



**HAK General Meeting Minutes  
October 28, 2024  
5:00 PM in HAK CTS Room**

**Committee members:**

Kelly Montgomery      President  
Jolene de Jager      Secretary  
Evonne Zukiwski      Vice President (absent)

**HAK Staff:**

Brenda Mykytiuk      Principal  
Ashley Brodnar      Vice Principal  
Tanya Pelech      Teacher

**Trustee:**

Elohne Chizawsky

**1) Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m.

**2) Review of meeting agenda**

Jolene de Jager approved the agenda.

**3) Review of September 17, 2024, School Council meeting minutes**

Kelly Montgomery approved the September 17, 2024, School Council meeting minutes, as presented.

**4) Principal's Report - October 2024 (attached)**

Brenda Mykytiuk presented the Principal's report, highlighting the following:

- Lisa Melnyk is now teaching Grade 2 90% of the time, while Shelby Kwasny is the Inclusive Education Lead and teaches Grade 2 Music, Art, and kindergarten PE. Additionally, Brittany Turko and Kristin Magnusson have joined as Educational Assistants.
- Testing is underway to identify students needing intervention, and literacy and numeracy interventions have started using both pullout and push-in models.
- The School is collaborating with Elder Cardinal and Jackie Steinhauer on cultural projects.
- Between five to seven High school students will participate in a week-long welding experience at Portage College to help them decide if they want to pursue welding.
- It was noted that parents can schedule meetings with teachers outside of the scheduled parent-teacher conferences.

**5) Trustee and School Board Report (attached)**

Elohne Chizawsky provided the Trustee's report, and the group elaborated on the following:

- Challenges in attracting teachers to rural areas due to housing shortages were highlighted. Therefore, the collaboration between municipalities and the education sector to provide adequate housing for teachers was needed.
- Students have emphasized the importance of field trips and extracurricular activities, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. The administration is working to ensure all students have opportunities for such experiences.
- The associate superintendent, will be working with success coaches to ensure that students are aware of the courses they need to get into specific fields. This initiative is critical because many students, even those in grade 12, may not realize they lack the necessary courses for their desired post-secondary programs.
- The group discussed the role of the School Council and the importance of parent involvement in school activities and decision-making.

- There was a discussion about wellness initiatives and the importance of mental health for both students and staff. Parents would find this information valuable as it relates to the overall well-being of their children.

## 6) Council of School Council Meeting Review

Jolene de Jager shared the following highlights of the Council of School Council meeting:

- Superintendent Kastrinos stressed the importance of waiting 48 hours before addressing a concern to avoid acting out of emotion.
- Emphasis was placed on the importance of building relationships between the school council chair and the Principal. Suggestions included getting to know the principals, bringing coffee or tea, and having introduction meetings.
- Questions were raised at the meeting about how meetings are advertised in schools and whether agendas are shared prior to the meetings.
- There were comments about the importance of not sharing personal information on social media.
- There were also discussions about how to engage parents, especially new parents, and the possibility of hybrid meetings.
- The Administrative Procedure on cell phones was reviewed during the meeting.

## 7) Standing Business

### a) Elder Cardinal Introduction

- Eder Cardinal could not attend the meeting; therefore, the introduction will be deferred.

### b) School Dress Code

- A parent raised concerns about the lack of coverage in girls' clothing, noting that the school handbook only specifies that straps must be covered without detailing skirt lengths or other specifics.
- Administrators are currently addressing issues related to inappropriate language on clothing and are considering changes to the dress code, which has been a hot topic in recent meetings. However, it has to go through the Division office to pass.

### c) Intramural Teams

- The idea of having intramural teams during recess was discussed.
- There was a lack of participation from older students, and it was suggested that without their devices, there might be more interest.
- The plan included trying to find activities for junior high students and organizing a track meet for K-6 students.
- A drop-in format might work better, and the idea of involving Grade 5 and 6 students as leaders to help run the intramurals was discussed.
- This approach aims to make the activities more student-driven and responsive to their interests.

### d) Discipline During School Hours

- The School has specific discipline policies outlined in the Education Act, allowing teachers to suspend students from classes for various offences. It mentions that teachers can have students sit out, do something else, or come to the office for a block of time.
- Consequences for offences range from minor punishments like taking away privileges to more severe actions based on the severity and repetition of the offence.
- Communication with students and parents was emphasized to ensure fairness, although details of other students' discipline cannot be shared due to privacy concerns.

8) **New Business** - Items will be moved to the next meeting (November 26, 2024) if they are applicable to the School Council. Agenda items are to be reported to Kelly Montgomery at least one week before the meeting.

a) Class Representatives

- The Council emphasized the importance of having student representatives to gather student feedback and suggested it might be easier if the representative is an older student who can drive themselves to meetings.
- There was a discussion about finding ways to collect more feedback from parents who may not attend meetings, possibly through student councils or class representatives.
- Adjusting the meeting times to early morning, around 8:00 a.m. or 8:30 a.m., was proposed to accommodate parents dropping off their kids at school.
- Using the email portal for distributing meeting minutes and agendas was considered, with an option for parents to opt-out if they do not wish to receive these communications.

b) Speaker Topic Brainstorm

- The group discussed potential activities and initiatives to benefit students, such as physical education, nutrition, and easing the transition from high school to university.
- The Council emphasized the need to teach students practical life skills, such as managing a bank account, changing a tire, and understanding household expenses.
- The discussion included the integration of financial education into the curriculum, particularly in high school, to prepare students for post-secondary education and financial responsibilities. The idea of involving parents in career days and other school activities was mentioned, highlighting the benefits of students learning about different professions.
- The Council referenced specific programs like "Butterfly Wings and Wishes," which offers in-school field trips for students from kindergarten to Grade 9.

c) Nutrition Presentation

- The Council mentioned working with Amy Cherniwchan on ideas to make nutrition talks enjoyable for children. It was mentioned that kids are more likely to try new foods if everyone around them is eating them. The Council will create a list of ideas based on kids' nutritional needs.

**9) Upcoming events**

Upcoming events were noted in the Principal's Report.

**10) Next meeting**

The next School Council meeting will be on November 26, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

**11) Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.