

Wes Hosford School Council – Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 14, 2024
Hybrid Meeting - School Library & Google Meet

In-person Attendees: Kilby R, Kya M, Chelby T, Loretta C, Tawnia M, Chantelle A, Trena S

Virtual Attendees: Courtney K

WH Staff: Susan Freiheit, Ralph Arndt, Pam Erickson, Emillan Dumec (student teacher, online)

Trustee: Don Irwin

Regrets: Amy P

1. Call to order & Welcome

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

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. Any additions to the Agenda? Add bullet under old business, donation bins.
- b. Kya motioned to approve Agenda with addition noted above.
 - i. Courtney seconded the motion.
 - ii. All in favour. Agenda approved.

3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2024

- a. Kilby motioned to approve minutes from January 18, 2024.
 - i. Sue seconded the motion.
 - ii. All in favour. Minutes approved.

4. For Information: the following was included with the agenda

- a. [02 AMH Education Sessions Newsletter - March 2024.pdf](#)
- b. [EIPS Board Highlights](#)
- c. [ATA Report March 2024.docx -](#)

5. Trustee's Report - Don Irwin

- a. March 11 to 15 is the Week of inspirational math. Watch for your school's activities.
- b. Summer school registration opens March 15th see the EIPS website for more details.
- c. Grade 9 to 12 EIPS annual feedback survey for students staff and caregivers ends on March 21st.
- d. You are invited to participate in the EIPS round dance ceremony at FR Haythorne on Friday March 15th at 6:00 PM. All students and parents are welcome to attend.

- e. Alberta Health continues their parent seminars with junior high jitters for students and parents going into grade 7 on March 20th at 6:20 PM.
- f. www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca
- g. March 21st separation and your parenting rights 6:30 in the Fort Saskatchewan library.
- h. High school scholarships and awards are listed on the EIPS website - www.eips.ca.
- i. Update on the Sherwood Heights replacement school - Alberta Infrastructure has posted a request for proposals on Feb 15th. The request for proposals closes on May 7th and the contract is expected to be awarded before the end of May. The project will be completed in two phases: phase one consists of constructing the replacement school, bus parking and drop off parking. Phase two consists of demolishing the Sherwood Heights junior high building and adding a staff parking lot.
- j. While still early, current project timelines indicate that the school will open to students in September 2026 at the end of phase one. Phase two will be completed for September 2027.
- k. For more information or questions on any items in this report or other areas, feel free to text, phone, or email me at 587 986 3900 or don.irwin@eips.ca.
- l. Kilby requested Don to look into letter to facilities regarding reconsideration of the Steel grates being removed off the windows in the learning common area.

6. Principal's Report - Susan Freiheit

- a. School Fees 2024-25
 - i. Field trip fees have gone up \$2 to \$64 everything else has stayed the same.
 - ii. Noon supervision runs at a deficit, as this is staff, fundraising can not assist with this cost.
 - iii. Budget opens April 26 - the government gives division budget and then school is given their budget. Sue then has to make her budget work by May 9. The prediction is there will be 2 combined classes next year. Younger grades are smaller, larger classes such as our grades 4-5-6 are aging out of school, and numbers coming in are not replacing these.
 - iv. Grade 6 we are losing 60 kids but K is 38 students enrolled but is half time so funding is only 20ish, so we are losing 40 kids worth of funding.
 - v. Question: is there a cap on how many kids are in the classroom? No. We are lucky to have a classroom under 30. Many schools have multiple classrooms over 30.
 - vi. Question: is there research to support which grades should be split? Not really. Some research shows having strong foundation from K-2 gives the best chances of graduating from school. School's preference is not to split these grades, but better to run a split it then have a group of 30.

- vii. Learning Commons furniture and updates anticipated to be completed in April, pending deliveries coming as currently anticipated. Tables in the library – offered to staff first and then to other schools.

7. Vice Principal's Report - Ralph Arndt

- a. Breakdancing – 30 students in grade 3-4 took part earlier this winter
 - i. 10 students in grades 5-6 right now
 - ii. Drop-in sessions at GARC Tuesday at 3:30-5:00 for \$5
- b. Running club - Mrs. Gillis and Mrs. Pedersen taking part in Elk Island Invitational Relays on May 9th. The group met yesterday at first recess.
- c. meeting yesterday at first recess
- d. Spring concert Thursday, April 11, Grades 4-6, theme Light up the world
- e. Author Sigmund Brouwer Thurs April 18 coming to Wes Hosford
- f. New indigenous consultants Taryn and Danielle
- g. Junior high transitions, AHS visiting grade 6's to discuss transitioning to Junior High on Friday, April 19 at Wes Hosford
- h. FR Haythorne open house on April 16
- i. Staff from FRH are coming to WHF to do a presentation and questions date on April 4.

8. Teacher's Update – Mrs. Pamela Erickson

- a. For 25 days there are 2 student teachers Miranda Torgeson in 5P and Emillan Dumec in 6E at the school
- b. Week of inspirational math – special readers each morning, read a math book to the students. Open to all schools in the division
- c. Supports for students have created math warm-ups for the students.
- d. Progress reports coming out tomorrow
- e. Family dance coming up kids are excited, survey for music grade 6s received excited to be able to pick some music
- f. One kind word assembly – thank you for taking the time to do this, wonderful idea

9. School Council Old Business

- a. Learning Commons Update – see above, reaching out to parents to pack up books around April 3 to 5. And will need volunteers to help unpack once we have confirmed dates.
- b. Parent Engagement Grant Spending Update – Our presenter Sarah is coming May 10, after school thinking after supper. Students can come
 - i. Topic is rethinking risky play and how it is important, rain or shine will be outside

- c. Self Regulation Room Update (Provided by Courtney) – spent \$5000 out of \$8000 budget. Area rug was donated for the room. Thank you to Toreson’s painting for donation. Project will be completed by end of school year. Kilby/Courtney have more info on this if you want more details.
- d. Sunshine Committee Update – one kind word, gave students challenges for the week, filling out balloons, acknowledging a friend/acquaintance, saying one kind word. Displayed in hallway for the dance.
 - i. Teacher appreciation lunch was done. Looking for someone to take over the teacher's potluck Kya leaving school this year.
 - ii. \$302.14 spent of the year budget (this does not include the cotton candy money from munch that is to go to sunshine committee. Approx \$154.)
- e. Parent Engagement: Mardi Hardt (The Brain Architecture Game) Update – Tawnia and Kilby attended, was fantastic, interactive experience, giving supplies and draw cards off of first 8 years of life. How different scenarios “build a brain”, positive, toxic, bearable scenarios. Positive experiences can also help to restructure the brain.
- f. Book Fair & Teacher Appreciation Lunch Update – \$5542.07 total sales – spent \$800 approx on books and a cheque coming for ~ \$1200. School is using the funds for new books and literacy resources for the teachers.
- g. Chromebooks & Smartboard Replacement - *Fundraising Request Update* Ask is for fundraising to provide 32 chrome books for one class \$389.80 each \$12,473.60. Need to be ordered from an approved vendor. Need to purchase for September with decommissioned chromebooks.
 - i. Fundraising asked if we can sell the decommissioned chromebooks to families at a discounted cost as they are five years old and slower but some families may be interested in purchasing these. Then could assist in purchasing the new ones. Mr. Ralph Ardnt is going to look into this and let us know.
 - ii. Sue and Ralph went and looked at the smartboards, looking to purchase smart TVs. We would look to purchase 2 or 3 for next year. Stagger purchasing so aren’t needed to all at once. Grade 6 first as more techy. Would be excellent for September but will work with what they have.
 - Would prefer for 2 x 85 inches then 3 x 75 inches
 - 75 inch for \$1611
 - 85inch for \$2291
 - Plus tax and plus GST, install may need to get a contractor. Facilities may do that but may need to pay for install.

- h. Vertical Non-Permanent Surfaces (Whiteboards) *Table Fund Request* Tawnia to price out for next meeting. Tabled to next year but maybe look at in May for September.
- i. Donation bins – school council is sending out email about donation bins if parents don't want extra supplies returned home, can leave for the school to use.
- j. Fundraising to purchase ziplock bags for teacher lunch so can pack it up and get dishes back to people.

10. School Council New Business

- a. EIPS Parent/Caregiver Opinion Survey – [Click HERE to take the Survey](#)
- b. ASCA Conference – AGM Advocacy Resolutions – [Meeting Package](#), Tawnia going. Proposed advocacy resolutions get voted on, what ASCA will adopt, advocacies resolutions to bring to the table next year to discuss w. the government. April 26-27-28 Minister of Education will be at the meeting
 - i. Questions can be sent to Tawnia to put forward questions for Minister of Education by March 28. Work on a survey for the parents to see if questions for the minister of education (Shelby)
 - ii. Fundraising portion Friday evening there are 2 fundraising sessions.
 - iii. Trade fair
- c. Sunshine Committee – End of Year - Volunteer Appreciation – May 6-10th teachers appreciation – gift of time to the teachers, prep work that can be done by parents/volunteers.
- d. Sports Day Treats for Students, Staff & Volunteers - *Fundraising Request*
 - i. Popsicles
- e. Field Trip Transportation - *Fundraising Consideration*
 - i. Bus transportation uses up a big portion of the field trip fees for the classes. Consideration of fundraising providing funds to cover transportation for each grade for one trip. Include in costs at the beginning of the year so teachers can use this for a field trip whenever best works for them. Approx \$250 a grade. To be discussed further at May meeting.
- f. AGM – Next meeting – Voting for Executive 2024-2025

11. Adjournment

- a. Tawnia adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm
- b. Next meeting AGM on May 9, 2024 at 6:30pm