

# **GCMS Council**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 18/22**

**6:30pm**

**In Attendance:** Corey Haley, Aileen Peterson, Eric Cameron, Kristina Ruhland, Jenn Gilbertson

1. **Call to order, Welcome and Introductions and Treaty Acknowledgement** at 6:30pm

2. **Review and Approval of Agenda:**

Motion: Kaeli Second: Jenn

3. **Review and Approval of Minutes:**

Motion: Kaeli Second: Jenn

4. **Administration Report:** Corey spoke about the transportation disruptions due to the weather. Covid absences have increased this week. Our late Christmas break helped us avoid the delay to return to school. He summarized in his Principal's report changes related to Covid response and new school guidelines, as well as changes to masking, Grade 7-9 options and extracurricular activities. Masks are available to all students if they need them. Filtration systems upgrades are in the process of being started- level 13 systems are being installed. Rapid tests and mask distribution are delayed - Greystone has not received theirs yet. Two-thirds of student families have responded to the survey saying they want them sent home. Reporting is now the school's responsibility with the reduction in contact tracing. Greystone's website has a summary of active cases on the site and will be updated as information is provided by parents and includes only cases that have been infectious at school. Field trips that have been deemed too risky at this time,

have been postponed (ie. Ski Club delayed into March, swimming was already cohorted so able to continue). Any cross-cohorted activities have been put on hold. Sports teams are considered a cohort, so may continue at this time. Choir has been postponed until later in Feb. Calendar feedback from council is being sought from PSD. Our council supported version 2. Corey will provide that feedback to Scott Johnston. Parent-Teacher interviews Feb 16 and 17; will be virtual. There are upcoming upgrades to the Gymnasium floor and the replacement of the A/V system over Spring Break.

5. **Guest Presentation:** no staff attending this month. Some grade 7 students presenting their biodiversity project ideas at the start of the FOGS meeting at 7:00pm
6. **Trustee Report:** Eric Cameron attended this month. He summarized his report highlighting the Remuda Horsemanship program, curriculum feedback was received following a letter from PSD and trustees had a meeting with local MLAs on issues of concern for our area on Jan 13/22; COVID updates related to masking, tests and hiring of staff to fill voids; student accommodation report received and will be discussed at the Jan 18/22 board meeting to determine what public consultations will be required going forward, hopefully for the 2022-2023 school year; Edwin Parr award for outstanding first year teachers; and the first quarter financial report showing PSD in line with proposed budget, 2021-2022 Communications report and the Literacy programs report. Insurance increases for the Transportation department have been added to the budget so bus contractors are able to be compensated for the increasing costs. Report attached.

7. **Executive Report:** Kaeli reported the A/V equipment, playground funding underway.
8. **COVID:** Greystone's supply teacher has been in every day since returning from the Christmas break and will continue for 3 weeks. There is a system to allow those staff members to be shifted to where the needs are.
9. **New Business:**
  - a. A/V Equipment: Quote is in. Casino funds will be provided by FOGS.
  - b. Playground repairs: matting and archery equipment.

**10. Partners:**

- (a) COSC- the next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb 1/22.

11. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 15/22 at 6:30pm

Adjournment at 7:23pm

## Principal's Report - January 2022

### COVID Response Update

As we returned from the Holiday break, we were lucky enough to not have an extra week added on to our holidays as other jurisdictions who started the winter break earlier. We did have some important changes that were communicated to parents through the Division and the School. PSD has since updated the [Guidance for School Re-Entry – Principals' Handbook](#).

The most important changes were:

- Masking guidelines have been strengthened
- Reduction of cohorts
- Upgrading of filtration systems
- Distribution of Rapid Tests
- New notifications system via the School website

### Grade 7-9 Options

We have made the decision to cohort grade 7-9 options by grade. This does not affect grade 7, but we are currently in the process of re-selecting grade 8 & 9 options to limit the cohort contacts. We believe that this will strike a balance between limiting risk, while allowing for students to explore courses that they are interested in.

### Field Trips & Extracurricular Update

In an effort to reduce the contacts of students at school and increase safety, we have been evaluating the different field trips and extracurricular activities that are offered at Greystone. Here is a summary of the changes we have put in place at this time:

- Ski Club has been postponed until February. We are working to reschedule the days that were missed in March.
- Swim@School program (gr. 5&6) is continuing, as the trips are cohorted.
- The Community Classroom has been canceled until further notice.
- Basketball teams will continue to operate as they were before the break.
- Choirs have been cancelled until further notice.

### Calendar Feedback

PSD is looking for your feedback on 2 versions of next year's calendar. Please look at [the 2 versions of the calendar](#) being proposed. You will see the question is really around the fall break timing. They would like our school council to vote on one of the options and let them know.

### Parent-Teacher Interviews

Our next round of Parent-Teacher interviews are on Feb. 16 & 17. They will again be online this time. We will send sign-up information out a few weeks in advance.

### Gymnasium Facility Update

We have selected our successful bid for the Gym AV system. We anticipate that the system will be installed over Spring Break, but it may be done earlier.

Also over Spring break, our gym floor will be getting sanded down and redone. This will be a large overhaul of the floor and include new lines and finishing. We are excited to see the new gleaming floor and some upgrades with contracting stains to help with identifying the different courts.

## Trustee School Council Report

January 2022

Submitted by E. Cameron

- Trustees were presented with the **Remuda Horsemanship Program** which pairs students who need help to develop their well-being and social skills and to build relationships and confidence. It is run by Tony McKee and funded through grants from the Jumpstart Society.
- Parkland School Division received a few responses to the letter sent (and shared with other Boards and MLA's) with regard to our views on the new curriculum. We felt there were major flaws in the pedagogy, accuracy, age-appropriateness and lack of acknowledgement of First Nation history and contributions and lack of inclusiveness. The Board also asked for implementation delay until 2023 in order to give teachers a year to hopefully recover from the implications of the pandemic and to give the government time to do the required rewrites of many areas of the proposed curriculum.
- On January 13 Trustees met with our 3 MLA's (Turton, Getson, Smith) to go over areas of concern and need of help in: transportation, early learning, curriculum and the proposed new/modernized Spruce Grove Composite High School.
- Superintendent Boyce updated the COVID situation: masking protocols are still in place 4-12 (staff and students have been asked to wear masks at all times with some form of mask break during the day; vigilance is stressed). Government issued masks and test kits should be at all schools now and parents have the opportunity to complete a simple form to receive these. Updating of cases of (parent reported) covid positive of children will be done at the end of each week for grade levels at each school. PSD started off with 50 absences of staff at the start of the first week back to 90 staff away by the end of the week. PSD has hired 20 new teachers on short term contracts to help out and have assigned each to a school. All staff have been asked to consider delaying anything that would require a supply teacher (PD, non-urgent appointments, etc.).
- Trustees were presented with a detailed report on student accommodation for all Parkland School Division conducted by Edmonton Public Department of Infrastructure and Planning. The complete report will be available on our website and can be viewed on U-Tube (Jan. 18 School Board Meeting). The report has a number of proposed actions which are only "food for thought" and no decisions at all have been made. Trustees will digest the various scenarios provided and will decide what form of public consultation we will employ before any decision is made.
- The Board decided to continue to support the Edwin Parr award for outstanding first year teacher in which we would submit our candidate from PSD. The selection committee includes Trustees Wagner, Hennig and Cameron.
- The First Quarter Financial Report was given and shows us to be on line with our proposed budget for this school year.
- Trustees received the 2021-2022 Communications report which outlines our communication strategies for this year and the various means at our disposal to reach our stakeholders. There has been a lot of work done on our website and the individual websites of each school to provide timely information to parents and feedback loops.
- Trustees received the literacy report which outlined our concerted effort to address deficiencies in literacy mostly caused by disruptions as a result of the pandemic. We have a lot of work to do in literacy intervention, including in French Immersion, as is a concern throughout the province.