

**Wes Hosford School Council – Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 9, 2024**  
**Hybrid Meeting - School Library & Google Meet**

**In-person Attendees:** Tawnia McQueen, Kilby Ritchie, Courtney Kohlruss, Kya Martin, Kristi Forsythe, Loretta Campbell, Erin Ramme, Trena-Violet Stott, Ian Edington, Chantelle Auclair

**Virtual Attendees:** Kayla Brady, Larissa Henderson, Chelby Tait

**WH Staff:** Susan Freiheit, Ralph Arndt, Darlene Gillis, Denise Chamczuk, Dianne Parker

**Trustee:** Don Irwin

**Regrets:** Amy Power

**1. Call to order & Welcome**

- a. Tawnia called the meeting to order at 6:36pm
- b. Land Acknowledgement
- c. Attendance
- d. Introductions
- e. Meeting Procedures

**2. Approval of Agenda**

- a. Any additions to the Agenda?
- b. Courtney motioned to approve Agenda.
- c. Add in discussion of \$25,000 voted on last year
  - i. Loretta seconded the motion.
  - ii. Yes-10, No-0 Agenda approved.

**3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from March 14, 2024**

- a. Kilby motioned to approve minutes from March 14, 2024.
  - i. Trena seconded the motion.
  - ii. Yes- 10, No-0 Minutes approved.

**4. For Information:** tonight's meeting package is [available here](#).

- . [AHS Parent / Caregiver Series](#)
- a. [EIPS Board Highlights](#)
- b. ATA Report (none for May)
- c. [ASCA 2024 Advocacy Resolutions](#)
  - Contact information can be made available if requested
- d. [School Council Fundraising Requests](#)

**5. Trustee's Report - Don Irwin**

- a. We are in the homestretch for the 2022-2023 school year- continue to hang in there students, parents, and staff. You are making a positive difference.
- b. Budget allocations have been released to schools this week. Tough budget year- Superintendent Studdard's full budget report is in the COSC summary.
- c. On Friday we joined in Bus Driver Appreciation Day at the Dow Centre.
- d. This week we do our final school tours in Ardrossan, Castle and Bruddeheim.
- e. Look forward to celebrating Long Service Awards and Retirements at the Agora Centre. Congratulations to Ralph Arndt, Sue Freiheit and Nicole Niles for their long service awards.
- f. Attended the Fort Sask community meeting on handling growth including the exciting Collegiate Model.

- g. Thanks to Bev Facey for hosting the excellent seminar on Student Anxiety and What we can do to help.
- h. Attended the Sherwood Park Chamber Luncheon with Mayor Frank outlining all the good things happening in Strathcona County.
- i. Elk Island Public Schools received an Engagement Award from Alberta School Council Association for the excellent way the Board and Administration engaged with parents in the last year.
- j. School Council yearly reports are due June 26.
- k. Questions, ideas, suggestions- please call, text, or email me at 587 986 3900 or [don.irwin@eips.ca](mailto:don.irwin@eips.ca).

## 6. Principal's Report - Susan Freiheit

- a. School Assemblies Request
  - Request for additional funds to support more school assemblies.
  - For a number of reasons with multiple benefits including: attendance, participation, being together, being in an audience, learning about content they couldn't learn in the classroom, teachers can collaborate outside of the assembly
  - Know that Parent Council likes to support all school events, so this could be a nice solution
  - Compared costs and determined an ask of \$3,000 from Fundraising Society

## 7. Vice Principal's Report - Ralph Arndt

- a. Kindergarten Open House
  - i. Took place in new learning commons. Seemed like slightly lower attendance. Lots of older siblings for students who attended.
  - ii. Thanks to School Council and gets parents excited
- b. Assessment Results
  - i. Request to share STAR results
    - Increases in reading and math results for all grades
    - Spring results are coming shortly
    - Request to see results in September
- c. Facility Maintenance – ex. Gym Painting
  - i. School responsibility to pay - estimate of \$4,000
  - ii. Small damaged patch which will be paid for by EIPS
- d. Thank you for the Principal/AP Day lunch!
- e. SEB Goals have been slightly rewritten
  - i. Goal 1: Numeracy
  - ii. Goal 2: Literacy
  - iii. Goal 3: Mental Health

## 8. Teacher's Update – Darlene Gillis

- a. Readathon
  - i. Thank you for organizing. Lots of fun for the school and engaged children
  - ii. Similar to our assemblies, it improves our culture and ties people together
  - iii. Easier for teachers to implement. Didn't add to the teachers' work load.
- b. Gift of Time
  - i. So nice to have things done
  - ii. But also nice to feel like parents want to join and help

- c. Learning Commons
  - i. Kids are so excited about the new space. It looks and feels bigger
  - ii. Anytime kids get the feeling their environment is being cared for then they feel like they are being cared for.
  - iii. Thank you

## 9. School Council Old Business

- a. Learning Commons & Window Grating Update
  - i. Waiting for display shelves but there is a wait time for ordering and getting them in
  - ii. Diamond grating was inquired about whether it could be removed
    - Fire code requirements
    - Fall protection
    - Required for portables
    - Not on the list to be updated at this point
- b. School Council Engagement Grant Spending Update – Risky Play
  - i. Sara Reader is coming from playful adventures
  - ii. Talking about risky play. Runs adventure playgrounds and loose parts play
  - iii. Parents and children are welcome
  - iv. May 10, 2024 from 6:00pm-8:00pm at Wes Hosford
- c. Self Regulation Room Update (Provided by Courtney)
  - i. Purchase order is finally approved
  - ii. Should arrive soon
  - iii. After exchange rate is finalized we'll know how much \$ is remaining from allocated budget.
- d. Sunshine Committee Update / Volunteer Appreciation Event –
  - i. Administrative day
    - Purchased a planter for Terry
    - Cotton Candy funds donated to the sunshine committee were spent on a blanket and Lululemon gift card for Ms. Pasma
    - Teachers week had a group of volunteers come in to clean the gym, maker space, photocopying
    - Principal and Vice Principal lunch
    - Volunteer appreciation lunch on June 13 with appies provided. Official invites are coming
- e. ASCA Conference and COSC Update
  - i. Minister of Education took questions from the floor. Everyone was respectful
  - ii. Spoke a lot about numbers. And said most recent numbers being shared but Alberta is still likely the lowest-funded province
  - iii. Cell phones- 1,300 parents had provided feedback on the curriculum survey and already at 38,000 parent responses regarding cell phones
  - iv. Acknowledged that parents have a large role in their child's education. Question regarding funding for qualified staff with information going back to the school board. Minister's stance is that funds are there for the division already.

- v. Alberta offers world-class education. Was challenged about how that would continue if education wasn't funded.

NOTE: Parent voice is very strong. If an email is sent to the Minister, please cc your School Board Trustee and the political opposition. Parent emails have a large impact.

## 10. School Budget 2024-2025 Presentation

### a. Classroom Configuration

- Some things are in the control of Administration and some things are not.
- 95% of budget must be spent on staffing no more or less
- Compare what was spent last year with whether it's required
- 295 students are enrolled
  - o 24 students are required to pay for a teacher
  - o Can't combine students evenly across the school either (higher number of students in div. 2 and lesser number of students in div 1)
    - 1 combined class this year
    - 3 combined classes next year
    - Split classes will be 1/2 (Mrs. Chamczuk), 2/3 (Ms. Parker), 4/5 (Mrs. Gillis)
    - Won't be telling the kids in advance who is in their class
    - August 28 in the evening will be a meet the teacher where they can meet their teacher, bring their supplies and then start school on August 29

## 11. Council New Business

### a. Playground Pour-in-Place Survey Results

- i. Playground project was taken on by Kilby
  - Received grant and a budget of \$250,000 with \$125,000 for equipment
  - County suggested changing the playground footprint by not removing the outdoor classroom and the little forest
  - Sensory sidewalk with panels leading to disc swing. With all accessibility located closest to GARC parking lot
  - Ramp into the sand
  - County contacted Kilby
    - a. Told sensory walk wasn't feasible due to grading
    - b. Told pour in place is outside of budget
  - After further advocating, the sensory walk has been reintroduced
    - a. Told additional money cannot be added to budget
  - Received an email saying that if we can come up with \$33,000 this year, we can have the pour in place. If waiting for next year then cost will be \$40,000
  - Caregiver body was surveyed
    - a. 91 responses with a 60/40 discussion about the pour in place for the playground
- Teacher perspective?
  - o More accessible the playground is the more will use and enjoy and the more it builds community
- Frustrating that inclusivity still seems to be an issue in present day

- Continue discussion and explore the potential to reallocate fundraising \$ to pay for the pour-in-place
  - ii. Loretta moved to continue discussion in fundraising
  - iii. Courtney seconded the motion.  
Yes- 13, No-0
  
- b. Facebook – Approve Posts
  - i. Posts will now need to be approved to eliminating the noise. Attempt to more effectively direct parents to the appropriate channels
  
- c. School Supply Donation Bins
  - i. Email out in June
  - ii. If your student would like to leave your old supplies to donate to the school, there will be a bin to donate to the school
  
- d. Operating Procedures Update
  - i. 5.b. and 5.c. was cut off from the procedures outlined last year regarding voting members
  - ii. Modifying that Principal can vote but staff cannot vote, currently
  - iii. Will be tabled until next year
  
- e. SC Year End Report 2023-24 (Chair Report to Board)
  - i. Off to Elk Island School Board by the end of June
  
- f. Voting for Executive 2024-2025
  - i. All 3 positions are up for nomination as it is an annual requirement
  - ii. Chair
    - Kilby nominated Tawnia McQueen
    - Trena seconded
    - All in favour 13, Opposed- 0
  - iii. Vice Chair
    - Loretta nominated Kilby Ritchie
    - Ralph seconded
    - All in favour 13, Opposed- 0
  - iv. Secretary
    - Loretta nominated Courtney Kohlruss
    - Erin seconded
    - All in favour 13, Opposed- 0
  
- g. Looking ahead to 2024-2025
  - i. Tabled
  - ii. Thanks to everyone for everything you do!
  - iii. Will be looking to add an additional school council meeting at the end of the year

- 12. Update regarding the \$25,000 voted as a grant to the school from last year
  - a. \$15,000 to learning commons

- b. \$2,500 to PE and sports equipment (basketball nets, balls, sport equipment, outside paints)
- c. \$2,500 for music - TBD
- d. \$5,000 to chromebooks

**13. Adjournment**

- a. Tawnia adjourned the meeting at 8:22pm
- b. Next meeting September 19, 2024 at 6:30pm