

Spitzee Elementary School Council minutes

Attendees: Shannon Culbert (Principal), Bill Holmes (Vice Principal), Phil Irwin (Trustee), Alison Brown, Tiegan Jamison, Tricia Swallow, Jody Hoogwerf, Kristen Ellis, Sanae Hjala, Dannielle Woodruff

Regrets:

Call to order @ 6:36pm

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- Melany Connor

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).

FOOTHILLS FOOTNOTES for November

https://media.foothillsschooldivision.ca/media/Default/medialib/footnotes-2023-11_final.1d5e5816757.pdf

- Engagement - The many ways that parents can get engaged with their child's school. From Parent Council meetings through letters to MLAs on behalf of the FSD. All Engagement benefits. Also read about How we are supporting wellbeing with November's reading week.

Presentations:

- Dinah VanDonzel, Director of Student Learning JK-6 shared about the new curriculum and how they are supporting the FSD. Spitzee School shared their Education Plan. Doug Stevens shared about Student Learning (Gr. 7-12) and Assurance data.

Action Items:

- Policy 1 was reviewed following changes being made to the policy.
- The Board approved FSD developing a 5-year Ed Plan to replace its 3-year

Information Items:

- The Board continued reviews making sure policies are consistent with mission, vision, and purpose. Also looked at updated APs re: Field Trips, School Councils, Supplementary Learning Resources, and Severe Allergies.
- More work done by the Board re: the new High school in Okotoks, transportation-related issues, and desire to secure a mental health integrated hub for the Foothills region along with additional funding for its Integrated School Support Programs.

Board Committee Reports:

- The Awards Committee met and refined the criteria for its "Flourishing Foothills Community Awards".
- Our professional learning for trustees this year will focus on "system-ness".

Division Highlights:

- FSD was granted \$50 000 from AB Education in support of the Oilfields High School Vertical Farm Initiative. This program has also won a \$3000 grant.

Other Notes:

- The meeting with the Right Honorable R.J. Sigurdson on Oct 24 was a successful start to open lines of communication with the MLA/Agriculture Minister from the Okotoks region.
- Remembrance Services on Nov 9th at Joe Clark and throughout the division on the 10th.
- Reading Week was Monday, Nov 13th-17th
- Fast Poll Survey re: Parent reception on the new reading week in Nov.

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

- The Ed Plan is posted on our website. PD Day on Nov 27th with keynote Dr. Dwayne Donald will focus on Building Thinking Classrooms, Coding and AI in the classroom, Enhancing Self-Regulation & Motivation through Student Goal Setting, Understanding Autism, Literacy Hot Topics in Education Media, Matific, & Creating Connections in the Classroom.

At Spitzee These Days

- Students are busy with novel studies, presenting book talks, thoroughly enjoying their new book fair treasures and those purchased by generous parents for the classrooms.
- Students are designing and building their own inventions as assessments for their "Matter" unit and cleaning up the mess after their pumpkin experiments.
- Students are researching famous Canadians, the fur trade and its impact on First Nations people, as well as learning about the Holocaust.
- Students are learning "shifting" strategies (like 5000 – 1999 to 4999 – 1998) amongst other subtraction strategies (they will also learn traditional algorithms).
- Younger mathematicians are learning about trapezoids and extending patterns.
- Choir is busy practicing handbells. All classes are starting to practice for the upcoming concert season.
- PE classes have been working on Sending and Receiving Skills using Basketball and Soccer Games. They have also been working on 'Striking with an Implement' activities such as floor hockey. Physical Literacy is now about building skills that are transferable to any / all sports vs. previous learning where students "did a sport". The aim is to develop confidence for life long pursuits in being physical.
- Gr 5 Triple Ball continues on 29th at the FC Fieldhouse at Aldersyde. Gr 5 Basketball will begin on Wednesday Jan 10th.
- We are so pleased with the progress of artist Jared Tailfeathers in transforming our Gathering Area. Volunteers are needed to install painter's tape at the top of the mural, and to prime over top of the Dr. Seuss painting. Please contact the office if you're interested.
- Staff committee met with the Director of Tech Services, K-6 Learning and the Numeracy Learning Lead about our old iPads and their inability to access online math resources. We are working on solutions within the building (ie, sharing Chromebooks), but there may also be a request to support with some new tech.
- AHS Rural Allied Health has been providing Social Emotional Learning lessons to our Gr 2 & 1 students, with Kindergarten lessons up next. This "We Thinkers" program teaches concepts like "Thinking thoughts & feeling feelings", "Group Plan", and "Thinking with your eyes". Allied Health has designed an evening for families to come and build a treasure hunting ship - together - then hit the seas in

search of WE THINKER TREASURE. We hope this will translate into high numbers of participation with the entire intent being to share with parent/caregivers the WE THINKERS program and learn supportive language! Kindy, Gr 1 & 2 families are welcome Nov 30 at 4:45 in our gym.

Admin Procedures:

- [222-first-nations-metis-inuit-education-updated-november-21.6a72617166.pdf \(foothillsschooldivision.ca\)](https://www.foothillsschooldivision.ca/222-first-nations-metis-inuit-education-updated-november-21.6a72617166.pdf)

Upcoming Important Dates

- Nov 30 – We Thinkers Event! Ahoy, Mateys
- Dec 1 – **Red**, White & **Green** Day
- Dec 12 – *K to Gr 2 Christmas Concert* (No Tickets Required)
 - 1:30 p.m. – K to 2 Matinee Performance
 - 6:30 p.m. - K to Gr 2 – Evening Performance
- Dec 14 – *Gr 3 to 5 Christmas Concert* (Tickets Required – 4 tickets per family, per show to start)
 - 1:30 p.m. – Gr 3 to 5 / Choir – Dress Rehearsal
 - 5:30 p.m. - Gr 3 to 5 / Choir – Show #1
 - 7:00 p.m. - Gr 3 to 5 / Choir – Show #2
- **Dec 15 – PD Day**
- Dec 19 – Sweater Day - (funny, colorful, ugly, fuzzy, etc)
- Dec 20 – Choir performs to seniors (tentative)
- Dec 22 – Pajama Day – School's Out at 3:15 p.m.
- Jan 8 – Classes Resume

Council Business:

- Rebekah Lodge looking for opportunities to support Spitzee school, do we have any needs?
 - Proposed to ask the Rebekah Lodge about covering all or part of the costs to install a Regulation 'Sensory' Pathway. Pathway would encourage movements to increase learning as well as movements to facilitate calming. See more information under 'requests for funds'.
- Sunshades for the playground the money received from the Legion was to go towards that. Who would like to take the lead on pricing these out?
 - Council is hoping to schedule a presentation from Rochelle, regarding products and pricing, tentatively for the January council meeting.
 - possibly add an ask to find a knowledgeable parent who can take point

- Christmas hampers for families update
 - Proposed to do local food gift cards for families in need
 - Thru Jody Hoogwerf, Mindy and Mike of Crawford Insurance offered to donate \$1000 towards the gift card initiative.
 - Crawford Insurance would also like to incentivize other local small businesses to "meet or beat" this donation for local families
 - Gift cards would also be requested at our Christmas Concerts instead of /in conjunction with the usual food hamper items.
 - Gift cards to be requested through school staff and distributed thru Barb Kellog to keep confidentiality as a priority.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:04pm

Fundraising Meeting opens @ 8:04pm

Treasurer report:

General account: 14843.44

Casino: 35050.02

Playground: 6689.63

PC Food Support: 7339.40

Fundraising Update by Kristin Ellis -.

- Dance Oct 19th - Estimated that concession earned about \$300 to go towards PE equipment
- Christmas concert planning:
 - 50/50 draw is still a go. But no raffle this year.
 - Will send out an "Ask" for 8 parent volunteers to sell. (2 per concert)
 - We would also be collecting gift cards for Christmas hampers. Instead of /as well as food hamper donations.
 - Allison Brown generously offered to collect cards at all the concert times. To hang on a Christmas tree in the office.

Hot Lunch Report (Pam, Melissa, Madisyn)

On October 24 Pam updated that the issues with the hot lunch orders/ email issues were had been fixed

3-year plan update:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nCJRJ0MhMu98Shb5vEPFenaebjkYHSuv/edit?usp=drivesdk&oid=111635174852843042351&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Request for funds:

- Melany Connor is requesting funds for 'Sensory Path' to be purchased and put up in the hallway for mindful movement and regulation breaks. To be requested from Rebekkah's. Council will cover the remainder.
Requested funds are: (up to) \$3000.00 out of casino fund
Motion to approve : Kristen Ellis
Second : Tricia Swallow
All were in favor

Links for Regulation Pathways:

[Sensory Path - Going On a Bear Walk | Jump2Math Sensory Paths & Physical Math](#)

[Don't Walk in the Hallway - YouTube](#)

[Sensory Paths | Hallway Pathways | Floor Stickers | School Resource Directory \(schoolshows.ca\)](#)

- Teachers are requesting fund for Snacks for Dec 14th (before & between 5:30 & 7:00pm Concerts) to come from the Nutrition Grant. This request was supported. No motion required.
- On October 23 the council was asked about covering the cost of supper from Mr. Mike's for the parent teacher conference on November 2.
Jody Hoogwerf motioned to cover the cost of supper from the general account
Seconded by Tiegan Jaimeson
All were in favor.
- On November 11 the council was asked for funds to cover licensing of educational apps (Learning A-Z)
Tricia Swallow motioned to cover licensing for 1571.39
Seconded by Dannielle Woodruff
All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:31pm

Next meeting- January 2024