

Spitzee Elementary School Council Agenda

Attendees: Phil Irwin, Bill Holmes, Jody Hoogwerf, Tiegan Jamison, Tricia Swallow, Dannielle Woodruff, Rozlyn Neighbours, Tess Pfiefer, Barb Kellock, Chris Lacroix, Daisy Budd, Mike Crawford, Mindy Barstad, Jason & Karen McCauley, Blair & Beverly Gordon

Regrets: Shannon Culbert, Karalee Fox

Call to order @ 6:33pm

Welcome & introductions: current council exec & staff

Chairperson- Jody Hoogwerf

Vice Chairperson- Tiegan Jamison

Treasurer- Karalee Fox & Tricia Swallow

Secretary- Tess Pfiefer

Fundraising - Dannielle Woodruff & Melissa Duthie

Teacher Rep- Mrs Chris Lacroix and Ms. Daisy Budd

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- Jody Hoogwerf

Flourishing Foothills Community Award presented by: Theresa Letandre (FSD Board Chair), Lisa Penzo (Trustee), and Phil Irwin (Trustee).

During the 2023/24 school year, Spitzee School Council recognized the financial struggle that parents in their school were facing and chose to act by running a gift card drive during the holiday season to raise funds to support vulnerable families in the school community. Within 6 minutes of hearing about this initiative Mike Crawford and Mindi Barstad of Crawford Insurance pledged \$1000.00 to the cause. Not only did Mike and Mindi choose to support this initiative, they chose to take it one step further and they reached out to local businesses personally and through social media to challenge other businesses to share in their generosity. Within hours Blair and Bev Gordon of Century 21, Jason McCauley of Sobeys High River, and Dave Evans a born and raised High River resident donated a total of 2500.00 to our "idea". With their generosity and with the additional donations from families within Spitzee School a total of 19 families ranging from 2 person families to 8 person families were given a little extra to help them through the holiday season. Gifts cards ranged from Sobeys gift cards, to experience gift cards such as Wales Theatre or the Rec Plex, to McDonald's, Marks Work Warehouse, and other local businesses allowing families to have their basic needs met, along with a little treat for their family during the school holidays. Mike and Mindi are true community builders, as former Spitzee students both Mike and Mindi believe deeply in giving back to their community and to their former school. The values of flourishing communities, altruism, and selflessness are those that Crawford Insurance is known for in the community. Without the selfless generosity of Mike and Mindi this idea would not have gotten off the ground. The members of Spitzee School Council, the staff, students and families would like to both nominate and thank Mike and Mindi along with Bev, Blair, Jason and Dave for living the values of community, for supporting young people and their families, and for demonstrating their commitment for "A Place for All" in our school, and in our town.

Congratulations to Mike Crawford & Mindi Barstad, Jason & Karen McCauley and Blair & Bev Gordon for being the recipients of the first ever Flourishing Foothills Community Award. Spitzee's School Council nominated these business leaders for their "contributions to place education at the center of a flourishing community". Thank you!

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

Foothills Footnotes

- For October ... How we continue to advance wellness and well-being and effective communication in FSD ... https://media.foothillsschooldivision.ca/media/Default/medialib/footnotes-2024_10.064c9420999.pdf
- For November ... How evidence-informed decisions advance continuous improvement... https://media.foothillsschooldivision.ca/media/Default/medialib/footnotes-2024_11.111daa21517.pdf

System-Based Delegations & Presentations

- Dinah Van Donzel – Director of Student Learning JK-6 & Staff Development
 - Learning Days for both support staff and teaching staff are planned between now and Christmas
 - information about FSD's progress with curriculum and early learning was highlighted
- Blackie School Admin shared their Education Plan with the Board
- Doug Stevens – Director of Student Learning 7-12 and Assurance Data
 - reported on provincial and local data from the 23-24 school year
 - the data is being used to identify and inform areas within the Ed Plan that need to be addressed

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

- A briefing note was prepared and sent to the three MLAs in the FSD jurisdiction and discussed as a Board re: walk limits, transportation funding, and enhanced early learning framework.
- Drew Chipman shared the enrollment update for the year, and we are currently not growing.
- The Okotoks Boundary Review results were shared from last year and the Board will monitor the situation and developing needs between now and when the new high school opens.
- The Board will be appointing a trustee to the Foothills Community Coalition community advisory committee for the upcoming year.
- The Board was updated on the following Administrative Procedures:
 - AP 218 – Instrumental Music Programs
 - AP 156 – Visit Protocol
 - Ap 105 – School-Based Decision-Making
 - AP 190 - Copyright
 - AP 490 - Volunteers
 - AP 260 – Field Trip & Student Exchanges

Board Committee Responsibilities and Reports

- The Board's Policy Review Committee will review Policy 8 – Policy Making on October 31st

Divisional / Ward 5 Highlights and Initiatives

- Congratulations to Spitzee School Council for being the first to nominate someone for the the Flourishing Foothills Community Award and congratulations go out to Mike Crawford and Mindi Barstad, Jason & Karen McCauley and Blair & Bev Gordon for spearheading a school community fundraiser in support of vulnerable families last Christmas season.
- The mural unveiling at Spitzee School took place on October 1st was a highlight and an excellent way to follow up on both Orange Shirt Day and Truth and Reconciliation Day. In addition, a chicken dance bustle was donated to the school by the Rocky Barstad family to enhance the school's efforts to teach about Indigenous cultures, their traditions, and regalia.

Admin report- Mrs. Culbert/Mr. Holmes (15 minutes 5 minutes discussion and questions)

Spitzee Ed Plan:

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
- 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 - Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University](https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/brainbuildingthroughplay/)

<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/brainbuildingthroughplay/>

- Includes downloadable PDFs

[25 Self-Control Activities for Children - The Pathway 2 Success](https://www.thepathway2success.com/25-self-control-activities-for-children/)

<https://www.thepathway2success.com/25-self-control-activities-for-children/>

- 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 Engaging Impulse Control Activities for Kids](https://goodhealthpsych.com/blog/10-fun-impulse-control-activities-for-kids-building-self-regulation-skills/)

<https://goodhealthpsych.com/blog/10-fun-impulse-control-activities-for-kids-building-self-regulation-skills/>

- 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 - Kindergarten Cafe](https://www.kindergartencafe.org/8-impulse-control-activities-for-kids/)

- <https://www.kindergartencafe.org/8-impulse-control-activities-for-kids/>

[10 FUN Self Control Games to Practice Self Regulation Skills \(No Equipment Needed\) - Your Therapy Source](https://www.yourtherapysource.com/blog1/2017/05/16/games-practice-self-regulation-skills/)

- <https://www.yourtherapysource.com/blog1/2017/05/16/games-practice-self-regulation-skills/>

[5 Incredibly Fun GAMES to Teach Self-Regulation \(Self-Control\) | Social Emotional Learning](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_O1brYwdSY)

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_O1brYwdSY

[Impulse Control Activities for Kids \(And What WON'T Work\)](https://thehomeschoolresourceroom.com/2021/07/22/impulse-control-activities-for-kids/)

- <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

- students had fun dressing up for Halloween. Thank you to those who were able to help their kids get dressed or taught them how to get into their costumes on their own. They took part in watching the 4K pumpkin drop for science & math. They continue to work on their listening skills during a story and on calming our bodies for learning. In writing, they are working to use the letter sounds they know to sound out words for our writing.

- Parents can help their child to master letter names and sounds as a little bit each day makes huge gains!

- Self Portraits - We continue to work on representing ourselves in our drawings.

Grade 1s

- continue to work on reading and writing CVC words. They have added initial and final blends (E.g. Flat, black, glum, mist). These will be reflected in the Roll and Read games and the decodable passages that are sent home in the Home Reading duo tangs. There is a lot of information in there, please let your teacher know if you have questions about the activities or have a chat at interviews.

- In Science, we are learning about how animals adjust to the coming winter. They collected artifacts from George Lane Park and these will be on display when you visit for interviews.

- We are continuing to learn about what makes a community and will again visit our "grand-friends" at the Manor on Nov 18th. We had a great visit there before the break and our hosts loved meeting the students and getting to play games with them. One of the important things we worked on before our visit was how to greet someone new and how to introduce ourselves.

- We have completed learning to print the lower case letters and students do well in isolation; we do need to continue to regularly practice how to use correct formation when writing entire sentences. This is because our working memory is limited, so when students are writing sentences, they are required to simultaneously create the sentence, spell the words, and print the letters and that can overload their working memory. Therefore, it is really helpful for them to practice printing at home so that their WM is freed up to do the other tasks. Even as little as ten minutes a day of supervised practice in proper letter formation can make a significant difference.

Grades 2s

- Are getting close to independently reading for 10 minutes; learning about the concept of "value"

- The pumpkin drop included 2L so we were able to add 2 of our egg landing crafts to the 100 foot drop. This was a BIG highlight, especially when we realized that one of these landers protected its egg from being cracked at all! This led us to discuss how different materials were more effective than others.

- We surpassed our home reading goal of 1000 minutes! The students of 2L read a cumulative total of 4967 minutes in October! Students are challenged to read more in November than they did in October.

Ways to support your child's learning:

- Look for words in the newspaper, flyers, books, etc., that have an "nk" at the end, such as the words: pink, junk, trunk, chunk. This "nk" pattern/sound is the focus for phonics when we return.
- Practice reading and spelling these heart words: walk, talk, could, would, should, there, and where.
- Aim for at least 15 minutes of reading each day.
- Ask your child to look for 2, 3, and 4 digit numbers at the store and all around them, and ask them to explain to you the value of each digit. For example, "That shirt is \$22.00. There are 2 tens and 2 ones in that number".

Practice with these concepts will be helpful as we get into adding and subtracting multi-digit numbers and regrouping.

Grade 3s

- are balancing equations,
- and asking "In what ways does storytelling help us to understand our traditions?"
- Learning about Fractions in "Fraction Bowling"
- and learning about the importance of community and sacrifices our community members made during the wars.

Grade 4K

- students worked on observing like scientists and writing like a scientist for their pumpkin investigations and experiments. They learned about using detailed descriptions to accurately depict with words what they observed at the pumpkin drop or during their experiment. At the end of it all they needed to sum up their findings and explain why things happened the way they did.

- For example: The mentos filled pumpkin did not blow its lid when diet coke was added.

Students came up with the idea that the liquid from diet coke is very thin and not thick or dense enough to force the lid off but could spill out from the crack between the pumpkin and lid. They related this to our elephant toothpaste experiment from last year where the lid was pushed off and they explained the difference due to the thickness/density of the elephant toothpaste foam having more structure to move the lid.

- 4K is also finishing up a creative writing piece where they had to step inside the role of pumpkin seed and describe in a short narrative growing into a pumpkin and then what happened to them once fully grown and how they ended this part of their life cycle. (this also ties into future science learning about living systems).

- 4K Math – working on flexibility with numbers to support problem solving. Being comfortable with breaking numbers apart or recombining part of one number with another (example – $687 + 243$: they might look at the 687 and add the 3 to make it 690 +240 and then might add 600+200 and then 90+40) some students are starting to do this in their heads.

Grade 5

- Language Arts: Spelling work is coming along! We are continuing to look at syllabication and how that can help us figure out how to spell (and even read) larger words. Reading Novels to the students and students doing their own personal reading. Each child should be reading for 15-20 minutes a night.

- Math: We have completed our first unit on Place Value from ones to millions. We will be moving to work in the decimals, to hundredths. A great way to help your child with this is by asking them to tell you the cost of items at a store. One difference would be that they should read the decimal correctly and not just say "cents." For example, \$67.98 would read sixty-seven and ninety-eight hundredths.

- All students should be playing a Math game for 15 minutes each night. This week your child should have brought home a Math Fact Homework tracking sheet. For every night that they practice (for a minimum of 15 minutes) please date and sign a box. When they have 10 filled in, and bring it back to school, they will receive \$50 in Classroom dollars. We have at least four games that they have been taught. Today we learned a new game that works on subtraction.

- Some Gr 4's and 5's are creating Christmas Ornaments to send to elementary students in Jasper. Spitzee is teaming up with some other local schools to supply Jasper's students with this craft.

- Our amazing staff are preparing for Interviews on Nov 21 and Nov 27. Check your email to book an appointment with your child's teacher(s).
- Remembrance Day - Our wreath layers did an excellent job of respectfully laying their wreath. Student performances were very well done and our students were so respectful in this ceremony. Super proud!
- There is a general "message" in all the grades . . . Families have some HOMEWORK or rather work at home that they need to be doing regularly with their children! Make these activities fun and engaging and if you don't know what to do, ask your homeroom teacher.

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
- AP 330 - Student Attendance (via Spitzee School Facebook or Instagram)
- AP 414 - Safeguarding Learning Work Life Excellence

Teacher update- Mrs. Chris and Ms. Daisy

Our amazing Kindy teachers did a quick demonstration for the council, admin and trustee. Showing us how they use magnet boards to help with reading and spelling. Also, explaining how to sound out each syllable with short hard sounds to help with proper spelling. As well as why we need to separate the letters better when singing the alphabet so as to not confuse our children who hear 'l,m,n,o,p' as one letter instead of separate letters.

What Is Schwa?

- Schwa is an unaccented or unstressed syllable
- Schwa sometimes sounds like short u/uh/i in an unstressed syllable or short i.
- Any of the five vowels can say a schwa sound
- When your mouth makes a schwa sound, it's the easiest sound for your mouth because your mouth barely has to open

Upcoming Important Dates

- Dec 2 to 13 — Gym Closed for Concerts
 - Dress Warm - we are outside for PE every day!
- **Dec 10 — K to 2 Christmas Concert**
 - 1:30 and 6:30 Performances - Doors open at 1:00 and 6:15
- **Dec 12 — Gr 3 to 5 Christmas Concert**
 - 1:30 DRESS REHEARSAL 5:30 and 7:00 performances - Doors open at 1:15, 5:15 & 6:45
- Dec 13 — Spitzee PD Day – First Aid Training
- Dec 14 — Christmas Craft Market 4-8pm
- Dec 16 — 20th – Caroling
- Dec 18 — Caroling & Family Groupings – Christmas Cards for Seniors.
- Dec 20 — Full Day of School Before Christmas Break
- Dec 23 to Jan 5 — Christmas Break
- Jan 6 — Classes Resume

Council Business:

New Secretary: Tess Pfeifer

Nominated by: Tiegan Jamison

Voted and Approved by all

Welcome to our wonderful new council secretary!

Christmas concert planning: We will put in an application for the 50/50 sale license to be sold at four of the concerts the same as previous years. Then we will put out an ask for volunteers.

Giving Tree Planning: Mrs Kellock has agreed to be the liaison between families and the fundraising team to match families to the program. Mrs. Culbert and Mrs. Kellock have updated the message to go into the Biz. It is similar wording as last year with the new title (Giving Tree) and new dates for delivery for families.

Donors from last year would like to recommit for this year. Council will put out an ask from families for gift card donations along with the food bank donations at our multiple Christmas concerts.

PC Children's Charity fund update: Rozlyn Neighbours

Rozlyn has recently taken over the PC fund morning breakfast/snack program. Last year this was under the care of Angela Morris. Rozlyn has done a fantastic job taking on the transition. Everything seems to be going smoothly. Rozlyn has filled the breakfast club fridge and kept a wide variety of snack foods and drinks on hand for students who may need it. She has also done this under budget.

Well done Rozlyn, Thank you so much!!!

Meeting adjourned @ 8:18pm

Fundraising Meeting opens @ 8:19pm

Treasurer report: by Tricia Swallow and Karalee Fox

General account: \$9921.69

Casino: \$1988.02

Playground: \$6241.45

PC Food Support: \$9444.64

Fundraising Update by Dannielle Woodruff & Melissa Duthie

November 2024's Cookie Dough Fundraiser:

- Nov 20 was the final day for sales though Chippy's was willing to continue accepting orders until the 22nd for people picking up in store.
- November 4th - 22nd - sales = 111 units earning a total of \$777.00 minus our printing fee of \$125.00 leaves \$652.00 profit.
- All Cookie Dough profit will go towards the P.E. Department.

December 2024's Christmas Craft Market

- Selling tables for \$25/table or \$10/kids half table.
- Currently have 14 tables paid for and confirmed
- Market is set for Dec 14th 4-8pm; Santa is confirmed for 6-8pm
- The Mini Donut Truck is booked to park out front. They have confirmed ***weather permitting***
- Sparkle/Glitter Tattoo table is booked
- Waiting to hear back from Ila Nagus re: High wood Grad class hosting a wrapping table. She is taking it to the students on Fri Nov 29.
- Profits from Christmas fundraising is allotted to go to our music program.

Funds requests:

- Motion: Funds for Teacher Annual Classroom budget:
 - \$100/ teacher for 15 teachers = \$1500
 - \$50/Education Assistant for 9 EAs = \$450
 - \$50/Support Staff for 3 staff = \$150
 - Total to be approved = \$2100 from general account

Motioned by: Jody Hoogwerf

Seconded by: Dannielle Woodruff

All in Favor: Yes

- Motion: Funds for “Scientists in School” workshops
 - 5 classes offered for free = \$0
 - 6 additional classes @ \$235 each = \$1410.00 from general account
 - Motioned by: Tricia Swallow
 - Seconded by: Teigan Jamison
 - All in Favor: Yes

- Motion: P.E. Department Shelving
 - Multiple shelves up to \$200 from general account
 - Motioned by: Tricia Swallow
 - Seconded by: Teigan Jamison
 - All in Favor: Yes

- Motion: New/Replacement Inclusive Swing
 - Up to \$2000 from the playground account
 - Motioned by: Dannielle Woodruff
 - Seconded by: Jody Hoogwerf
 - All in Favor: Yes

- Motion: Replacement Sleds for recess
 - Up to \$120 from the playground account
 - Motioned by: Tricia Swallow
 - Seconded by: Rozlyn Neighbours
 - All in Favor: Yes

- Motion: To Cover shipping costs of the Kids Ornaments for Jasper schools
 - Tabled: Waiting for Shipping Quote and Council will vote online.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:54pm

Next meeting- January 8, 2025