

Wes Hosford School Council – Meeting Minutes - Approved
Thursday, November 16, 2023
Hybrid Meeting - School Library & Google Meet

In-person Attendees: Loretta Campbell, Tawnia McQueen, Kilby Ritchie, Erin Ramme, Trena-Violet Stott, Aubrey Godfrey, Kya Martin, Kristi Forsythe

Virtual Attendees: Chantelle Auclair, Larissa Henderson, Chelby Tait

WH Staff: Susan Freiheit, Ralph Arndt, Dianne Parker

Trustee: Don Irwin

1. Call to order & Welcome

- a. Tawnia called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm
- b. Land Acknowledgement - Tawnia
- c. Introductions
- d. Meeting Procedures

2. Adoption of Agenda

- a. Sue Freiheit motioned to approve Agenda.
- b. Kilby seconded the motion.
- c. All in favour. Agenda adopted.

3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes

- a. Loretta motioned to approve minutes from September 21, 2023 meeting.
- b. Erin seconded the motion.
- c. All in favour. Minutes adopted.

4. For Information - the following information was made available in the Agenda.

- a. [November AHS Parent/Caregiver Sessions](#)
- b. [COSC Meeting Highlights \(October & November 2023\)](#)
- c. [EIPS Board Report](#)
- d. [Alberta School Council Engagement Grant](#)

5. Trustee's Report - Don Irwin

- a. One the roles of trustees is to advocate for Public Education. The Board of Trustees create an Advocacy Work Plan each year that identifies the priorities and strategies for this work. One aspect of this advocacy takes place in conversations with other elected officials and community stakeholders. During October, trustees had opportunities for conversation at the following events:
 - i. Sherwood Park Chamber of Commerce meeting

- ii. Vegreville Chamber of Commerce meeting
- iii. Meeting with the Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides, Minister of Education and members of his team
- iv. Meeting with the Board Chair and Superintendent of Elk Island Catholic Schools

The mandate letters, for the following Alberta government ministries, have helped inform the 2023-24 Advocacy Work Plan: Education, Advanced Education, Mental Health and Addictions, and Children and Family Services.

The Elk Island Public Schools Assurance Review meetings provide the Board of Trustees with the opportunity to see how departments and schools did in meeting their 2022-23 goals and priorities. These presentations include strengths and successes, areas for growth and challenges that were experienced. The trustees met with the following departments at the end of October as part of the Assurance Review process: Business Services, Communications, Finance, Human Resources, Informational Technology, Student Transportation and Supports for Students. Through the Assurance Reviews, areas of advocacy are identified and the trustees continue to refine the 2023-24 Advocacy Work Plan.

- b. Remembrance Day Services - I attended Wes Hosford service on November 3 and presented the EIPS wreath at the ceremony at Millenium Place on Saturday, November 11.
- c. Questions/ Suggestions - please feel free to email, text, or phone me at don.irwin@eips.ca or 587 986 3900.

6. **Principal's Report**

- a. Lifetouch Photography changed hands last year. The school is not happy with services and would like to consider other vendors. Currently examining options. We will have another vendor for next year.
- b. Saffron Centre is coming next week (Tuesday and Wednesday) for the whole school. Variety of sessions are being offered based on grade
 - i. Kindergarten and Grade 1 - Llamas Spit
 - ii. Grade 2 - My body my boundaries

- iii. Grade 3 - Internet
- iv. Grade 4 - My body my boundaries
- v. Grade 5 and 6 - Internet safety
- c. Indigenous floor mat activity facilitated by Matthew Spencer coming on Tuesday, November 21 for whole school
- d. Fall 2023 School Results Summary for Planning and Reporting review
 - i. Tawnia, Kilby and Sue will speak to results at review meeting next week
 - ii. Grade 4 students complete survey
 - iii. Questions around safe and caring declined, which is very concerning
 - There seems to be contributing factors including retirements and a few key behaviour incidents
 - Suggestion to re-survey students, who are now in grade 5. Results markedly increased.
 - Additional results shared.
 - iv. Two pairs of kid's glasses found
 - Please let us know if they look familiar
 - Will post on facebook page
 - v. November 27 is immunization day for grade 6 students

7. **Vice-Principal's Report**

- a. Food bank drive - grade 3 students promoting
 - i. Goal of 300 items for the school
 - ii. Newsletter is coming out with additional information
 - iii. Food bank won't take food if it's expired so please remember to check best before dates
- b. Indigenous learning - currently celebrating Metis week
- c. Krista Lettis coming December 14 to share Metis culture with Grades 4 and 5
- d. Several assemblies upcoming:
 - i. November 30 - Opera performing Cinderella for whole school
 - ii. November 24 - Earth rangers
 - Live animals, games, trivia teaching students about earth stewardship.
 - iii. January 11 - Chemistry presentation for whole school
 - iv. December 7 - Christmas concert Grades 1-3. Theme 'It's snow time'
 - November 20- First set of tickets

- Second set of tickets available afterwards
- v. Report cards come out December 1 around 4:00pm, available on PowerSchool

8. **Teacher Update - Mrs. Parker**

- a. Teacher interviews were early and it was a really positive experience
 - i. Wonder if there will be more interest in report cards because parents will already have an update and might be looking to see if there have been gains
- b. Thank you for the potluck lunch. Makes us all feel so appreciated!
 - i. Sunshine committee - thank you for the drinks! Having little messages meant a lot.
 - ii. School atmosphere feels positive this year. Thank you to Sue and Ralph as well.
- c. Upcoming dates
 - i. February 6 and 7 are the next round of Parent Teacher interviews.
 - ii. February 8 and 9 will be teachers convention
 - iii. Next round of report cards come out in March

9. **School Council - Old Business**

- a. **Teacher Potluck Update** - Kya
 - i. Was missing some volunteers and Sue and Ralph were able to get a request out and open positions were filled
 - ii. Potluck on February 6
- b. **Book Fair Update** - Tawnia
 - i. Most successful bookfair that we've had
 - ii. Sold \$6,750.70 worth of books, netted \$3,206.58 of rewards
 - Rewards dollars (1) purchased books through scholastic and also were able to (2) convert rewards to cash, cheque coming to school for \$1,151.04.
 - More than 48 books donated to classroom libraries.
- c. **Family Game Night Update**
 - i. Decided to cancel family game night this year based on shortage of volunteers and demands on team
- d. **Sensory Room Committee** - Courtney to update in January

e. Learning Commons Update - Kilby

- i. Tawnia and Kilby went and viewed a few school libraries for ideas
 - Sat down with CDI (office furniture company) to discuss options, will get 3 schematics
 - Replacing shelving, creating nooks and potentially removing grates off windows?
 - Measurements start November 20
 - Will reach out to local librarians for input once we get schematics for input/insight as they are experts

10. School Council - New Business

a. Sunshine Committee Update - Kilby

- i. Spread sunshine throughout the year for staff and students
- ii. Mrs. Manchur and Ms. Pasma sent emails to school council thanking committee for their efforts during National Teachers Appreciation Day
- iii. Request for funds from Fundraising Society
 - Requesting budget of \$1,200, will be used for following ideas:
 - National Teachers Appreciation Day - DONE
 - You've been 'Elfed'
 - Acknowledge Administrative Professionals Day
 - One Kind Word initiative
 - Volunteer appreciation wind up
 - Next Sunshine Committee meeting is November 30 here at the school, contact Kilby for details
 - Don't want to share too much more information with staff in advance of events

b. Guidance Counsellor

- i. We have a great guidance counsellor, Mrs. Nicholl
- ii. We've offered a stipend to our teachers, \$ to sports and music room but we have missed Mrs. Nicholl
- iii. Sent an email asking for information about resources which would be valuable. Mrs. Nicholl provided a list
- iv. Request for funds from Fundraising Society
 - Total cost for requests is \$375 excluding 3 games which haven't been found yet (Canadian pricing is currently unavailable)

- Includes social emotional games, books, sensory or breathing stickers, fidget toys, etc.
- Doesn't seem outlandish to give Mrs. Nicholl this request to support children?
- Could we offer \$500 knowing that additional items would benefit a large portion of students in the school?

c. Parent Engagement Grant

- i. [Alberta School Council Engagement Grant](#)
- ii. Discussion
 - Urgency has been reduced. Able to hold off until after January meeting.
 - \$500 to spend on a way to engage parents in their child's education
 - Potential ideas: Saffron Centre, math night, art ideas, playful adventures, African drumming, etc.
 - Any concerns or questions with doing something focused on the arts this year?
 - Should children be involved or not?
 - To be considered and will be decided at January meeting

d. Assurance Review & Engagement

- i. Tawnia and Kilby will represent parents at assurance review
- ii. Been asked to address, 'How have you been provided the opportunity to be involved in your child's education?'
- iii. Wanted to open up to other parents for thoughts and feedback
- iv. Discussion/ideas
 - School council meetings
 - Parent teacher interviews
 - Meet the teacher night
 - Assurance review
 - Report cards
 - Newsletters (teacher and school)
 - Open door policy - can pop in to speak with Ralph or Sue anytime
 - Principal and Vice Principal at the busses greeting children and families

- Classroom volunteering
- Concerts
- Family dance
- Many opportunities, just reliant on the parent to actually be involved
- Online access
- Counsellor reaching out to discuss with parents

11. Next Meeting and Adjournment

- a. Tawnia adjourned the meeting at 7:48 pm
- b. Next meeting January 18, 2023