

Wes Hosford School Parent Council
Thursday Sept 17th, 2015 at 6:30 pm

Wes Hosford School Parent Council

- Chair, Dinesh Burad.
 - Thank you all for coming. Thank you to Past Chair, Deb Guigere for all her hard work over the last few years on the executive.
 - Introduction of current executive:
 - Dinesh – Chair - daughter in grade 6
 - Jennifer – Vice Chair – absent this meeting. Son in Grade 3.
 - Karie – Secretary – daughters in Kinder and Grade 3
- Review & Adoption of Minutes from May 21, 2015 proposed by Kim Oliver, seconded by Michelle Gilewich, all in favour, PASSED.
- Report from, Trina Boymook, Trustee
 - Aug 27 we selected Chair and Vice Chair. I will be serving my third term as Chair. Harvey Stagnek (Trustee in Fort Saskatchewan) is Vice Chair and has a wealth of knowledge and experience.
 - Last year it was reported re: the 1st year pilot for SLAs. The experience for the grade 3's was as difficult as it was for everyone else. Not too much positive to discuss: the government of the day made the grade 3 SLA pilot project, but then it turned mandatory. The new government made it voluntary. All schools in EIPS are doing it voluntarily and will participate in the SLAs. It is important to see how they have changed and we want to share information and feedback. We know that last year, marking was onerous and took a long time, we are providing funding for grade 3 teachers to come together to mark. We are the only division doing that. EIPS have gone above and beyond to support teachers with SLA. This time, parents will be involved in that they will inform you and the teacher and advise where they need to go next in grade 3.
 - I attended pre-budget consultations with MLAs: education is identified as a priority in this budget. There is a fall budget to impact the current school year and we have made our plans and budgets but we will welcome more money - if they aren't able to make the budgets, we will get at least what was promised to us in June.
 - In the north east section of Sherwood Park there will be a new school. We are working with the county to identify a K-9 school. The challenge is that land isn't available until 2018 (which doesn't meet our timelines) so we will

proceed and put our request to go with K-6 school in the NE section of Sherwood Park - can't say where, waiting for approval, proposing K-6 for 600 kids, hoping for approval.

- Minister is meeting with school boards. Our Board meets September 28 with the Minister to discuss the *Education Act*, capital projects and stable funding. Next time I can share more about that.
- Enrollment up by 144 students. Good news is also that the new government is funding new growth - this is significant - growth and funding!
- September 23 the Board is hosting a school kickoff, inviting school council, from 430-630 to learn about Committee of School Councils and to meet other Councils.

• Principals Report – Patti Berry

- Welcome! It is nice to see new faces. We appreciate your support! The Grade 3 teachers are here, Ms. Gillis, Ms. Elgie, and Ms. Lerbekmo
- They have worked two days already for the SLAs. The process is smoother and at the end we will reflect again to EIPS & Government to see how else we can streamline the process. We feel Grade 3 is early in their education, but we are working with the government and the school board. These ladies are experienced and have done a wonderful job last few days.
- At WHF the kids meet their new teachers in June. This alleviates anxiety in fall and we feel its successful in starting off the year on the right foot.
- Enrollment has grown from 454 to 478 (healthy enrollment!) and we are happy to have our Vice Principal, Kari (Archer) Huk back!
- We recently had Meet the Teacher Night. We switched the format a bit where we gathered in the gym first, then off to classrooms. We have had positive feedback from that.
- Thanks for patience re: the handball court. There is one piece of sod still growing, but the kids are loving playing handball! We keep the balls in the office, and they have been playing often.
- The Grade 6's are off starting Monday for a 3 day camp. This is a tradition for many years. This is many students highlight for their time here at WHF.
- Upcoming is the Terry Fox Run and Tnoonies for Terry.

- Reading Week is October 5-9 - Power of Story, Jersey Day, Popcorn, etc... then Family Dance.
- PARENT COMMENT: Thank you for staying on the county re: the smell last year around the playground. That's where the kids play – Thank you! As parents we appreciate that.

- Other Business:
 - Q. bike rack - trying to get one moved over- working on it, but they need 4 people to do it, will be moved over as soon as enough people to move it.
 - Q. curious why 6 classes using back entrance: The modular isn't approved for occupancy yet. As soon as it is, we will be shifting kids to the other door. As we grow in size, the building can only grow so fast, we are trying to accommodate everything that goes with growth.
 - Portables - one added last year - Trina advised we had another, she double checked and it is almost ready to go, just waiting for last inspection.
 - BOOK FAIR CHAIR/LEAD - can anyone lead it? Bonus - get 50% off at scholastic
 - TEACHERS APPRECIATION - need lead and helpers - Nov.25 – Clare, Laura & Kim Oliver can help - 3 times a year
 - BOOK FAIR – need 2 co-leads to work with librarian - organize Scholastic, probably around 2.5 days where kids come in to preview, set up in morning or day before, 2 days are preview & sales, then close that day and close up shop - count money etc. There will be another Book Fair in march before spring break - march 18, 21, 22. Tasha, Heidi & Michelle, can assist.

- Move to adjourn by Laura Jackson, seconded by Kim Oliver
- Next meeting – Thursday, November 19th, 2015@ 6:30 p.m. (in library)