

**Westboro School Council
Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2018**

Welcome and Introductions:

Called to order 6:31 pm (Jacquie Surgenor).

Present:

Karry Biri, Matthew Bissett, Amy Churchill, Krystal Gibson, Bernie Hansen, Crystal Herbert, Leah Hesson, Annette Hubick, Debbie Klita, Matt Matheson, Andrea Perrotta, Jacquie Surgenor, Heather Wieler

Approval of Agenda:

Matthew Bissett moves to approve the agenda, Crystal Herbert 2nd. All in favour: “Yes.”

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Bernie Hansen moves to accept the minutes from March 21, 2018, Karry Biri 2nd. All in favour: “Yes.”

School Report:

A.) Principal Report

Matt Matheson shared the following information on behalf of the principal.

The latest “What’s Happening at Westboro” video was shown which highlights student and school activities. These videos are created using photos taken by our teachers and can be found at <http://westboroelementary.ca/>.

B.) Trustee Report

Annette Hubick shared the following report.

Thank you, Volunteers!

April 15-21 marks “National Volunteer Week.” On behalf of the board, I thank the many volunteers who give of their time and energy to help schools deliver great educational experiences for students. Schools are an exceptional example of the “It takes a village” concept and we want you to know how much we appreciate your contributions.

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Parent Survey

Thank you to those who completed the EIPS parent survey. The responses are being analyzed and will be presented to the board at its May education committee meeting.

of responses:

- 3130 EIPS parent survey (2017 = 2678)
- 293 French Immersion parent survey

Board Meetings

At the April 5th Education Committee meeting, I brought forward the concern shared with me at the last Westboro School Council meeting regarding the need to educate parents about school emergency procedures—at the very least to remind them of the parent resource available on the EIPS website at the beginning of each school year. Administration was receptive to this suggestion. The board also discussed our governance budget and talked about areas we could consider cutting and the fact that our Alberta School Board Association fees may be going up by as much as 7% (i.e., to approximately \$83,000/yr).

The April 19th public board meeting is more “housekeeping” in nature, primarily dealing with recommended policy changes to:

- Policy 7, clarifying the process for public participation in public board meetings.
- Policy 16, clarifying who is responsible for advertising and recruitment.
- Policy 19, Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning and Working Environments: per recent Government legislation, adding language that expressly protects sexual minorities, the rights of students to establish Gay-Straight Alliances and the privacy of students’ sexual identity.

The April 19th Ed Committee meeting will involve the board going through the proposed 2018-19 budget in detail, ensuring we have enough information with which to make decisions at the public board meetings.

On April 26th, the board will be presented with the division’s overall budget assumptions and allocations, including any proposed use of reserves. The detailed budget comes before the board in May.

The board will be going through the budget line by line at the May 30th public meeting and approving the final budget on June 21st.

Provincial Budget

- The provincial budget was announced on March 23rd, which was later than historical practice, yet school boards are expected to provide their budgets one month sooner than last year. Central office staff and the board have ramped up our budget work in order to meet the deadlines. We will be approving school’s allocation at the April 26th public board meeting.
- Growth is being funded but the per-student funding saw no change and school boards have had to absorb the costs of inflation and staff grid movement. That said, we are pleased that the per-student grant was not reduced.
- School Improvement Funds (SIF) were not included in the budget, which will have an impact on every school.
- Because the Local Authority Pension Plan (for classified staff) introduced a clawback of \$179,000 in employer contributions, the province reduced its allocation to EIPS by that amount. It should be noted that past contribution increases were never funded.
- Unfortunately, no EIPS projects were included on the province’s recently announced list of 20 capital projects. However, the modernizations of Sherwood Heights and Rudolf Hennig Junior High schools, our top two priorities, made it onto the government’s unfunded priority list. This means that we have met the criteria and

are on the government's radar. Interesting note: the \$742 million of capital projects the province announced includes \$100 million being spent by school boards.

EIPS Board in the Community

- On April 14th, the board toured the following schools: Andrew (K-12), Lamont Elementary and Junior Senior High, and the Elk Island Youth Ranch.
- On April 24th, I'll be taking in Scratch Day and later that evening, the board will be meeting with Vegreville Town Council.
- I'm looking forward to serving as a judge at the EIPS speech competition on April 26th and attending the Wee Reads luncheon on May 2nd.
- On May 23rd, the board is hosting a meeting with the three MLA's whose ridings exist within EIPS boundaries. We will be presenting information to them on our top advocacy issues.

Parent Information Session (Free)

- Elk Island Catholic School division and Strathcona County Family and Community Services hosting:

Power of Relationships presented by Dr. Jody Carrington

Date: Friday, April 27, 2018

Time: 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Location: Community Centre Agora

Pre-register: <https://www.strathcona.ca/jcarrington>

Stay in Touch

I am unable to attend the May 30th school council meeting due to a board scheduling conflict so I'll take this opportunity to thank you for welcoming me this year, to wish you a great finish to the year and a restful (or adventurous) summer vacation. I also want to remind you that you can reach out to me any time via phone or email (annette.hubick@eips.ca) and invite you to follow my Facebook page.

New Business:

A.) Logos Report

There was no Logos representative at the meeting.

B.) COSC (Committee of School Councils) Report

Jacque Surgenor shared the following information from the April 4th COSC meeting.

The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing the impact of social media and technology on kids/teens. A very good TED talk was watched entitled "Is Social Media Hurting Your Mental Health?" by Bailey Parnell at Toronto in February 2017 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Czg_9C7gw0o).

The following links to articles were also shared:

- [Martensville Elementary School Teachers, Kids Seeing Benefits after Hanging up on Cellphones in Class](#) [CBC News, Mar 18, 2018]
- [What Are Smartphones Doing to Young People?](#) [CBC Radio, November 19, 2017]
- [Your Smartphone Is Making You Stupid, Antisocial and So, Why Can't You Put It Down?](#) [The Globe and Mail, Jan. 15, 2018]
- [Have Smartphones Destroyed a Generation?](#) [The Atlantic, Aug 3, 2017]
- [Growing up Digital Alberta – Parent, Grandparent Perspectives on Digital Technology, Health and Learning](#) [University of Alberta 10-year collaborative research project]

The attendees were left with 3 questions which could be discussed at school council meetings:

1. Does your child have social media accounts?
2. Does your school have a personal-device policy?
3. How can school councils support parents?

Sandra Stoddard, Associate Superintendent, mentioned that EIPS is working on developing a common curriculum for teaching digital citizenship.

Addressing digital citizenship and technology will be an area which will require a close working relationship between schools and parents. Some schools are looking at not allowing cell phones in class. One school in Fort Saskatchewan is already doing this. It was mentioned that the closer a phone/device is to a student, the less likely they are to be able to concentrate.

Jacquie also shared her experience at a seminar last week hosted by Strathcona Christian Academy in partnership with the Saffron Centre entitled “Cyber-World Awareness Night”. They estimate 230 parents were in attendance. A parent resource called “Finding Safety, Trust and Balance in a Digital World” will be shared with our parents once it becomes available in an electronic format.

It was asked if the Saffron Centre can present something similar at our school to students and/or parents. Matt will look into this.

A regular section in the newsletter to educate parents on Internet Safety was also discussed.

More information on COSC and their monthly meetings can be found at:
<https://www.eips.ca/parents/committee-of-school-councils-cosc>.

C.) Literacy Toolkit

Matt shared that the last few videos are being filmed and, when finalized, will be made available on the school website at:

<http://westboroelementary.ca/parent-literacy-toolkit>.

D.) School Council Operating Procedures

Jacque reviewed changes made to the School Council Operating Procedures since the draft version was presented to parents in January. No term limits have been set for how long a member could serve on the executive as we have so few parents who step forward to volunteer in this capacity. Quorum was changed to 5 voting members to match our Westboro Parents Group bylaws. As well, the fundraising society relationship section was modified to reflect the relationship we have with other school organizations. We also added a line about maintaining a close working relationship with the Logos Society since this has been a practice for many years. All other modifications were mainly formatting of the document for clarification and consistency.

Leah Hesson moves to accept the Westboro School Council Operating Procedures, Crystal Herbert 2nd. All in favour: “Yes.”

E.) ASCA School Council Engagement Task Force

Bernie Hansen brought forward the Alberta School Councils’ Association (ASCA) “Request for input about assurance in Alberta’s education system” survey. The 2 questions were discussed verbally and will be submitted back to the ASCA Board on-line.

F.) 2018-2019 Meeting Dates

Krystal Gibson is working with Mike Lastiwka to select monthly meeting and Westboro Parents Group event dates for 2018-2019. They are considering some Wednesday and some Thursday nights for the 8 times that we schedule School Council and Parents Group meetings. Krystal would also like to modify the schedule in March to only hold a School Council meeting to provide adequate time for discussion of ASCA resolutions before their April Annual General Meeting (AGM). Once finalized, these dates will be made available to parents.

Our 2018 AGM has been rescheduled for Wednesday, May 30th, starting at 6:30pm in the school library. Refreshments will be provided and elections for next year’s executive positions will take place. All parents are welcome to attend!

A parent engagement night (build a terrarium) is still being investigated by Krystal and Jacquie will discuss with Mike if a family year-end picnic event date is feasible before the end of the school year.

G.) Open Questions

Andrea Perrotta gave an update about the sensory garden/courtyard project. Work in the courtyard will continue once they can rent equipment to help deal with the concrete discovered last fall under some of the current garden areas. She will continue to use the funds already allocated to proceed with this project.

Next Meeting Date: May 30, 2018 at 6:30 pm Annual General Meeting

Adjournment: Crystal Herbert moves to adjourn at 7:45 pm.