

CGCS Council Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2025

Attendance CGCS Administration:

Dani Sever, Superintendent
Jenelee Jones, Principal
Marlene Vazquez, Vice Principal
Amy Park, Vice Principal
Ornmandee Baxter Lovo, Teacher Representative

Executive Member Attendance:

Sheri Bolitho, Chair
Tanya Hagen, Member at Large
Solange Dunn, Member at Large
Kathrine Lauzon, Past Chair
Meredith Niewczas, Secretary
School Council members present 5
Total attendance: 9
Quorum established. (Quorum minimum = 4 School Council members, including at least 2 executive members)

1. Welcome and Call to order

- Called to order by Sheri Bolitho at 6:30pm

2. Approval of Agenda

- Katherine motioned to approve the agenda. Solange seconded the motion.

3. Approval of June 2025 Council meeting minutes

- Minutes not available.

4. Superintendent's Report – Dani Sever

Education Plan Areas of Focus for 2025

- Area of Focus 1: Developing Rich Indigenous Education
- Area of Focus 2: Building Community
- Area of Focus 3: Implementing a School-wide Technology Framework
- Area of Focus 4: Supporting New-Curriculum Implementation
- Area of Focus 5: Conducting Research for Improving Student Programming
- Area of Focus 6: Resourcing the Learning Commons

On the Radar

- Education Amendment Act (2004) - Parental notification and consent
- Ministerial Order 34/25 - Literary Works
- Fairness and Safety in Sport Act
- Draft curriculum field testing application

Highlights

- Secured a relationship with Cheryl Babin from APLC via sabbatical
- Board Office Relocation
- Implementation of new human resource software for CGCS

Note - Board met last week – will plan to send a Director to future School Council meetings

Questions:

Katherine: Will any books with removed from library?

Dani: Any books flagged for removal need to go to Government of Alberta for approval. Rules apply to graphics and not language. A more thorough review of library resources will be required to respond.

Katherine: What have been the parent responses to the Fairness in Sport Act?

Dani: There have been emails from parents expressing concern. School boards must be compliant regardless of level of agreement with legislation.

5. Administrations Report – Jenelee Jones

- Met enrollment target 2025-26
- Circle of courage – a new framework to support consistent language and approach to support belonging ; strong connection to what the students learn in Go Girls curriculum.
- Welcome Back Assembly – content grounded in circle of courage and indigenous learning.
- Focus of Professional Learning for 2025-26: Assessment
- 2025-26 Learning Leader Team :
Nicola Swanby
Susan Harder
Eve Buk
Sarrah Johnstone
Each learning leader has a component of the education that they work to elevate. The learning leaders meet with administration every 3 weeks to plan for how to integrate school goals and frameworks into school days.
- Thank you to School Council

6. Teachers' Representative Staff and Student Updates – Ornmandee Baxter Lovo

- Grade 4 – Reading How to be an Explorer of the World, observing their surroundings and documenting findings
- Grade 5 – Focusing on creating community, reflecting on what it means to belong, setting positive math mindsets
- Grade 6 – experimental design, novel study The Barren Grounds, preparing to participate in a student vote parallel to the Calgary municipal election
- Grade 7 – Braiding Sweetgrass, going to Wordfest
- Grade 8 – surrealist portraits, exploring worldviews, examining matters and mixtures
- Grade 9 – theme “a ripple effect”, looking at how small events or actions in one’s life can vastly alter and change the upcoming chapters of their life and communities.
- Visual Art – setting goals, drawing evil gardens
- Music – new music teacher, practicing solfege, rhythms, using percussion instruments
- Grade 7 band – chosen new instruments
- Grade 8,9 band – preparing for Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Drama – clothing and outfit purge, learning about costume design and purposes
- ACTION – Drama class is accepting donations (hats, glasses, accessories)
- French – units on colours, community, clothing, and weekend plans
- PE – team building and cooperation; 4-6 chasing and fleeing games, 7-9 throwing and catching games; students collectively ran 3500 km for Tery Fox week!
- Outdoor Education – investigating core tenants of outdoor ed, being good stewards of the outdoors, prepping for backpacking trips
- Gardens – harvesting underway, hatching chicks, looking at soil and fertilizer effectiveness
- Hive – orientation, students have signed out books
- Robotics – the KillaBytes are integrating new recruits with existing team members
- Matilda – beginning as a unified company, will assign roles later based on show needs and student strengths
- Athletics – Volley ball and Cross Country have begun. 65 athletes in cross country from 4-9.
- Student services – 3 Education Assistants are welcoming students, acquiring assistive equipment, supporting teachers write Individual Program Plans.

Questions:

Sheri: How is distributing the green dot spaces across classrooms?

Jenelee: Going well. Each room is doing it’s own thing, creating cozy corners, we are starting to see where additional resources are needed, and where we need to replenish supplies.

7. Chairperson’s Report – Sheri Bolitho

- Volunteer Thank you!
- Request for pictures and bios from exec members
- Planning for future fundraisers

- Meeting with Jenelee to coordinate School Council and School calendars, events, requests etc...
- Launching of volunteer survey to build a roster of volunteers to use when ad hoc support is needed (e.g. photographer for IWD).
- School Council Facebook page – will plan to add updates based on event schedule, occasionally get feedback and questions from parents.
- Parent directory – there was an idea to support building a directory. The goal and plan needs to be clarified. Sheri and Katherine will follow up on this outside of the meeting.

8. Treasurer report – Sheri (on behalf of Matt)

- Raised more than projected at the uniform sale. Funds raised will be allocated to the Sept 2025-Aug 2026 fiscal year (FY)
- Will look at if there are additional spending priorities for this FY
- BBQ brought in some revenue (goal is to break even)
- Working to update check requisition form
- Apple fundraiser made similar money as last year

9. Committee Updates

- Special Events –Sheri –
 - BBQ 864 attendees, little food waste, pre-ticket sales worked well for planning
 - Snowball planning will start soon
 - International Women’s Day (IWD) – theme is Count Her In (economic focus) a few parents have reached out to help, a few teachers have new ideas, hoping to double the speakers to we don’t have to fit 60 kids into one classroom; can we create an outdoor space? Will require some extra budget.
 - Teacher Snack Days – sign up has been shared with parents.
 - Parent Learning Night - \$500 grant, thinking it could take place close to IWD, could ask one of the speakers to come and speak to parents in advance (past topics – anxiety, adhd), event will take place in conjunction with a School Council Meeting
- Hungry Girls – Solange – will continue having apples in the fridge. will order from IGA, cost will go on school credit card.
ACTION – Solange will coordinate apple pick up with Meredith
- Apples – Solange – going well. Pick up will be Oct 2.
- Used Uniforms – Solange – lots of new and returning families, mostly small sizes left over, plan for 2 sales (spring and August), will promote sales to families with grade 4 and 5s who might need to smaller sizes; throughout the year Solange will do washing and hanging of donated items; if there are some families who need support with uniform purchases they could shop the closet. Jenelee will help coordinate; consider delaying sale to late spring so kids don’t out grow out of items purchased before school starts.

- Fun Lunch – Katherine – Request for feedback to help with planning. 5 vendors this year to offer more variety.

8. New Business

Student initiatives

- There is funding available for student-led initiatives
- Preparing a memo to send to teachers, will include application process and selection criteria
- Could be coordinated so initiatives are related to class work

Questions:

- When should we launch?
- How much is needed to realistically support an initiative?
- ACTION – Tanya will send email to council and administration for feedback

9. Adjournment

- Sheri Bolitho adjourned the meeting at 7:31 pm.

The next School Council Society meeting will be in person October 27, 2025, at 6:30pm