

Wes Hosford School Council – Meeting Minutes
Thursday, Jan18, 2023
Hybrid Meeting - School Library & Google Meet

In-person Attendees: Tawnia M, Kilby R, Chantelle A, Loretta C, Trenna-Violet S, Courtney K, Kristi F, Amy P

Virtual Attendees: n/a

WH Staff: Susan Freiheit, Ralph Arndt, Pamela Erickson

Trustee: Don Irwin

1. Call to order & Welcome

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

2. Adoption of Agenda

- a. Kilby requested to add “School Supplies Donation Bin” to new business
- b. Courtney motioned to approve Agenda with the addition above.
- c. Loretta seconded the motion.
- d. All in favour. Minutes adopted.

3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes

- a. Sue motioned to approve minutes from November 16, 2023 meeting.
- b. Kilby seconded the motion.
- c. All in favour. Minutes adopted.

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

- a. 📎 01 AMH Education Sessions Newsletter - Jan-Feb 2024.pdf
- b. [EIPS Board Highlights December 2023](#)
- c. [EIPS Results Report & Overview](#)
- d. 📎 WHF Assurance Review 2023.pdf

5. Trustee’s Report - Don Irwin

- a. I hope that you and your family had a relaxing time together over Christmas.
- b. I have enclosed a [link to the annual Education and Results report overview](#) which shows that we as a School District are doing very well in providing high-quality student-centred education to the 17,760 students in Elk Island Public Schools. You may go to eips.ca for the full 80 page document.

- c. The Sport for Life program at Cloverbar Jr. High was adopted as an Alternative Program able to be used by any Junior High in EPIS.
- d. Also the Developing Personal Values course was approved for use in the District as requested by Next Steps.
- e. The Board heard a report on the use of Artificial Intelligence and working on policy for its use in schools.
- f. A few of the areas that we are working on in January and February include the French immersion plan and also the design of Sherwood Heights school.
- g. A plan for French Immersion in Grades 10-12 will be on the January 25 Public Board Meeting with all details available on Monday January 22 at noon on the District website.
- h. The monthly COSC (Committee of School Councils) meeting was held Wednesday at 6:30 PM on January 10th and the summary of the meeting will be posted on the EIPS website after meeting. Much good information is relayed at these meetings, glad to see Tawnia and Kilby attending as our representatives to collect the information and then inform your school council.
- i. The Engagement Grant has been extended to January 31. You can attend in person at the Board Office or virtually on Zoom. February meeting will be held on February 7, 2024.
- j. I would encourage all students, families and staff to be especially diligent about maintaining a healthy lifestyle, especially including handwashing, as we are in the midst of flu season.
- k. If you have suggestions or questions from School Council or on any other items related to the board, please send them to me email preferred at don.irwin@eips.ca or text 587-986-3900

6. Principal's Report

- a. Thank you Ralph, Tawnia, Kilby for the support at the Results Review. Feeling super proud of our school.
- b. School Fees - every year we have to present our school fees to the School Board. Some things aren't covered. Sue shared her fee recommendations - Last year fees jumped from \$60 to \$62, recommending increasing fees again by \$2
- c. Discussion
 - i. Feedback - families are missing more field trips

- d. Next steps: Survey to go out in February, following another discussion at next meeting, then gets submitted to the School Board.

7. Vice-Principal's Report

- a. Indigenous Learning - Inuit Knowledge Keeper spoke to our grades 2 and 5, they even got to try Arctic Char.
- b. Assemblies - positive reaction to assemblies
- c. Chemistry session last week was exciting
- d. Upcoming author Sigmund Brewer coming to our school
- e. Govt of AB assessments - grade 1 numeracy and literacy - results submitted to AB ED and then get funding based
 - i. Mrs. Tchuck has increased her time to work with the students who need it. Parents have been notified.

8. Teacher Update - Mrs. Erikson

- a. New system called Collaborative Response - teachers and EAs come together to share ideas to move students forward in numeracy, literacy, social and emotional development. Bringing in-house expertise to share. The benefits not always immediate, but definitely helping students over time. Scheduled time to collaborate, build each other's capacity.
- b. Parent teacher interviews coming up Feb6-7 - bookings open on Jan29. Interviews are before report cards - keep families current on where the child is now and an extra touch point. And we can highlight the improvement from meeting to report card.
- c. Thank you in advance for the pot luck. Teachers greatly appreciate it!
- d. Book Fair coming up with parent - teacher interviews.
- e. Teachers Convention - Feb8-9 - time for teachers to gather as a profession, collaborate and learn. Sessions that we're interested in or want to learn more about. Visit with colleagues you haven't seen in a while.
- f. Grade 6's - in prep for provincial achievement - Lunchtime numeracy skills - Sue and Mrs. Erickson working with the kids. M&Th to start.
- g. Comment from Tawnia - please share with the teachers that SC&FS want to support - if you need things, let us know how we can get the word out, get stuff donated, or fundraised, etc.

9. School Council - Old Business - Tawnia

- a. Mrs. Nichol has been able to purchase all her resources with the funds provided; she asked us to share her thanks!
- b. Assurance Review Update - as per Sue's update, it went really well!
- c. Learning Commons Committee Update - Tawnia shared the plans for the Learning Commons!
 - i. ~ \$23,000 raised + school has ~\$10,000
 - ii. The plan's cost is ~\$39,000
 - iii. Requesting \$5,600 from Fundraising Committee
- d. Parent Engagement Grant Spending Vote - [Alberta School Council Engagement Grant](#) after last meeting we had promised to look into options and vote today. Options:
 - i. Unstructured risky play - need for nature, outdoor programming - 90 min evening or online workshop or in spring do it outside.
 - ii. ASCA Workshops - used to be gov't funded but now they give the funds to SC's, good to support them but previous lack of attendance in workshops.
 - iii. African drumming group - Drum Speaks - 40 drums. \$300 for a workshop.
 - iv. Amy motioned to approve we spend the \$500 from grant on parent engagement toward playful adventures or African drumming depending on availability.
 - Kilby seconded.
 - All in favour, Motion approved.
- e. Sensory Room Committee - Courtney
 - i. Courtney presented plans and options for the Self Regulation Room. A motion for funding will be put forward to the Fundraising Committee. See Appendix A.

10. School Council - New Business

- a. Sunshine Committee Update
 - i. Thank you's sent to teachers doing intramurals, etc.
 - ii. You've been elfed was a big success
 - iii. Pot luck coming up
 - iv. One Kind Word initiative coming up
 - v. Spent \$300 of the \$1200 allotted budget so far.
- b. Vertical Non-Permanent Surfaces (whiteboards)

- i. Small whiteboards are commonly used in the classrooms and more will be needed shortly. Administration will work with the teachers to determine needs and return with some more information on options/costs. Revisit at the March meeting.
 - ii. Whiteboard Markers needed - let's post on Facebook encouraging families to donate whiteboard markers.
- c. Teacher Resources - The Megabook of Fluency - Trenna motioned to use the Book Fair funds for this and revisit at March meeting.
 - i. Loretta seconded. All in favour. Motion approved.
- d. SMARTBOARDS are failing
 - i. 3BT has died and need to be replaced now
 - ii. Smartboards are discontinued, now Smart TVs
 - iii. Need to get pricing, but school will be looking to School Council and Fundraising for support to purchase new ones for next year.
- e. EIPS Reset Rooms - invited to join Woodbridge Farms presentation of Mardi Hardt (The Brain Architecture Game) - request for fundraising \$100 for sandwiches. Coming up Feb7.
- f. Book Fair & Teacher Appreciation Lunch - coming up Feb6-7
- g. Donation Bin - Kilby asked for feedback on having a donation bin for school supplies at the end of the year. Tell your students don't bring it home, put it in the donation bin. Feedback was positive. Sue to discuss with teachers.

11. Next Meeting and Adjournment

- a. Tawnia adjourned the meeting at 8:12pm
- b. Next meeting March 14, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Appendix A - Self Regulation Room

Self Regulation Room

Abstract

To create a safe, welcoming and inclusive space for students to self regulate. This space will serve any staff supervised student who wishes to utilize the room, with the primary focus on coded learners and counselling sessions. The objective is that students will be ready and able to rejoin their peers in the classroom after visiting the self regulation room. The sensory room committee is presenting tiered budget options for funding consideration.

Statement of Need

Wes Hosford Elementary serves 320 students. The current self regulation room has never been a fundraising focus. Diverse learners will feel welcomed at Wes Hosford, and could potentially boost enrolment. Investing in the self regulation room means investing in inclusive education.

Room Description

"We" (sensory room committee) consulted with caregivers of coded students, school administration, teachers, educational assistants and other industry professionals. Results from this survey can be found attached. The room will contain elements to cover all senses and sensory profiles as deemed appropriate by the school division. The room will be painted an appropriate colour to be approved by school administration. The sensory committee is suggesting violet, blue or green as this is what research suggests [cit.]

Timeline

Timeline would be dictated by shipping and availability of equipment. Painting in the room will be completed preceding a period of school closure (spring or summer break)

Citations

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6120989/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20649469/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3942464/>

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/356757595_IMPACT_OF_COLOUR_ON_DEPRESSION_ANXIETY_AND_STRESS_LEVELS_OF_PHYSICALLY_DISABLED_PATIENTS_IN_HEALTH_CARE_FACILITIES)

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