

GENERAL STEWART SCHOOL COUNCIL AGENDA
Monday, September 15, 2025, 7:00pm
Annual General Meeting

MINUTES

Attendees:

Jessica Robinson, Nadine Bosma, Kenten Grunau, Rachel Hague, Wendy McDonald,
Heather Keith, Ainsley Croil, Stephanie Leite, Salma, Merina Shrestha

1. **Welcome! – Nadine Bosma** 7:01pm
2. **Adoption of Agenda** Jessica adopted.
3. **Election of Officers** With this being the first meeting of this year, we will be electing/re-electing positions for the year.
 - a. **Chairperson –** Nadine Bosma re-elected.
 - b. **Vice Chairperson –** Kenten Grunau re-elected.
 - c. **Treasurer –** Rachel Hague re-elected.
 - d. **Secretary –** Heather Keith re-elected.
- Hot Lunch Coordinator -** Jessica Robinson re-elected.
- Division School Council Rep –** Stephanie Leite elected.
4. **Annual Report – Finished, signed and sent in** This report does not have to be sent in until October, but we had it sent in June.
5. **Adoption of May 12,2025 Minutes** Rachel adopted.
6. **Business Arising from May 12/25 Mins.** 92 students in the school this year.
 - a. **Staffing** Staffing changes since last meeting. Mr. Ward left, Miss Jensen moved to Grade 4, Mrs. Huckabay to Grade 5. Ms. Stolte is back in Grade 3.

Erin Vogel, advanced educational assistant, not permanent, Steph McLennon, teacher counsellor on Wednesdays.

Information about the new support staff was in the newsletter and posted on the website.

b. Grade 5 Farewell Feedback, tshirts

T shirts were an awesome idea, they liked them, good keepsake. There were a lot of big emotions, they felt celebrated.

Not many elementary schools give such a personal send off to their Grade 5s, it was very nice.

c. Kindergarten Grad Feedback

Very cute, always love the hats. Thank you, Mrs. Shilliday!

d. Sports day, M & M Meats Hot Lunch

Some feedback received that it was not sporty enough.

The teams were a great idea, as well as the banners. Kids seemed very enthused and cheered each other on well.

e. Yearend Henderson Park Feedback

Great feedback, liked the stations and will plan for that next year too.

f. Under the Sea Performance

Grade 2 (and the guest stars in Grade 5) did great, thank you Mrs. McDonald!

g. Kona Ice & Movie Mill Outing

Kona is always great; they are very good to us.

Movie Mill did end up being the same cost the Henderson Pool would have been (bus, snacks, theatre rental) however we didn't have weather looming over us. Watched Secret Life of Pets.

7. **Treasurer's Report – Rachel –School Council Acct.- \$2912.98.** Rachel handed out a year at a glance from last year with fundraising and budgets. We might use our money differently this year, as we are doing half as many hot lunches.
8. **Hot Lunch Report – Jessica -** All on SchoolCash, lots of pizza. Lunches ranging from \$4-\$7, wanting to make them all more affordable this year, with one hot lunch a month instead of two.
- On October 15 school council runs the Hot Dog hot lunch, with a bag of chips. Parent volunteers would be appreciated.
10. **School Report – Ainsley Croil -Principal**
- a. **Ed Centre Liaison – Morag Asquith – Associate Superintendent, Instructional Services** Election happening, trustees might change.
- b. **School Board Liaison – Genny Steed – Vice Chair**
- c. **Back to School BBQ Feedback** M&M prices went up from \$3.75, now \$4.25, so we did not make money, not that it was about that. For sports day we may want to consider other options or buying the burgers and grilling them ourselves. But great BBQ evening to gather and welcome to the school year.
- Kona Ice brought their mini trailer out, and did a school fundraiser for us, raising \$124.
- d. **Terry Fox Walk Feedback– September 12 – Henderson Lake** We raised \$675 and counting!
- Perfect day/weather for the 45th annual terry fox walk.
- Every school has a rep for the preparation of the 50th anniversary walk, having it city/division wide.

e. Staff Updates

No music teacher still. Ainsley is doing Grade 1 and 3 music and got a Ukelele. Jenna is not doing any music this year. The rest will be done by their own classroom teachers.

Maybe we could look into music field trips to bridge that gap, or volunteers in our community who teach music.

f. Nutrition Funding

Got the funding from the division, order for food goes in every week, which is the fruit stocked in the classrooms, as well as granola bars. Mindful munchies from the food bank.

Student support worker taken on breakfast (examples are protein waffles and egg bites).

Food should not be a barrier.

g. Weekly Updates

h. Winter Concert

Winter concert to highlight our fine arts. Date will change from calendar as it conflicts with Gilbert Patterson.

i. Skating on the last day

Henderson Ice Arena is already booked by a club/academy for that day. Expired helmets is also a barrier. We will be pivoting to a winter day at the school, hot cocoa and activities.

j. Fundraising for Outdoor Learning Space

Ainsley Croil has started planning process for an outdoor learning space (community garden, logs, shade).

Cortiva (a local business) gave us a grant of \$2500, division's grant is \$1500, as well as the grant wellness funds. Anyone willing to donate to this can donate to the school, with tax receipts. Also looking for majority corporate donations. Limited in what we can do as everything needs approval for from the city.

Would love feedback from parents and teachers on this project.

There was talk from parents last week about the want for a new playground, they were encouraged to come to the council meeting to discuss it. A society needs to be formed to do anything about the playground, school council is separate from that and cannot do that. City might match for a playground, but that would need to be looked into if there is more interest in forming a society first.

k. Grants already received

l. Volunteers needed for Book Fair October 15th, from 12:00pm-2:00pm.

Jessica

2 volunteers on October 27th , from 10:00am-12:00pm

Rachel and Nadine.

m. Questions?

Clothing donations needed for kids in our school community, Ainsley will look into sizes.

11. Division School Council Report – Meeting Dates 1st Meeting is Oct.6

Education centre, at 6:30pm October 6th. Everyone is welcome to attend, not just school representatives.

9. Correspondence-

Fundraising coupon booklet opportunity, looking for interest. \$15 each, 50% goes back to us.

10. New Business

a. Book Club- The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt –

15 books were ordered and have arrived. Book club to start 30 minutes before the council meetings.

Start up date and discussion/questions – books to be handed out

Discussing chapter 1 at the next meeting, October 20th, with more books at the office if there are more parents interested.

**b. Field Trips/Field Trip
Fee/Fundraiser(s)**

Last year we asked staff early in the year to plan their field trips and have in by November, which worked well.

Grade 5s are doing a field trip with Helen Schuler, called the natural leaders project. It is all year with a mix of presentations and trips. This opportunity was applied for and got accepted, all covered.

Fundraisers we are wanting to do this year are the bake sale (with winter concert), popcorn, Panago. Not going with the sugar cookie or bacon this year, not worth it.

Aiming to fundraise \$2000.

11. Adjournment

8:42pm

Next Meeting – Monday October 20, 2025

Building Bridges to a Higher Level of Student Success