

## **Spitzee Elementary School Council Minutes**

Attendees: Melissa Duthie, Danielle Woodruff, Rosilyn Neighbour, Kristin Ellis, Jody Hoogwerf, Ruth Hanis, Kendra Baceda, Madisyn Flowers, Bill Holmes, Shannon Culbert, Phil Irwin, Angela Read, Angela, Tiegan Jamison, Tricia Swallow  
Regrets: Allison Brown

Call to order @ 6:33pm

### **Welcome & introductions:**

Chairperson- Alison Brown  
Vice Chairperson Tiegan Jamison  
Treasurer- Tricia Swallow  
Secretary- Jody Hoogwerf  
Fundraising Chair - Kristin Ellis  
Teacher Rep- Angela Read, Cori Traber

### **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 - Kristin Ellis  
Second- Tricia Swallow

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

Quiet summer for trustees, some movement in the division at the end of the year that didn't affect Spitzee school. Those decisions were made based on the needs of the division as a whole.

Learnings to carry forward into this year: Trustees need to meet prior to the beginning of the year. First meeting was at the end of August as a "committee as a whole". This was incredibly helpful to get organized before the school year kicked off.

Trustees presented at the Canadian school board conference in Banff. 140 people attended the FSD trustees presented on "Rebel governance" - tough decisions that affect the division on a whole. Governance (trustee and division office) vs. operating (principals and Vice principals). Feedback was great, many think FSD should present in the future.

Acting Superintendent: Allan Davidson - in the event that Mr Fuzzessy is away for a period of time and decisions need to be made Allan would step in.

Guest teacher costs were high this year, this caught the division by surprise, meaning the budgets were out based on those costs.

Minister has given approval to take money out of reserves to pay off the outstanding costs.

Mr. Irwin is the director on the Rural Caucus of Alberta Schools ([rcasb.ca](http://rcasb.ca)- flourishing stories—highlights Foothills division, for those interested in a light read)

Trustees will be looking at "system thinking" in order to understand how things are interconnected and how their work impacts everyone.

Staggered Entry: feedback from teachers and staff across the division was that the staggered days were appreciated. The operational days and the staggered entries were well received.

Footnotes: [Foothills Footnotes](#)

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

Education Plan has been created- parents can review this on the website. Each meeting a highlight will be shared at the council meetings.

PD focus: universal strategies (strategies to support everyone), targeted strategies (to support some) around Social Emotional Learning and academic needs.

Meeting divisional support personnel (psychologist Alanna Hauszner) - her specialty is around challenging behaviors and mental health and wellness

Review Ed Plan goals

Identifying individual strength & gaps, in order to write school Growth Plan

Starting to draft ILPs for students- ILPs are to be drafted by the beginning of October to present to parents for review, edits, and guidance.

Drumming and a walk for wellness

Staggered Entry: classrooms and schools were so calm and created a safe space for kids to come in and regulate and test out their environment in a planned way. By offering staggered entries the admin believes this gives them a 2 week jump on the school year in terms of building classroom and individual relationships.

New Teacher: Chris LaCoix P/T Kindy Teacher

Very little turnover in Spitzee School which is great to enhance staff cohesiveness and also kids sense of security (knowing all their “people” are here)

Teachers in grades 2 & 3 are about to start collecting Literacy & Numeracy data for AB Ed; grade 1 will collect in January.

**Cori Traber retiring this year, this is Cori’s last Parent Council meeting as a Teacher Rep. On behalf of the Spitzee School Parent Council we want to thank Cori for 34 amazing years of teaching.**

A Spitzee parent is going to be redesigning the hallway incorporating the Indigenous and settlers on this land, the landscape around the foothills. The kids will have an opportunity to engage with the artist and provide ideas and thoughts in phase 2.

## **Upcoming Important Dates**

Sept 20 Gr 5 Flag Football Game

Sept 20 Paul Davis Online Safety @ Senator (gr 4 & 5 11:15am, parents 6:30pm)

Sept 21 Students' Matters Meeting

Sept 21 Millarville School hosts Cross-Country Run

Sept 22 Professional Learning Day - No School

Sept 26-30 Week to focus on Truth & Reconciliation

Sept 27 Gr 5 Flag Football Game

Sept 30 Orange Shirt Day

AP330 Student Attendance: tracking attendance is going to be done in a more specific manner to support families. This was not able to be done during COVID due to protocols put in place, however can now be tracked regularly. Tracking attendance can provide admin with trends, and allow for support to be offered to parents and kids in a more timely fashion.

## **Council Business:**

**Fall Dance-** Concession items ordered, DJ has been selected, Decorations/Photo Booth.

-Chips, glow sticks, water, juice boxes, popcorn, candy bags

- Photo Booth: would Gr. 5 students be interested in supporting?

- Rosilyn Neighbours interested in helping. Jody to pass contact info onto Tiegán for more details.

- Mrs. Read is sure the Grade 5s (especially those working with Mrs. Connors in photography may be interested in helping)

**Meet The Teacher-** all 3 schools are doing this on the same night.

1 food truck

Baking Betties

Staff working on second food solutions

\*\* would 2 for 1 pizza be interested in selling pizza by the slice

**Speakers for Meetings-** Jody did a poll on Facebook and the three main topics that people were interested in were:

-Positive Mental Health

-Body Positivity -

-Social Media and Kids - Paul Davis is coming so that ties in perfectly

Discussion: Shannon will connect with the new psychologist to see if she would create a presentation on these. - Will report back

Would Minds matter be interested? - Shannon to check and report back

Glow Program @ Family Center? - Jody to check if Minds Matter and Alanna don't work out.

Precision Reading Program NEEDS VOLUNTEERS: parents can sign up to volunteer with reading with students. Please contact Melanie Conner or Shannon Culbert for more information

**Meeting adjourned @ 7:34pm**

**Fundraising Meeting opens @ 7:35pm**

**Treasurer report:** Tricia Swallow

General account: 10,629.69

Casino: 38,653.90(2,000 pending to come out for inline skating )

Playground: 6689.63

PC Food Support: 10,392.70

**Fundraising Update** by Kristin Ellis -.

Fundraisers will be offered every other month this year. These ideas have been carefully based on the previous years fundraising (efforts vs. output) and the ever changing economy and struggle our Spitzee Eagles Families are facing.

**Dance Oct 19th**

- chips/candy/water/juice boxes/popcorn/ glow sticks

Money raised will go to PE equipment

### **Christmas concert**

bake sale (sign up)

- 50/50

Money raised will go to music program

### **Valentines Candy Grams**

Money raised will go to the library

### **April**

- Growing Smiles flowers

Delivery for Mother's Day

- Money raised goes to field trips

### **May**

- team fund Bacon

- Money raised goes to field trips

Spitzee Carnival- will run again in May, Mrs Traber indicates that there are so many amazing stations that this year it will likely be less work to get this up and running. Feedback from Teachers and parents was that this was a great event! The money raised last year will go to support the Carnival this year.

Discussion: Sign up opportunities for volunteers: Parent feedback is that some don't use social media therefore didnt see the sign up sheet, others missed the link in the Biz. Could we get more parent support if we were more specific about our needs and asked parents for specific volunteer opportunities. Council will create a "blurb" to go to parents through the teachers with specific sign up opportunities and they can register to sign up either through the council email or the fundraising email. This will be piloted in October as the dance gets closer. Mrs. Read thought this was an excellent opportunity for engagement.

\*\* Hot lunch volunteer sign up will remain through the signup App. Madisyn will be in charge of that app.

### **Hot Lunch Report (Pam, Melissa, Madisyn)**

Orders will open next week with the first order to be Oct 13th

### **PC Children's Charity Report (Angela)**

Done first shop, everything is stocked.

Waiting on the new PC website to be up and running to be able to input and export the data needed for the year.

[www.powerforkids.ca](http://www.powerforkids.ca)

### **New Business**

Sound System Quote [Sound System Quote](#)

Bill spoke with John who set up the initial sound system in the gym. This tech is outdated and not working any longer.

Motion: Kristin Ellis motions to approve an additional 4000.00 on top of the already approved 5000.00 to a total of 9000.00 to upgrade the new sound system in the school

Second: Rosilyn Neighbour

Approved Unanimous

**Meeting adjourned** 8:07pm

**Next meeting-** @ October 11, 2023 at 6:30pm in the Learning Commons