**GCMS Council**

**Minutes**

**Wednesday, October 23, 2024**

**6:30 p.m.**

**In attendance:** Scott Jaspers-Fayer (Principal), Eric Cameron (Trustee), Heidi Mapstone, Natalie Stratmoen, Anna Marie Jackson, Allison Chuey, Karen Hamm, Chantelle De Boer, Kim Buchanan, Amanda Doucette, Char Pardely

1. **Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions, and Treaty Acknowledgement at 6:33 p.m.**

With peace, harmony and unity, we honour the land on which we stand as Treaty 6 territory. This is sacred land to many First Nations, Metis and Inuit, and in particular our neighbours, Paul First Nation, Enoch Cree Nation, Alexis Nakota Sioux First Nation, Alexander Cree Nation and our friends of the Metis Nation. We recognize and acknowledge Indigenous values, traditional teachings, ways of being, contributions and historical inequalities. We respect all cultures with an open heart and an open mind. We ALL heal together.

1. **Review and Approval of Agenda**

Motion: Allison Chuey   
Second: Kim Buchanan   
Carried

1. **Review and Approval of Minutes from May 22, 2024, meeting and September 25, 2024, meeting**

Motion: Anna Marie Jackson   
Second: Allison Chuey   
Carried

1. **Guest Speaker**
   * None
2. **Administration Report: Scott Jaspers-Fayer, Principal**
   * Full swing of things, have hired two new EAs and a new secretary.
   * Breakfast and lunch programs are busy and noticing a large increase in need (60-100 kids lined up for snacks daily).
   * Examining attendance and universal/targeted strategies to ensure students are at school; missing 10% of class is classified as chronic absenteeism.
   * PAT results have been released and will be examined soon and a report will likely be shared with GCMS Council in January.
   * Choir cohort of students will be going to Whistler this year and sharing the trip with Memorial Composite High school with a total of 50 students between both schools.
   * GCMS has applied to be part of the Youth Exchange program, but we have not received any details.
   * We will be running SOS Q again this year (student orientation to school questionnaire) to help identify how students are feeling about school.
   * School fees – almost $18,000 in school fees unpaid last year, which is quite high and has an operational impact to the school, wanting to increase transparency and communication with families about impact and how to ensure fees are paid.
   * Planning for Spookapalooza is underway; started a student generated advertising campaign and will include a canteen.
3. **Trustee Report – Eric Cameron**
   * See below for full report.
4. **Executive Report – GCMS Council Chair Natalie Stratmoen**
   * Attended COSC meeting earlier this month with Vice Chair Anna Marie Jackson.
   * Will connect with Scott to develop report for next meeting’s report.
5. **Old Business:**
   * Nothing to report.
6. **New Business:**
   * Weekly newsletter is going well and Scott is open to ideas on what to include. Ideas brought forward were:
     1. Section that is focused on FOGS
     2. Addition from School Councillor
7. **Partners:**
   * + - COSC – attended meeting earlier this month.
8. **Next Meeting:**
   * Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

**Adjournment at 7:44 p.m.**

Motion: Allison Chuey   
Second: Anna Marie Jackson  
Carried

**School Council Trustee Report**

**October 2024**

**Submitted by E. Cameron**

**October Board Meeting:**

* The Board welcomed a delegation of high school students to discuss their experiences with the student international travel program (German, Japanese, French). Students include those that have already taken part, those yet to go; some on an exchange-even a student from Germany on an exchange program.
* Board Chair report: card of condolence was sent to Stony Plain Town Councilor Justin Laurie on the passing of his wife; letter was sent to the Minister of Education and Minister of Infrastructure on motions by both PSD and the City of Spruce Grove to release any holdbacks for the actual construction of SGCHS; letter was sent to the Minister of Education to encourage the long term funding of mental health supports; proposed Bill 20 will probably ask school boards to consider establishing a by-law requiring a criminal record check of any school district employee.
* Superintendent report: celebrated 2 employee recognition events (World Teachers’ Day and Custodian and Maintenance Workers’ Day in early October); grand opening of the new Tomahawk School gymnasium was held on October 15; student wellness and workplace safety will be a focus again this year; an event similar to our Milestones and Merits recognition was held in Fort Chipewyan (only fly-in school in Alberta) for our 5, 10, 15 and 35 year staff; September 27 was our Orange Shirt Day with a number of schools having organized programs (presentations by elders, residential school survivors) with a focus to have regular all year work to recognize previous inequalities and positive work moving forward.
* Modular Submission: this is the time of year to submit our request for modular classrooms (some replacements, some for expanded student numbers). A total of 38 were requested, but this is a wish list only. Our last request resulted in none being granted.
* Athabasca Delta Community School report: gave a very detailed accounting of all their programs, initiatives, success and areas still of concern. Topics included funding model grants, staff housing upgrades, technology services, human resources, student services/school health, instructional services, and My Path North initiative.
* Student Conduct and intervention report: outlined steps in student discipline (suspensions, discipline hearings, Violent Threat and Risk Assessment protocol); trends of all aspects of student discipline are not encouraging, but the trend is being experienced in most Alberta and Canadian schools.
* Enrolment report: September count of students was 12 667 which is an increase of 150 students compared to last year (Spruce Grove experienced the greatest growth with a 2.6% increase).
* Curriculum Implementation report: provided an overview of Provincial changes to the Alberta Program of Studies. New for 2024-2025 are grade 4-6 Science and grade 4-6 French Immersion Literature and Language arts.