

Spitzee Elementary School Council Minutes

November 19, 2025

Attendees: Jody Hoogwerf, Tess Pfeifer, Roz Neighbor, Teresa Lund, Jennifer Murphy, Karalee Fox, Kristin Feher, Allysa Jones, Kayla Groening, Jackie Roe, Katelyn Poirier, Krista Mace, Cathy King, Angie Garraway, Chris Fuzessy, Shannon Culbert, Bill Holmes, Arwa Jebali, Tiegan Jamison

Regrets:

Call to order @ 6:30PM

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 - Karalee Fox

Second - Tess Pfeifer

Superintendent update- Dr. Christopher Fuzessy (10 minutes presentation, 5 minutes discussion and questions).

Dr. Fuzessy would like to express his gratitude for coming back to work after the labour action and he would like to acknowledge the conditions the teachers came back to. He also extends his gratitude to the support staff, the silver lining in being able to provide additional support and learning for the support staff still in the building during the labour action.

- The Division is working on complexity issues data gathering
- They are in the second round of data gathering to identify more efficiencies.

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

- We welcome Jackie to her first meeting with Spitzee Council
- Jackie provided details on her first few weeks as the newly elected Ward 5 Trustee

Teacher Report- Krista Mace and Kathy King (Gr 4)

Critical Thinking - Building problem solving, collaboration and reasoning skills.

Krista and Kathy demonstrated to the group what they are doing in their classes. We were shown a sped up video of a pumpkin decaying and asked to SEE/THINK/WONDER

SEE - descriptive, physical, details

THINK - make a judgement or thought

WONDER- Any questions, what do you wonder?

Conceptual Understanding: Value

Guiding Question - What makes the biggest impact in language? WORDS

Words of the Week

- Vocab building
- Creative communication

Monday: Pronunciation

Tuesday: Syllables - Number & Types

Wednesday: Parts of Speech

Thursday: Sentence & Synonym

Fun with Language

- Finding the word used in a book
- Using the word in speech
- Using words in writing

Guiding Question - How do scientists use evidence to understand the world and share what they learn with others?

The grade 4s explored this question with pumpkin science and the pumpkin drop.

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

- 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.
- Students are getting settled back into their classrooms after the fall break. Some have done well, others are slowly adapting to the return to school life.
- Gr 4’s have two Student Teachers who are being mentored at Spitzee.
- Welcome to Angie Garaway / Mrs. King & Katelyn Poirier / Mrs. Mace
- Thank you for your continued patience if you are feeling the effects of the many changes this year
- Patrollers have assumed their post at the southeast crosswalk. Thank you for your patience as they learn their roles and routines.
- We were sorry to have missed Tripleball season due to the labour action but are excited to be part of the Gr 5/6 Basketball season. Gr 5’s will begin with lunch recess practices and some after school practices in the new year.
- Miss Daisy has been hard at work with her performances! Thanks again to a great Remembrance Day program which took place on Nov 7th and we look forward to a “new look” Christmas Concert on Dec 9th & 11th
- P.S. There will be no ticket sales this year so plan your seating accordingly.
- Admin is busy populating government templates related to classroom size and complexity. Thanks to our Division Office in preparing with work that we hope will result in more staffing and support for our kids. Please note that the additional 0.5 EA position posted has nothing to do with more funding from the gov’t.
- Learner Conferences begin next week, (Nov 26 /27) Book your interview time online. Go to the Spitzee Website and click on Family & Community / Parent Teacher Conferences
- Teachers are busy learning to use another new tool called EdForms to create your child’s ILP’s. They were in-serviced on the new platform on Nov 18th and will have to complete ILP’s before Dec 19th
- Students are making predictions about story plots (grade 2 & 3), learning about the relationship between fractions & decimals (grade 5), collaborating and building (grade 2), learning about CVC words in Kindergarten!! Can you believe it? Words like (cat, log, fin)... wow!. Grade 1 students wrote a book about peace.

Other Info for 2025-2026

This week we are highlighting the following Administrative Procedures (APs):

(AP) 110 - SCHOOL COUNCILS

School Councils can enhance student learning by engaging parents, staff and community members to inform the Principal and the Board on matters and decisions concerning school improvement planning. The Division views each School Council as a means for parents and community members to work together with the school to support and enhance student learning.

(AP) 315 - STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Division's buildings, vehicles and equipment must, in the interest of safety, meet acceptable standards for the health and safety of students. The provision of preventive medical services is supported through arrangements with the Alberta health authorities.

(AP) 310 - SAFETY, SECURITY, & SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

The safety and well-being of students are a responsibility of all staff members within a school. All staff shall be diligent in ensuring students are safe and accounted for while on school premises and at school-organized activities.

Upcoming Important Dates

- Nov 19 - School Council Mtg. - 6:30 p.m.
- Nov 19 – Picture Day for most students & staff
- Nov 20 – Picture Day for P/T Kindergarten and any others who missed
- **Nov 24 – REGULAR SCHOOL DAY**
- Nov 24 to Nov 28 - Spitzee Book Fair
- Nov 26 – Learner Conferences – 3:30 – 8:00 p.m. – Book Online
- Nov 27 – Learner Conference – 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Book Online
- Dec 9 – 1:30 & 6:30 K-2 performances
- Dec 11 – 1:30 Dress Rehearsal, 5:30 & 7pm performances
- Dec 15 – 19 - 8:45 a.m. - Caroling in gym – Families are welcome to join us
- Fri. Dec. 19 – 3:15 dismissal
- Classes Resume Monday January 5, 2026

Concerts:

- **Dec 9 – 1:30 & 6:30 K-2 performances**
- **Dec 11 – 1:30 Dress Rehearsal, 5:30 & 7pm performances**

Council Business:

24/25 Executive Elections

Secretary: Tess Pfeifer

Treasurer: Karalee Fox

Vice Chair: Teresa Lund

Chairperson: Rozlyn Neighbor

The 25/26 Executive Team of Jody Hoogwerf, Tiegan Jamison, Karalee Fix/Tricia Swallow and Tess Pfeifer would like to thank the kids, parents, staff and administration for a successful year. It's been an honour to serve as your Executive Team.

The Giving Tree

- \$1500.00 has already been raised
- Last day for donations is December 15th.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:28PM

Fundraising Meeting opens @ 7:30PM

-Treasurer report: Karalee Fox

General account: \$5717.45

Casino: \$3212.96

PC Food Support: \$6317.14

Fundraising Update by Roslyn Neighbor

Bacon

- Huge Success! We brought in \$1858.00 for "All things Science"

Christmas Concert 50/50 -

- Roz and Tiegan will work on getting the license from AGLC
- Do we do a 50/50 for each show or for each day? To be discussed online

Purdy's chocolates

- End Nov 20 2025.
- Chocolates will be handed out at the Christmas concerts.

January Bottle Drive

- We are gearing up for our January Fundraiser "Bottles for The Learning Commons"

We had a \$50.00 donation made to the General Account

Hot Lunch Update: new volunteer WhatsApp group seems to be working well, Pam reports she has what she needs for volunteers. All make up days have been completed from the Labour Action school closure. .

Online Motion Nov. 6, 2025 – Whatsapp

Tess Pfeifer motions to spend up to \$400.00 from the General Account to cover dinner for the Teachers at Parent Teacher Interviews on Nov. 26th.

Seconded by: Rozlyn Neighbor

All in Favor: Yes

Action Items

Change Signing Authority - Karalee will coordinate with Teresa and Tiegan to have signing authority switched over

Casino Wish List - Shannon and Bill will begin to put together a wish list for the Casino funds we will be receiving

50/50 - Tiegan and Roz will work on getting the AGLC license for the Christmas Concert 50/50s

Bottle Drive - Roz will book the truck for bottle pick up.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:46PM

Next meeting- January 14th 2026 @ 6:30PM in The Learning Commons