

Westboro School Council

School Council Minutes – Sept 20, 2023

6:30 p.m. School Library

** indicates written report/attachment provided*

Attendance

Parents: Christan Rasmussen (Chair), Hilary Schmidt (Vice-Chair), Mallory Jackson, Alyssa Cooper, Jordana McDonald, Luis Padilla, Carrie Bounds

School Staff: Mike Lastiwka (Principal), Tracey Prouse (Vice-Principal), Dianna Graziano (Counselor)

Others: Trina Boymook (EIPS Trustee)

- 1) Call to order at 6:30 p.m.
- 2) Review of the Agenda
The Agenda was approved as distributed.
- 3) Approval of the Minutes from September 20, 2023
The Minutes were approved as distributed.
- 4) School Council Engagement Grant: Christan
 - Typically members of COSC have an option to pool grants
 - Suggestion to bring in a speaker who focuses on ADHD supports
 - Interest in bringing in speakers relating to mental health and emotional intelligence
 - Would also like to look into county supports and services
- 5) Trustee Report*: Trina Boymook – Trustee
See attached
- 6) Administration Report:
Mike Lastiwka – Principal
 - The Meet the Teacher bbq was a big success and it was a pleasure to have parents return to the classrooms this year to see inside the school and to meet directly with teachers.
 - We're looking for more ways to increase communication with parents and to increase parent engagement.
 - Looking at roles like volunteering in the classroom and inviting parents/guardians to be involved in meaningful ways beyond school council
 - We want all parents/guardians to feel comfortable communicating with the staff
 - Inviting multiple events to engage parents – again, thinking beyond school council
 - Would like to be more deliberate about surveys as they are a helpful way to communicate and gather information from parents
 - Enrolment this fall is at 244
 - This is reduced from last year, but still good despite the loss of the Logos program
 - Cambrian neighborhood is well underway and we will get a good influx of students when families start moving in there
 - Still working on the custom assessment app, working with another company and hoping to pilot it out by the end of September

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Tracey Prouse – Assistant Principal

- So grateful to be coming back this year and despite it feeling different this year with the reduced number of families, its been reassuring to see everyone, staff and kids, come back. We also have some new families and new staff members.
- Had a great welcome assembly, establishing new connections and reestablishing old connections, building on what it means to be a Westboro Warrior.
- Great feedback from parents and staff regarding the Meet the Staff bbq – a very successful event.
- Started out the year with safety drills, and the recent fire inspection went well.
- Grade 5/6 students have started in their leadership groups, they're also doing noon-hour supervision (gr 6) with the younger grades.
- Patrollers start on Friday, Sept 22nd.
- Sept sees the Gov of AB assessments as well as the Star assessments being completed
- The staff is working through the new curriculum as the whole core curriculum is being changed. EIPS has been great with creating resources to support our teachers, but this is a big challenge with the large gaps between previous and new curriculum goals.
- All EAs to be trained in First Aid – working with Brandy Chimko to get all staff first aid trained.
- Terry Fox Run is on Friday, Sept 22nd, spearheaded by Mrs. Gilmore and Mrs. Stevens, Kindergarten running on Thursday, Sept 21st.
- Orange Shirt Day is on Friday Sept 29th.

Dianna Graziano – Counselor

- This is the first year the whole school is able to participate in Halloween activities together
- Would like to do a full school Halloween activity
 - Afternoon Halloween march
 - Assembly
 - Decorate an empty classroom to do a “haunted” house
 - Need parent volunteers
 - Send survey to get parents involved
- Reminder from Mrs. Perotta regarding the buddy program – the students involved in Friends Squad spend recess with the kids in the STEPS program, hanging out and helping them. This is done on a rotation and helps kids feel included.

7) General Discussion

Secretary position open. Carrie Bounds was nominated.
Carrie Bounds acclaimed to Secretary.

8) Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

9) Adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Trustee Report
Trina Boymook

- After ten years, I decided to step away from the Board Chair position at the end of my term. At the August 24 organizational meeting the Board elected Cathy Allen as the new Board Chair and Susan Miller as the new Vice Chair.
- Board approved in the spring a \$208M budget with minimal use of reserves. The Board will use reserves to extend the Career Pathway work for an additional year and to cover our commitment for year 2 of the Student Mental Health Strategic Plan. We are also reintroducing leveraging student achievement funds that will be made up of any surpluses that is turned back to the division by the schools to be redistributed through this initiative. 2023-24 is a tight budget with \$6.5M of additional funding that are targeted grants with the remaining \$2.2 addressing inflationary pressures. The Board received \$858K for classroom complexity. \$354K has been allocated to Early Learning and \$504K has been allocated to Specialized Supports for Schools for the following items:
 - a Speech Language Pathologist Assistant
 - a Speech Language Pathologist Assistive Technology
 - a Reading Specialist Consultant position.
- Thank you to those that provided feedback at the Sherwood Heights replacement school design. As result of the feedback the architect modified the exterior façade.
- It is expected the recommendation for secondary French Immersion will be coming forward at the October 19 Board meeting. Parents will be notified once the report is uploaded to the website under Board meeting packages. Thank you to those that completed the most recent survey that went out mid-June.
- The Board identified areas of focus for the Board's work and advocacy for the 2023-24 at Retreat that was held on September 18 and 19.
- The Board met with Sherwood Park MLA Kyle Kasawski on September 20 to share information about EIPS and various areas of concern.
- The Board will be kicking off the first Committee of School Council meeting of 2023-24 school year, with a Mix and Mingle being held on Oct 4 in the Boardroom where pizza will be provided to school council representatives and their principal starting at 5:15. I encourage you to send a representative to these meetings as it is a great way to learn from other school councils and to have a voice at the district level. The meeting will begin at 6:30