

GCMS Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 19/22
6:30pm

In Attendance: Corey Haley, Aileen Peterson, Kaeli Weir, Dayla Mapstone, Jenn Gilbertson, Chantale De Boer, Heidi Mapstone, Anne Montgomery

1. **Call to order, Welcome and Introductions and Treaty Acknowledgement at**

6:30pm

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

Motion: *Corey* Second: *Dayla*

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

Motion: *Dayla* Second: *Kaeli*

4. **Administration Report:** Corey shared his report. Archery Equipment has started

to arrive: total cost approx. \$7000, along with the grant from NASP in the US.

Lots of student interest- Mr Kolody has volunteered to coach the Archery team.

The A/V system installed over Spring Break and working well. Some questions

for the installer regarding the mic/music functions. Logo selection process

continues. Inferno will remain as the “mascot”. Logo design has been worked out

with Greystone as the focus rather than GCMS. RCMP Resource Officer Gord

Marshall came to see the grade 8’s regarding online activity risk assessment and

safety. Will return to speak to Grade 6 students about bullying and Q&A.

Returning to assemblies this week: musical performance, team and student

recognition, Earth Day video. This assembly will be shorter and split to start with

a Grade 5/6 & 7/8/9 group. Looping concerns and feedback has been received

from 39 Greystone school staff. Much more support in Grade5/6 than in Grade

7/8. Both pros and cons given: relationships are built but sometimes the group

needs to be mixed up the following year; second year start is a much faster beginning of the school year; going back and forth between the two years of curriculum is difficult. Grade 8 students were surveyed as well, identifying social aspects to the looping, mostly positive feedback from their perspective. Seeking parent feedback. Pros and cons of both shared. Parent feedback supported Grade 5/6 looping more than Grade 7/8 as well, similar challenges were identified by the meeting attendees regarding the challenges and benefits. Anne also shared her thoughts regarding planning/facilitating change and resiliency; group cohesion benefits.

5. **Trustee Report:** Anne attended this month's meeting. Board highlights included the Annual Education Stakeholder Planning Day including school administration, teachers and parents. Schools are inundated with non-educational aspects that require some financial support from other government ministries not just education. The Education plan is drafted from this meeting and is intended to encompass all stakeholder concerns. Dual Credit program: post-secondary planning/exposure through high school is available including some online options toward post-secondary education. Financial planning has changed to provide assumptions for each department to maintain their budgets. COVID funding also ongoing. Provincial government has now directed how school board savings are utilized which depletes overall ability to save money for unforeseen circumstances. PSD will also require permission to spend school board savings from the provincial government. Quarterly revenue report approved. Both PSD high schools share their RCMP resource officer Const. Gord Marshall which provides a positive relationship and valuable student resource. Meeting with City of Spruce Grove and Parkland County which identified Copperhaven traffic concerns, and Greystone and Woodhaven drainage issues.

6. **Executive Report:** Kaeli reiterated the value of the RCMP Resource Officer. She attended the stakeholder planning meeting as a parent: identifying the need for online safety education in health class; general conversations about COVID including staggered break system; and school division conversations with the City/Town/County about non-educational needs/concerns.

7. **New Business:**

- a. Archery Equipment update in Corey's report, Kaeli will present FOGS with funding request
- b. Playground upgrades: Corey is waiting for follow up with quotes regarding the spinning structure rubber matting placement- two options available. Volleyball court repairs slated for summer 2022.
- c. Logo update in Corey's report
- d. Looping Grade 5/6, Grade 7/8 feedback in Corey's report
- e. Student fees schedule for 2022/2023 to be presented at the May meeting

8. **Old Business:**

- a. Inferno Night- May 5; Jenn/Kaeli will present from FOGS/Council. FOGS will provide a School Welcome Basket raffle

9. **Partners:**

- (a) COSC meeting presented the ASCA upcoming highlights. Kaeli wasn't able to attend but summarized the meeting minutes.
- (b) ASCA conference on April 23/24. Kaeli is attending April 24.

10. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 17/22 at 6:30pm

Adjournment at 7:32pm

Principal's Report - April 2022

Archery Equipment

The archery equipment has been ordered and is arriving throughout the next 2 months. It comes directly from the factories, so this makes multiple shipments. The total was \$5469 USD, which comes to about \$6900 CAD.

Audio-Visual Installation

Our new AV system was installed in the gym over the Spring Break. The students have been appreciating the extra sound and video. There are a few small questions that we have for the company that installed the system. They will be coming out soon to help us out.

Logo Feedback

We have been doing multiple rounds of feedback from both teacher and students. We believe that we have landed on the design for our new logo. What are your thoughts?



School Resource Officer Visit

Our RCMP School Resource Officer visited our grade 8 students last Friday to speak to them about online risks and ways to keep them safe while online. We really appreciate the ability to have Cst. Marshall speak with our students. He will be coming back at the end of April to speak with our Grade 6 students.

Return of Assemblies

As part of our wider goal of increasing recognition of student achievement and developing a sense of belonging at Greystone, we are restarting our assemblies. For the first few assemblies, we will be dividing the school into 2 (Gr. 5,6 & Gr. 7,8,9) to lower numbers. During these assemblies we will be delivering messages about important themes we are targeting and recognizing student achievement in many forms.

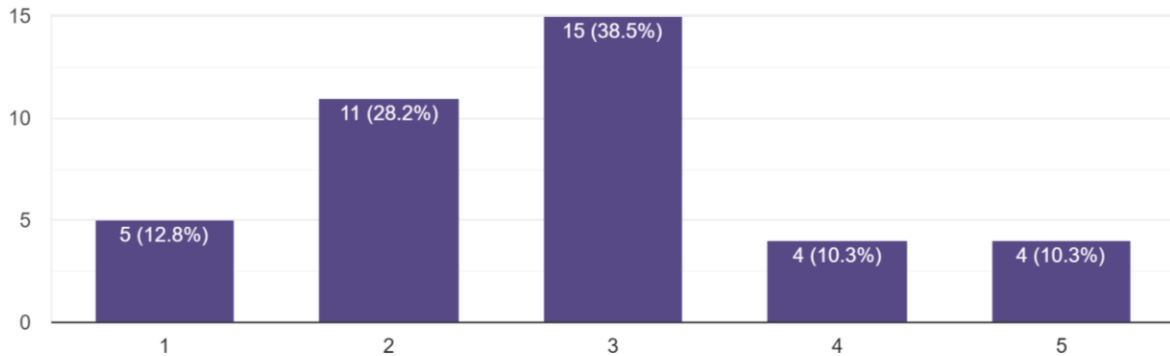
Principal's Report - April 2022

Looping Feedback

Teachers have reached out to me asking for a review of our practice of looping (when students stay in the same class cohort for 2 years with the same teacher). We currently have this in place in grades 5/6 and 7/8. We did a survey of the teachers and received feedback. Here are some data points:

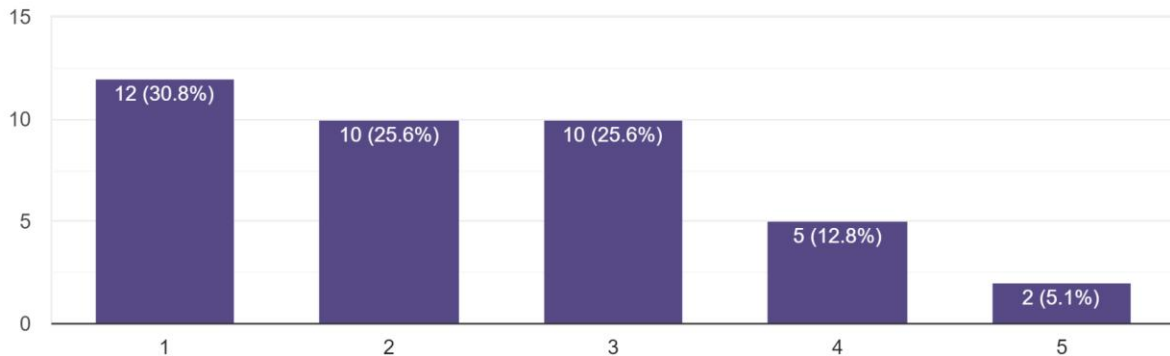
To what extent do you support "looping" in grades 5 & 6 at Greystone?

39 responses



To what extent do you support "looping" in grades 7 & 8 at Greystone?

39 responses



- *“While there are many benefits, including the great relationships you build with the kids, I feel that 2 years with a group can be a long time, especially with a challenging group of kids. Also, only teaching a grade every 2 years means somewhat having to “reinvent the wheel” as far as planning and teaching. It is close, but I would prefer not to loop, even if that meant having to do PATs every year in grade 6.”*
- *“I think it is important to expose students to different teaching styles and new perspectives. Looping may be great for certain students, but, in my opinion the greater good is best served by having students learn from different adults, especially in the older grades. This is also better preparation for high school.”*
- *“Over the years I’ve had mixed emotions about looping. I love building the relationships with the kids and families but I don’t feel as though they feel the same way. With me becoming sick this year, my sub passed along cards from maybe 10 students ... I took that as the other 18 didn’t care which then made me think they would’ve preferred a different teacher for grade 6. I know they are young and I shouldn’t think that way, but that’s where my mind goes.*
- *Looping every year has also prevented me from being able to ‘perfect’ my practices and thoroughly digest the curriculum. By the time we teach the curriculum two years later, we can’t remember what worked previously. To be honest, with the curriculum changing, the thought of having to learn something new for grade 5 and then grade 6 the following year seems daunting.”*

Information from the Board Meeting of April 12, 2022

Presented by Anne Montgomery

Education Planning Day: The board had an opportunity to meet with stakeholders and school administration to discuss our education goals and concerns for the division. The information collected during this day will guide our education plan for the upcoming year. My personal takeaway - schools are taking on more responsibility than educating students. Wellness, food security, mental health of students has all been captured in the “net” of education and often without adequate funding.

Dual Credit Program: The board heard from the division’s Off-Campus Education Facilitator, about the dual credit program in highschool. The program provides post-secondary learning opportunities for high school students who wish to explore their interests and/or obtain credits towards their first year of post-secondary studies.

Budget Assumptions: Each year as part of the budgeting process, the board approves the budget assumptions from which administration will build the 2022-23 budget. These are the boundaries and considerations that administration must use when planning for next year. Some of the considerations: <https://www.psd.ca/download/386402>

- COVID: While we are cautiously optimistic about next year, we must fiscally plan for possible disruptions.
- OPERATING RESERVES: The Provincial government is restricting school board reserves from 1% - 3.15% and requiring school divisions to ask permission to spend reserve funds. This is problematic for long-term planning and unforeseen expenditures.

Quarterly Financial Report: As of February 28th, revenue to date was \$67.8 million and expenditures were \$67 million. We are forecasting a \$2.0million deficit for the year. This was a planned deficit approved as part of the budgeting process from last year.

<https://www.psd.ca/download/386399>

School Resource Office: Our two highschools share an RCMP Constable, Gord Marshall. The board annually receives as information highlights of this program. This program in our division is focused on having the RCMP officer in schools as a resource, not as an enforcement agency. While there is always a balance of the work to be conducted by Constable Marshall, his primary job description is to be resource for both students, teachers and school administration.

<https://www.psd.ca/download/386403>

Meeting with Spruce Grove City Council: Once a year, the Division board tries to meet with each municipality, MLAs, Evergreen School Division Board and Paul First Nation. The purpose of the meeting is to informally discuss common concerns and celebration.