

**Swanavon School Council**  
Annual General Meeting Minutes  
Grande Prairie, AB  
Dec 6, 2023

**Call to Order:** 3:17pm

**Welcome & Introductions**

- **Chelsie Norrie**, Chair
- **Stephanie Bokkers**, Vice Chair
- **Juanita Jordan**, Secretary
- **Kukai Hunter**, Treasurer
- **Garth Paquette**, Principal
- **Arlene Foley**, Vice Principal
- **Teacher**, Stacy Wheeler
- **Donna Koch**, Trustee (via Zoom)
- Additional Parents Attending: 8
- Zoom Parent Attendees: 0

**Approval of Agenda**

Approved by: Chelsie Norrie  
Seconded by: Stephanie Bokkers

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Approved by: Jada Webb  
Seconded by: Stephanie Bokkers

**Principal Report: Garth Paquette**

**Update:**

- Just finished report cards and PTA's are different this year any feedback to teachers and/or Garth and Arlene. Printed report cards b/c PowerSchool isn't used much in elementary from the parents. Parents are not familiar with it. Lots of effort made from teachers for these assessments and really wanted parents to be able to see it. Not a lot of people have easy access to PowerSchool so the school would like to do both.

Parents: Printed report cards are better for some parents that need them for medical, court reports.

Garth: Can always reach out to school for printed copies also.

PTI's on Wed/Thurs felt that it was better for students and teachers as the night is a late one, works better with no school the next day.

Future option for phonecall as well as in person interviews.

- Upcoming activities: Winter carnival on the 14<sup>th</sup>, encouraging many people to come out for that. 6 – 7:30pm. Indoors.
- School newsletter: Christmas spirit week. Something on there everyday. Council will help with that and do the snacks.
- PAT interpretations: Seems to be consistent throughout the years. This year there is a little increase but fairly marginal. In these subjects we can see how the students scored on different units of the curriculum. When we look at five years to ten years we are performing consistently over time. Our school is mirroring the trend lines. Consistently 4%-8% below the average. When the province is higher we are higher, when it is lower we are lower. 23 kids in grade 6 last year. 13 this year. Due to the fact that we have smaller sample sizes we compare the long term trends to get a broader idea of how we are doing.
- Our school is focusing on inclusive learning. Not all kids learn the same way and we are working on making sure that all kids are taught in the ways they understand to better help with their course learning.

### **Trustee Report: Donna Koch**

- Donna lives in the community and has had children attend the school in the past. Health consultant is her job aside from being a Trustee.

### **Trustees:**

\*\*6 Trustees and each have three schools and sit on provincial committees etc

Set policies and making sure that principals and teachers have the resources that they need.

Set priorities as a board: inclusive education, recruitment of staff, advocating of the curriculum, supporting student wellness, mental health supports, making sure that public education is as good as it can be.

- School calendar 2025 year: Focus on aligning the Christmas break and the last day of school with other school divisions.  
Winter break 2025 will be dec 23<sup>rd</sup> to Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>  
March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 4<sup>th</sup> Easter break,  
June 25<sup>th</sup> last day  
Aug 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> start day for staff.  
Nov 11<sup>th</sup> and sept 30<sup>th</sup> no school days.

\*\* Arlene Foley clarifies that for Winter break: Last day Dec 20<sup>th</sup> of classes. School would begin Jan 6<sup>th</sup>.

- These dates go to the Board and they decide. They are willing to hear feedback. Trying to stay aligned with other divisions.

### **Treasurer Report: Kukai Hunter**

- Bank Statement: \$910.66 Total
- Deposit pumpkin: \$440
- \$75 missing that Chelsie will deposit tomorrow

### **Old Business:**

#### ○ **Childcare**

Parents very much appreciate the coffee station. Refill it as needed.

Stephanie Bokkers needs to be reimbursed for coffee purchase \$28.18

Jada Webb Motions to reimbursed parents for donuts and coffee

Lindsey Campbell seconded

All in favor. Motion passed.

Childcare **two** gift cards of \$25 to pay for the EA for watching kiddos (One gift card per meeting). Committed for one hour. Arlene or a parent will step in after (take turns).

Stephanie Bokkers motions to payback Chelsie Norrie for giftcards towards payments for EA.  
\$50

Kukai Hunter seconds

All in favor. Motion passes

#### ○ **Christmas**

Kukai Hunter needs to be reimbursed for purchases made for this project.

\$147.74

Jada Webb motions

Samantha Puckey seconded

All in favor

Motion passed

Reminder Dec 11<sup>th</sup> is the final date for finished lanterns. 2pm lantern parade Dec 11th. Someone take photos to share.

Advertising Dec 6th for the auction on the Lanterns and voting.

Silent Auction night of the winter carnival. Bring cash. Vote on Facebook for favourite lantern

Prize to classroom that gets the most votes.

- **Hot Lunch**

January meeting will discuss.

Jan 26<sup>th</sup> is the date for the hot lunch

- **Parking**

Still having issues.

Garth: Put a notice about it in the newsletter. Meeting with our maintenance to talk about it. No buses so that opens up more places to drop off. Just on the North side. Next year there will be extra funding for busing though.

Chelsie: Garth and Arlene are taking steps to address this. More steps do need to be taken, but it is an ongoing process.

Suggestion to take photos. Email Garth and Arlene.

- **Council Google Drive Folder**

A few different options have been looked at. Google seems the way to go. There has been a folder set up. Sharing with the Executive. Chelsie, Steph, Kukai and Juanita

## **New Business:**

- **Professional Development**

Jan 18<sup>th</sup> PD meeting. Every school has \$500 grant for PD that can be used for their council. Tools and how to fundraise effectively. Foundational and Intermediate levels of PD. Believe that the Executive should be attending these workshops and would like to expand this to parents. Use the money to expand knowledge of current council members and parents.

- **Skating rink update**

Pause on that. No longer updating the rink (proper lighting, paint). Talk of moving it. Council needs to send a letter to the Board and the city council.

No money for the rink this year or next year.

Garth and Arlene will be a voice to help go over letters from parents.

Template letter. Jada and Juanita will write it and take to Garth/Arlene for advice.

- **Playground Base**

Rubber mulch is a concern from parents shelved to January so that a few more parents can attend meeting.

Juanita: Suggestion of a more inclusive playground. Rubber mulch prevents kids with disabilities from accessing playground in a safe and independent way.

Arlene: Inclusive Grants to totally revamped playground. Will revisit this in January

### **Roundtable Discussion**

- Chelsie: Octoball/ Gaga Ball Pit. Seems like it would be fun for the children.

Arlene: Tony made those at Riverstone.

Shelved till January meeting due to lack of time for discussion.

- Chelsie: Dr. seuss pancake breakfast for Dr. Seuss day. Shelved till January due to lack of time for discussion.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:32

**Next Meeting Date:** Jan 9, 2024