

## Aspen Grove School Council Feb 10 , 2025

### School Council and Society – Working commitments:

The working commitments and behaviors of the group include active listening, fostering where all voices are valued, ensuring transparency in decision-making, holding accountable, and collaborating with shared goals to support student well-being, w defining roles to avoid duplication of efforts and coordinating on initiatives like fundraising to align with school priorities.



#### 1.0 Call to Order: Welcome and Introductions (sign in sheet)

- One of the suggestions we will be introducing from our recent workshop on School Council Chairs is to help improve our meeting structure and efficiency. To respect everyone's time and keep us focused on the task at hand, we will assign specific times for each speaker, as well as time for questions. A timekeeper will manage the speaking and questioning periods, providing a reminder when there is one minute left. This approach will help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to express their point of view.

#### 2.0 Attendance:

Johamah, Andrea, Nikki, Jacalyn, Brandi, Shandra, Shannon, Whitney, Andre board rep, Ashley, Colin, Arlene, Trudy

#### 3.0- Aspen School Council Executive are:

**Chair-** Brandi Smith

**Vice Chair** -Jacalyn Schultz

**Secretary** -Ashley Vincent

**Treasurer** -Kathy Lamson

#### 4.0 Approval of Minutes from Jan 13, 2025

Motioned by Jacalyn, seconded by Nikki

#### 5.0 Treasurers Report- Will be done in the Society part of the meeting

#### 6.0 Review of the Agenda and additions:

- (10 Mins) Results Report for 2023-2024  
Based on last years results, some new data weaved in to show some things that are being done this year to impact improvements  
Many kids were reading below grade level (about 32%) in June  
When data was pulled in December this moved to 25%, quite a bit of growth. Broke it down grade by grade. Every grade except for grades 5 & 6 are trending up (these were covid kids whose learning was disrupted). More intensive support has been put in, interventions to aid these grades. Literacy and numeracy interventionist collaborates with the K-3 teachers.  
Citizenship and student engagement- citizenship overall took a bit of a decline, with parents, students and staff (PL Friday attendance). Last year staff was focused on math, this year focusing on literacy. Inventory surveys have put out to students to help connect with the kids and find their preferred learning styles. More student centered focus, 7 sacred teachings and

recognizing students in assemblies. Intentionally connecting with specific students. Community events, such as pancake breakfast, back to school BBQ, will help to engage the community group.

Attendance at Aspen is very good. Teachers implement positive attendance policy, connect with families to find out needs may be financial, attendance, etc.

Indigenous population is second highest, and they are working on par with the rest of the students.

Division and school took a hit on student supports- being able to provide parent input on IPPs, behaviour plans, meeting student needs, etc. Went from 91% to 70%. Working on this by getting parent input through surveys, inviting parents in to meet with teachers to get an understanding of goals before writing specialized plans. PTIs were scheduled before report cards to have communication and feedback prior to report cards. District is utilizing Thought Exchange platform to connect with parents. All this information is posted to the school's websites if more information would like to be found.

Andrea suggested that the Provincial survey is not open ended enough for giving specific feedback, asked last year's board rep to take that forward. This year's data is based on both the local and provincial surveys put out. (Provincial surveys only go out to grade 4 & 7 parents).

Andrea expressed that questions put out to students with specialized supports require information that take away the anonymity of the survey. However, the specific site is needed for interpreting data. This year's surveys have not gone out yet.

- (5 Mins) February Family Movie night –Moana 2 Doors open @6PM Movie starts at 6:30PM Thursday, February 27  
Admission is free  
Concession will be open for popcorn, candy, gator gulps etc.  
Non-perishable food donation- to be given to Helping Hands  
Graphic and volunteer sign up will be shared soon
- (5 Mins) Council of Schools Council Workshop Jan 23 share learning- ASCA- Brandi and Jacalyn are registered for Conference and AGM 2025  
Very informative, summarized how to make the most of your meetings in a timely manner  
Implemented time limits for each topic. Jacalyn is the new official time keeper.
- (10 mins) ASCA subcommittee (Andrea, Nikki, Jomahna)  
Frustrations come back to budget cuts, promise of what we should be able to achieve (World Class education) students that are behind, haven't achieved mastery should receive help- as a parent has had to fight so much. Compared to funding in 2012, each student would receive \$3000 more per year. We are a school of choice for music but do not have a full-time music teacher and some music programs are not being taught by music specialists. We should be aiming higher. There used to be band and orchestra in every school.  
Andre pointed out that student demand for music has declined (not signing up for).  
Johamah pointed out that if we are advertising a music choice school, we should be providing this service.  
Arlene pointed out that students have the choice to sign up for music.  
We are fortunate to share services with Montrose.  
Certain schools offer STEM programming to keep students for 7-8 as a feeder school.  
Discrepancy with inflation in budgeting. Shared information sheet with budget funding specifics.

Board has budget advocacy goals, plan is on website- classroom composition, keeping up with student funding. Andre shared board members advocate through specific groups with larger voice, not on social media. Always asking for more money, through other organizations. ASCA group will introduce a topic, build on the topic, eventually vote to bring forward items to the ASCA level (next year).

Whitney suggested each meeting could be a different topic to give a variety of knowledge. Colin reminded that all the items brought forward to ASCA could be reviewed.

- (5 Mins) School Fees 2025-2026 - Aspen not changing fees, Academy fees change  
Option fees not changing (grade 7 & 8)  
Academy is increasing their fees, not significantly was \$1400, bumping up to \$1550- this program needs to be self-sustaining, transportation costs have gone up significantly

Nikki asked- what do the tech fees go towards \$30- coding programs, online teaching tools, etc. specifics could be found from Mrs. Pollon

- (10 Mins) Gently used Gator Gear – Update (Whitney)  
Second hand store for outgrown gator gear  
Could be a coupon given by a teacher to those students who aren't able to order brand new  
Communication will be shared with families  
Movie night would be a great time for parents to bring in the items, then items can be looked over and checked for quality  
Gator Store will also be re-opened for new clothing  
Everything will be open during PTIs and samples for sizing  
Also talked about other clothing (winter gear, good used clothing) for kids that are in need in the future to support the school community

## **7.0 Principal Report-**

Literacy Week was a success, with the theme “Wild for Reading”. We had special reading spaces set up, guest readers. Family Passport was participated by 80 families. B Green Landscapers and McGoverns RV generously supported Literacy Week. Thank you to the staff members who were on the Literacy Week Committee.

Collaborative Practices- Employee Wellness Day will be on February 28 to support staff well-being.

Report Cards go home March 20

March 6 & 7 is Teacher's Convention

Admin took part of ASCA workshop Jan 22

Aspen Grove presented at the school assurance meeting on Feb 4

Feb 13 is Nitehawk ski day for grades 4-8

Friday 14 is next 7 Sacred Teaching Assembly (Truth/Turtle)

Kindergarten registration for Sept 2025 opens March 10

Feb 24-28 is Division's Employee Wellness Appreciation week (combined all into one for ALL school staff members)

Nikki questioned if there would be tubing next year- admin wants it to be a chance to learn a skill you may not otherwise get to

## **8.0 School Board Trustee Report-**

Apologized for missing last meeting (forgot)

December board meeting- bylaw review (Criminal Record Check for anyone running in the election for Trustee in October) GPPSD has already done criminal record checks previously

School Assurance Meetings- met on Feb 4, have done 12 schools ( 6 per day) go over their school story, results, 3 year education plan. Your team here did a great job. One more meeting Feb 21.

Yearly calendar has been approved for 2025/2026. These dates coincide with provincial testing dates (starting in August to give instructional days prior to provincial exams).

Superintendent Sandy McDonald put in his letter of resignation- will finish on December 31, 2025.

New board is coming on, will be good to have him throughout that transition. 3 person committee has been formed to look for a new superintendent, then the 6 board members will decide on the new superintendent- before the election. Limited pool to choose from.

Sandy Fredland is also retiring February 14. Has been a great help for all trustees.

Kindergarten- handing out come join us learning bags- dropping off at different day care providers, has welcoming letter, activities for parents with items in the bag, alphabet and number skill workbooks, coloring items, scissors, etc. Does not come out of educational budget.

Municipal election coming up in October- not too late to put in your name if you are considering running (7 spots available)

## **9.0 Questions/ Other Business-**

Brandi proposed \$100 for staff appreciation- Jacalyn motions, to spend up to \$100, to purchase items for staff appreciation. All in favor. (Top up Keurig station, etc.)

## **10.0 Next Meeting -**

## **11.0 Adjournment at 7:43 pm**

# **Aspen Grove Greater Gator Society Feb 10, 2025**

## **School Council and Society – Working commitments:**



The working commitments and behaviors of the group include active listening, fostering inclusivity where all voices are valued, ensuring transparency in decision-making, holding each other accountable, and collaborating with shared goals to support student well-being, while clearly defining roles to avoid duplication of efforts and coordinating on initiatives like fundraising to align with school priorities.

## **1.0 Call to Order at 7:44**

- Welcome and Introductions:

## **2.0 Attendance**

Johamah, Nikki, Jacalyn, Brandi, Shandra, Shannon, Whitney, Ashley, Colin, Arlene, Trudy

## **3.0 Society Executive are:**

**Chair-** Brandi Smith

**Vice Chair** -Jacalyn Schultz

**Secretary** -Ashley Vincent

**Treasurers** -Kathy Lamson/Jacalyn Schultz

#### **5.0 Approval of Minutes from Jan 13, 2025**

Jacalyn motions, Nikki seconded

#### **4.0 Review of the Agenda and additions:**

- **(5 Mins) Make it Sow Fundraiser – Update**  
Every student has been sent home a brochure or emailed a brochure, with order form. Encouraging cash orders as there is a higher profit (50%). Opens online on Feb 18 (40% profit). Closes Feb 28. Kim has already had 10 orders handed in.
- **(5 Mins) Alberta Opera Presentation and Ski Day Bussing**  
Alberta Opera is a drama based performance, this year is Rapunzel. They are coming in March. Colin is asking for support to pay for this \$998 (all K-6, older kids by teacher choice). Ski day bussing is about \$600. Asking for donations for both.  
Jacalyn makes a motion to supply \$998 for the Alberta Opera, all in favour, motion carried  
Jaclyn makes a motion to pay for bussing \$600 for Nitehawk, all in favour, motion carried

#### **7.0 Treasurer Report-**

\$42, 692.67 general bank balance (not much has been used, as we have had many donations) (\$25 000 is grant money that cannot be used, is for the playground)

\$39, 571.90 casino bank balance (can't be touched)

Cheques written since the last meeting-

Chq 386 Mucho Burrito \$610.39

Chq 387 Julie Hardacker \$58.79 Fun Lunch supplies

Chq 388 Brandi Smith \$24.14 Spoons for fun lunch

#### **8.0 Fundraising Reports**

Mucho Burrito Fun Lunch January 24, 2025- revenue was \$982.50 minus expenses \$706.02 so total profit was \$276.48

Most likely doing chocolate sales for spring break

#### **9.0 Items for approval from School Council:**

Survey went out, no response from parents- Arlene suggested doing a gift card or prize draw for doing the survey

Sub-committee for fundraising- Whitney, Johamah, Jacalyn, Brandi, Trudy- after spring break

#### **10.0 Next Meeting**

#### **11.0 Meeting Adjourned at 8:00**

