

Spitzee Elementary School Council Minutes

Wednesday September 10, 2025

Attendees: Bill Holmes, Shannon Culbert, Phil Irwin, Roz Neighbor, Karalee Fox, Tess Pfeifer, Denise Saunderson, Kaitlyn Saunderson, Cathay Anderson

Regrets: Jody Hoogwerf, Tegan Jamison

Call to order @ 6:32pm

Welcome & introductions: current council exec & staff

Chairperson- Jody Hoogwerf

Vice Chairperson- Tegan 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 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 -Tess Pfeifer

Second - Roz Neighbor

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

Foothills Footnotes - found on the FSD website

[**Footnotes Sept 2025**](#) - Take a bite into governance as a Trustee

System-Based Delegations & Presentations

- Chase Ellis – Director of Professional Learning & Education Partner Relations
 - presentation focused on curriculum design team's work this summer, using AI tools to support teaching and learning, and a report on Gr. 7-9 Social/Math field testing
- Kevin Gushulak – Director of Facility Services
 - reported on capital projects completed and planned for 2025-2026 school year
 - Highwood is scheduled to have a gym floor recoat and Senator is in the running for a major modernization if approved by the government

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

- On August 29, 2025, Board Chair Letendre, Vice-Chair Penzo, Superintendent Fuzessy, and Assistant Superintendent Nickel met with Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, RJ Sigurdson, to discuss concerns the division has with current funding and issues pertaining to rural education.
- Allan Davidson, Assistant Superintendent, Employee Services, was appointed Acting Superintendent for the upcoming school year.
- Policies 9, 11, and 15 were slightly modified in response to recent changes in provincial legislation and approved by the Board. As well, Appendix C was added to Policy 8 for the same reason.
- Assistant Superintendent Katelyn Nickel, Corporate Services, gave an update on the architectural considerations and developments relating to the new high school in Okotoks in addition to presenting a lengthy list of recommendations made by consultants regarding the modernization of ESMS in High River.

Board Committee Responsibilities and Reports

- Negotiations are ongoing between the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) and Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA). More information will be forthcoming ...

Divisional / Ward 5 Highlights and Initiatives

- Highwood High School was awarded Dual Credit Grant of \$100,000 for Culinary Arts
- A special thank you to Superintendent Fuzessy for his keynote message on community on Opening Day for teachers and support staff on August 27th at Foothills Composite High School
- There was a good tone in all the schools on the first day of school based on reports from Exec Team visits to schools division wide. Kids and teachers seemed happy to be back to school!
- Valley Vibes Podcast highlighting the Vertical Farm Initiative at Oilfields High School: [Episode 54 - Interview with the OHS Vertical Farm Kids - Valley Vibes | Podcast on Spotify](#)

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. Spitzee School: A place where legacy lives...

These days at Spitzee...

- Students are getting settled in their new classrooms with new teachers and new students

- In addition to all our new Kindergarten students we have 12 new students... yay!
- We have had a smooth start-up, with all staff having been here before, and thanks to FSD for allowing us to do “Staggered Start” in Kindergarten
- We are feeling the crunch of having 4.2 fewer EAs than last year
- Thank you for your patience if you are feeling the effects of the many changes this year (e.g. field trip forms)
- We have a new system for milk, which goes along with our new Centralized Services in FSD
- We have 50 students coming out for Run Club!
- At our Welcome Back Assembly, students did a great job teaching the adults the new Spitzee Song that Miss Daisy wrote for our school!

Other Info for 2025-2026

- FOIP is now AITA & POPA (Access to Information Act & Protection of Privacy)
 - AP 180
 - Photos, videos & posting work is now “all or nothing”
 - Photo permissions can only be done using the photo consent provided upon registration
 - Anything with a student name needs permission to post in the hallways, but it’s ok in the classrooms; alternatively, have them write their names on the back if it’s going in the hallway.

Upcoming Important Dates

- Sept 10 - School Council Mtg. - 6:30 p.m.
- Sept 11 - Meet the Teacher / Food Trucks - 5:30 - 7:00
- Sept 18 - 40th Annual Terry Fox Walk / Run
- Sept 19 - PD Day - No School for Students
- Sept 25 - Run Club Race @ RDL
- Sept 29 - Orange Shirt Day
- Sept 30 - National Day for Truth & Reconciliation - No School for Students or Staff
- Oct 2 - Raptor Road Race @ George Lane Park – Volunteers Needed
- Oct 8 - School Council Mtg. - 6:30 p.m.
- Oct 13 - Thanksgiving - No School
- Oct 16 – Picture Day
- Oct 23 - Spitzee Family Dance
- Oct 24 – PD Day

Council Business:

- The next meeting in October is the AGM, we will be looking to fill the position of Chair and add any Members at Large that would like to sit on the Council.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:32pm

Fundraising Meeting opens @7:32pm

-Treasurer report: Karalee Fox

General account: \$4270.33

Casino: \$893.25

Playground: Account Closed

PC Food Support: \$494.90

Fundraising Update by Roslyn Neighbor

- We should receive the PC Food Grant in October - \$8294.40
- Bacon Fundraiser for “All Things Science” starts Friday Sept 12th and will run until Oct 6th.
 - Pick up date is flexible if dates have to change due to possible strike action
- Confirmed by Pam Mulligan on Council chat that October Hot Lunch is ready to go, link for volunteers will go out in the email sent.
 - Roz is creating a procedure sheet to post in the kitchen at the school for new volunteers coming in to help.
- We will need to send out the Christmas Purdy’s chocolates information in November to ensure the orders are delivered on time.
- Fall Family Dance is on October 23rd
 - We will be setting up a 50/50
 - Looking at food options for families on the night, possibly pizza again like last year or having a bake sale.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:59pm

Next meeting- AGM on Wednesday Oct 8th, 2025 @ 6:30pm in the Learning Commons