

Spitzee Elementary School Council Minutes
February 11 2026

Attendees: Karalee Fox, Rozlyn Neighbor, Teresa Lund, Kathy Duby, Stacey Aldoph, Sarah Beagle, Daisy-Marie Budd, Shannon Culbert, Jackie Roe, Tess Pfeifer
Regrets: Bill Holmes

Call to order @ 6:32PM

Welcome & introductions: current council exec & staff

Chairperson- Jody Hoogwerf

Vice Chairperson- Tiegan Jamison

Treasurer- Karalee Fox

Secretary- Tess Pfeifer

Fundraising Chair - Roslyn Neighbor

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 within the Battle River Territory.

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 - Tess Pfeifer

Second - Karalee Fox

Trustee report- Ms. Jackie Roe (10 minutes presentation, 5 minutes discussion and questions).

Trustee Report to School Councils – February 2026

ENGAGEMENT - SUPPORT – SUCCESS

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

(More information can be found in Foothills School Division's "[Footnotes](#)")

- School tours have begun! Trustees have enjoyed visits to the Okotoks, Diamond Valley and McMillan Colony schools and look forward to the next visits.
- “Fast Forward to Flourishing” is a Foothills initiative to create municipal partners across communities to build and encourage strong and cooperative relationships. The first phase is to gather information internally from staff and administration.
- The board has begun their Municipal Partner Meetings. We have met with town council members from Diamond Valley, Longview and High River. Meetings are scheduled with Okotoks and Foothills County representatives later in February.
- The [2026/2027 school calendar](#) was approved at the January 28 board meeting.
- The board [addressed](#) MLAs for Highwood, Livingstone-Macleod and Banff- Kananaskis on the matter of the expansion of “public” charter schools and public funding.
- The [Annual Assurance Survey](#) is open from January 26 to March 6 for families with students in grades 4, 7 and/or 10. Data is collected by Alberta Education and Childcare and is shared later with the division. Eligible families will have received an email from your child’s school

Note that the board members also participate in the following committees:

Standing Committees:

- ATA Employee Liaison (Joint): Sharon Nichols (Shanon Hines)
- Audit Committee: All
- Labour Relations: Lisa Penzo, Jackie Roe (Shanon Hines)
- TEBA: Lisa Penzo

Ad Hoc Committees:

- ASBA Zone 5: Theresa Letendre, Jackie Roe
- ATA Professional Development: Sharon Nichols (Shanon Hines)
- Awards Committee: Sherry Butler, Lisa Penzo, Theresa Letendre
- Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation: Lisa Penzo (Sharon Nichols)
- Milestones: Sherry Butler
- Policy Review Committee: Shanon Hines, Sharon Nichols, Theresa Letendre
- Professional Learning Committee: Theresa Letendre, Lisa Penzo
- Regional School Planning Committee: Sharon Nichols, Lisa Penzo
- Rural Caucus: Shanon Hines, (Jackie Roe)
- Staff Advisory Council: Sharon Nichols (All)
- Students’ Matters Committee: Sherry Butler (All)

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

January 28, 2026

- Judy Leyden of Turner Valley School shared data from their assurance surveys to illustrate the school successes and areas for focus.
- Director of Inclusive Learning, Cora-Leah Schmidt addressed Inclusive Learning, Wellness and Well-being.
- Charity Tegler, Indigenous Learning and Equity provided a report on the successes, support and engagement achieved through education for reconciliation. FSD Indigenous students consistently report higher achievement than provincial norms, and excellent completion rates.
- Human resources manager, Angie Zimmer shared the hiring of 2 new payroll staff as well as particulars of the finalizing of collective agreements with the 4 employee groups.

ACTIVITY UPDATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Attending Zone 5 ASBA meeting on February 9 th at the Calgary Catholic School Division offices
- Continued school tours
- The Zone 5 Edwin Parr awards will be held in High River on May 14 th to honour first year teachers within our zone. (Yours truly is on the planning committee.)
- FSD also provides their own Assurance Survey to all families. It will be sent in April.

Reminder of 2026 ASBA awards and deadlines

- Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award | Deadline: February 9, 2026
- Edwin Parr Teacher Award | Deadline: March 18, 2026
- Friends of Education Award | Deadline: March 18, 2026
- Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Student Award | Deadline: April 13, 2026
- Community Engagement Award | Deadline: September 16, 2026
- School Board Innovation and Excellence Award | Deadline: September 16, 2026
- Distinguished Service Award | Deadline: September 16, 2026
- Young Author's Conference - Saturday, May 9 at Holy Trinity Academy

Teacher report (15 minutes 5 minutes discussion and questions)

Sarah Beagle & Daisy-Marie Budd

Kindergarten

- Mrs. Beagle and Miss.Daisy have been working on student assessments.
- They have been playing deletion games for letters and sounds with the kids
- The Kindies are on their second go around of the alphabet!
- The kids have been doing lots of writing about valentines and the olympics
- Always working on healthy boundaries.

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 “Education Plan(s)”, then Year 2.

Engagement: Volunteerism, Communication with parents, Professional Learning Teams

Support: Executive Functioning Skills, School Culture, Classroom Support Plans

Success: Advancing First Nations, Metis, and Inuit student success – enhance the application of foundational knowledge, support cultural learning and accurate depiction of Indigenous worldviews; Literacy & Numeracy evening for families; design challenges.

These days at Spitzee...

- January saw our Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, and Grade 3 teachers completing the government assessments again. These results have been entered and when available, we will send home a printed copy of the results.
- In Music class, students are reading music, playing boomwhackers, as well as the beloved recorders; there are drumming groups happening... it's a busy place!
- In Kindergarten, classes have been focused on kindness. Their amazing learning of letters and sound continues... they've come so far! They're even reading some “VC” and “CVC” words (vowel, consonant, and consonant, vowel, consonant, such as “at” and “big”). They have been talking about how for some indigenous people, the eagle represents love. They found a photo of two eagles beside each other and noticed how their wings looked like a heart. Perfect timing for February (art to follow!)
- Grade 1s are continuing to practice their reading skills and have learned all about King Ed or King E. It's amazing to listen to them reading, sound out words like pine as “pin” but then immediately self-correcting when they notice the e. Mrs. Thomas shared some helpful articles about the importance of playing games with your child to hear rhyming words, or alliteration, deleting sounds “What's smile without the s-?” Grade 1 also continue to do amazing work in the community with their “grandfriends” at the Manor.
- Grade 2 students are logging some impressive numbers with their minutes read at home. 5302 minutes in January! They are also practicing how to write instructions (they're all experts at different things!). They are practicing their fact families: If two of the numbers are 9 and 1, what is the third number?
- Grade 3 students are exploring morphemes: base words, roots, prefixes, suffixes, and are writing clear definitions. They are definitely enjoying the books by Katherine Applegate: The One and Only Ivan, The One and Only Bob, The One and Only Ruby, The One and Only Family. Alberta's historical locations are the subject of their postcard writings.

- Grade 4 students are creating some beautiful Valentines for the 2nd floor of the hospital. They've just finished off their Non-contact forces unit in Science with students designing and building games that use magnetism, gravity and/or static electricity. Students are also sharing items from the past as part of their language arts work on learning to present with details and to answer questions about their presentations. They also continue to explore why Indigenous groups and European explorers chose to settle in particular areas.
- Students in 5C are continuing to hone their skills as podcasters by creating and presenting informative podcasts that explore different types of renewable energy resources in Alberta. They've been observing and reflecting on cycles of the moon, creating infographics that visually synthesize their learning.
- 5LM continues to spend time learning outdoors, understanding how to "BE" on the land, and living the Circle of Courage through belonging, mastery, independence and generosity. They continue to write strong paragraphs, are reflecting on their learning through the book, "The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse". Decimals, fractions, solar and Gregorian calendars are all part of the learning going on.
- And of course, the Olympics are alive and well in the Spitzee gym, even without Mr. Holmes! We will have our 2nd family grouping activity this Friday, as we come together to be inspired by the Canadian Olympians and write messages of encouragement for them.

Upcoming Important Dates

- Feb 6 - Learner Profiles Went Home
- February 1-20th/2026 Teamfund Fill your Freezer Fundraiser; Bacon, Steak, Birthday Cakes And More!
- Feb 9 - 13 - Spitzee Olympics Week
- Feb 11 – School Council mtg. 6:30pm
- Feb 16/17 - No School
- Feb 18 - PD Day at Spitzee
- Feb 19/20 - Teacher's Convention
- Feb 25 - Pink Shirt Day & Trustee Tour
- Feb 26 - Gr 5 Basketball Tournament
- Feb 27 – Gr 4&5 Skiing & Activity Day
- March 5 – Students' Matters mtg.
- March 11 – School Council @ 6:30 p.m.
- March 16 – (Monday) Divisional PD Day
- March – ILP reviews
- March 20 – ALL TALENT SHOW VIDEOS SUBMITTED BY 3:30
- March 27 – Talent Show
- March 30 - April 6 - Easter Break

Council Business:

Ice Sculptures are being done Feb 14 Downtown High River. If (weather permitting) Sculptures remain after break, and Classes are walking down to view, Council can provide a trip to Memory Lane for Ice Cream for any classes that would like. Owner will discount Ice Cream cones for Spitzee classes to \$3. Please let us know if there are classes interested and we can arrange with Memory Lane. If Sculptures are unavailable, we can offer Classes Ice Cream @ Memory Lane at a later date; with walking field trips or on its own for something fun to do. Let us know if there is any teacher interest, we can arrange.

Parent Teacher Interviews in April;

Council to Provide a Teacher Dinner April 15

Please let us know if they would like Memory Lane Soup Salads and Sandwiches or My Pizza Pasta & Pizza.

Parent Teacher Interview:

Council to have a Table set up near the Learning Commons with Treats and Volunteer Sign up information.

We would like to Propose a Council Sundae Day for Spitzee. Council & Volunteers will make Sundaes in the School Kitchen. Maybe a Warm Date in May or June?

Future Action Items:

We need to submit our Council Community Impact Report for Friends of Foothills School after the Castle Mountain Ski Trip. Due June 30/26. Photos on the Mountain and one Page Letter. Roz has Email to Send the Report to.

Shannon is working on Collecting Teacher Classroom Supply Wishlists for Councils Classroom Wishlist Fundraiser (To send email parents first week of April if Possible) We can keep this open for 3 weeks to try and give enough time for parents to purchase items to send in with Students or Drop off at the office.

Council April- Annual Return/Financials Filed with Registry's (Email Will be sent to Council Email; Roz knows how to file once paperwork done)

Council April- AGLC Annual Report Due(request to file will come Via AGLC Account; Roz can file & will work with Karalee to do paperwork required)

Plan Council Support for Grade 5 Farewell and Patroller's Year End.

Council is happy to provide support to the Year End Carnival. We can offer support coordinating Parent Volunteers via our WhatsApp, we can provide Prizes, treats, Candy Stand, possible BBQ. We just need the Carnival Committee to let us know how we can help support.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:39PM

Fundraising Meeting opens @ 7:42PM

-Treasurer report:

General account: \$12,902.95

Casino: \$4711.30

PC Food Support: \$4152.21

Fundraising Update by Roslyn Neighbor

Spitzee Council Fundraising Report:

All Fundraising Funds, Grants and Donations are Deposited and Accounts are up to date. We are just waiting on Casino Funds to be Deposited.

September

Settle in to Back to School No Fundraiser

October

Teamfund Bacon for "All Things Science"

\$1858.00 Raised; Etransfer to General Account Done.

November

Purdy's Chocolate Christmas Online Catalog for Field Trips \$1785.90 Raised Cheque coming for General Acct. by Mail. Deposited by Teresa Confirmed by Karalee
\$500 Donation to Spitzee Council from The High River Legion for Spitzee Community Engagement Initiative , Karalee Deposited Cheque to General acct

December

Focus on Giving Tree Donations

About \$4000.00+ Raised in Gift Cards for Families in need from local Business's and our Spitzee Community, for our Giving Tree Initiative.

50/50 Cash Raffles at Each Christmas Concert for our Music Program

AGLC Licence #761039 \$192.50 Licence #761041 \$510.00 Licence #761047 \$347.50

AGLC Licence #761051 \$352.50 Licence #761044 \$102.50 amounts Raised.

Cash to be deposited to AGLC Acct by Karalee Separately to match Filed Reports-Done
Total of \$1505.00 Raised for Music with all Christmas Concert 50/50 Raffles

\$232.50 Cash Donated from Concert Raffle winners to Council to be deposited to General acct

\$1000.00 Grant from Friends of Foothills Schools for our Castle Mountain Ski Trip Initiative. Karalee Accepted Cheque & Deposited to General Acct.

January

Jan 5th-9th Trailer Bottle Drive for Learning Commons. Okotoks Bottle Depot will sort & Etransfer Spitzeefundraising@gmail.com (General Acct) amount raised \$779.05 Done/Confirmed.

Upcoming Fundraising:

February 1-23

Teamfund Fill your Freezer Bacon Chicken Steak Desserts for our Art Program (Teamfund does Etransfer to General Account)

March

Purdys Easter Catalog Online for Learning Resources. Up to 30% Profits!. Cheque will come By Etransfer to General Acct..

April

? Classroom Supplies Wishlists Fundraiser Emails Sent out with 3 weeks to purchase items? Roz working on a Poster

May

Bottle Wars! - For Field Trip Deficits

Through Okotoks Bottle Depot Trailer Delivered & Picked up. The pay us by Etransfer (To the General Account)

Roz will send out a few Backpack Posters late April leading up to so people start saving Bottles.

June

Done for the Year

Motions

Date	Motion	Amount	Motione d By	Seconde d By	All in Favor	Online or In Person
2/2/20 26	Purchase medals from Temu for \$37.71 for olympics week	\$37.71	Teresa Lund	Tess Pfeifer	Yes	Online

2/6/20 26	To spend up to \$250.00 on Crave Cupcakes to hand out to parents at our Parent Teacher Interview Council Table April 15/16	\$250.00	Roz Neighbor	Tess Pfeifer	Yes	Online
2/6/20 26	To spend \$60.00 on Crave Cupcakes for the upcoming council meeting Feb 11	\$60.00	Roz Neighbor	Karalee Fox	Yes	Online
2/6/20 26	To spend up to \$450.00 on dinner for the teachers on parent teacher interview night April 15th	\$450.00	Roz Neighbor	Tess Pfeifer	Yes	Online
2/14/2 026	To spend \$200.00 on decoration, snacks etc. for the volunteer appreciation day	\$200.00	Tess Pfeifer	Teresa Lund	Yes	Online

Meeting adjourned @ 7:55PM

Next meeting- Wednesday March 11 2026 @ 6:30PM