year.

Fundraising Update by Kristin Ellis -.

Flower fundraiser profit \$1037.25 plus
1x hanging basket (for kindy open house draw)

Bacon update - Selling May 15-27th with delivery June 5th.

Request for funds:

Funds request for 2L and 2B Zoo trip to launch science unit.

Motion to approve: Karalee Fox

Seconded: Angela Morris

All in Favor - Yes

Grade 5 Dictionaries - On the agenda to approve the \$400-600 that wasn't accepted by the Rebekahs. Great News!! As per Mrs. Larter, Senator Riley is refurbishing a portion of their library - including a section of dictionaries. These are still up to date and in great shape. Senator Riley has graciously agreed to donate these to our grade 5 classes!

Funds requested to cover up to \$300, towards the kindergarten meet & greet bags, from the general account.

Motion to approve: Angela Morris

Seconded: Karalee Fox

All in favor - Yes

Funds requested for the Grade 5 Farewell party:

Up to \$100 for cake and pop out of the general account.

Motion to approve: Jody Hoogwerf

Seconded: Angela Morris

All in favor - Yes

Up to \$500 for food and other (as motioned previously this year)

Motion to approve: Jody Hoogwerf

Seconded: Angela Morris

All in favor - Yes

Meeting adjourned @ 8:36pm

Next meeting- June 12 @ 6:30pm