

**Westboro School Council  
Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2019**

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Called to order 6:27 pm (Krystal Gibson).

**Present:**

Janeen Bielby, Karry Biri, Matthew Bissett, Amy Churchill, Krystal Gibson, Annette Hubick, Debbie Klita, Margo Komant, Mike Lastiwka, Jordana Penney, Kim Scott, Georgina Traxel

**Approval of Agenda:**

The agenda was amended for Margo Komant to present item 4.a). Karry Biri moves to accept the amended agenda, Janeen Bielby 2<sup>nd</sup>. The amended agenda was approved by consensus.

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Karry Biri moves to accept the minutes from February 26, 2019, Amy Churchill 2<sup>nd</sup>. The minutes were approved by consensus.

**School Reports:**

**A.) Admin Report**

Margo Komant shared the following report on behalf of Chantel Werner.

- Mrs. Tompkins and the K-2 teachers had a very successful family literacy night on February 26<sup>th</sup>.
- The March 8<sup>th</sup> PD day for staff was felt to be very valuable. The topic was restorative practices.
- Staff are looking forward to the May PD day to hear Dr. Jody Carrington's presentation.
- Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is running their annual on-line 2019 Parent Survey from March 11 to 29.
- Second term report cards will be published on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> around 4pm.
- Parent-teacher-student interviews will be happening between 4-7pm on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The school is hosting a parent information night on restorative practices at 6pm on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> in the school library.
- Three of our STEPS students are graduating this year and will be included in the year end Grade 6 ceremony.

- Margo thanked Westboro Parents Group for their consideration in including her students in activities and events but also being respectful of how many notifications we send home to their families.

It was asked why report cards become available at 4pm. The software program needs enough time to publish all the report cards for the entire school and it is also less distracting for students if the information comes out at the end of the school day.

It was also asked why report cards are being issued before the interviews for Term 2. It was discussed with staff who felt switching the order would facilitate conversations with parents on what students could focus on for the last few months of school.

## **B.) Trustee Report**

Annette Hubick shared the following report.

### **Personal Use of Electronic Devices - Consultation**

#### **1. Student Conference – February 28, 2019**

- This was the first step in the board's public consultation process to inform the development of a policy.
- Students from every school in the district participated.
- Excellent, robust conversations that provided a lot of insight into the positive and negative effects and uses of personal devices in the classroom.

#### **2. Online Surveys**

Phase 2 of the public consultation process on the use of personal devices at school will be conducted by including questions on EIPS's annual parent, student and staff surveys. Please take the time to complete the entire survey as the division considers these results to be a valuable tool to measure our progress toward achieving our goals and identifying areas of challenge. The survey closes on March 29, 2019.

### **Wye Replacement School**

- At the February 21 board meeting, the board approved a motion to cap French Immersion enrolment at 2 classes per grade at the Wye replacement school and 3 classes per grade at Ecole Campbelltown.
- The results of round2 of the Wye Replacement School naming survey were presented to the board at our March 14 meeting. There were 541 responses. Of this total, 473 respondents voted, while 68 refrained from voting and chose only to offer comments instead. Overall, the survey results indicate a preference for Heritage Hills as the name for the replacement school, with 71 per cent of respondents indicating it as their first preference. Interesting to note is that those 336 votes are more than the total responses in Phase 1 of the survey where we asked whether it should be renamed at all. This indicates significant community support for the Heritage Hills

name and the board unanimously voted to name the new school Heritage Hills Elementary.

### **ASCA Conference Sponsorship**

The board unanimously voted to allocate up to \$5000 of its governance budget to fund school council registrations for the Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) conference in April. To register, simply complete the [Registration Form](#) and email it to Amy Desaulniers.

**The registration deadline is April 5, 2019.** [Learn more](#)

### **EIPS 3-Year Capital Plan**

At the March 14 meeting, the Board approved the 3-year capital plan and, like last year, a replacement school for Sherwood Heights tops the list. The board has been very active in the effort beyond just putting it on our list. We now have written commitments from the Boys and Girls Club and the Mayor of Strathcona County to come on as partners in a new build that would serve a variety of the community's needs. The project currently sits on the province's unfunded list of priorities—our goal is to move it to the funded list.

### **Parents as Partners (recent examples):**

1. *EIPS annual survey* - Helping EIPS measure its performance is one way that parents are partners in their children's education.
2. *The actual development of the parent survey on personal devices.* The draft survey was presented at the February Committee of School Councils (COSC) meeting and the parents had a lot of great feedback to share and changes were made to reflect their suggestions.
3. *Numeracy videos developed by EIPS central office and Pine Street School Council.* A series of videos to help parents nurture numeracy at home which can be found on the EIPS website.
4. *Advocating for education funding.* To that end, EIPS partnered with COSC reps to develop resources for those who want to raise awareness about the importance of public education during the provincial election.
  - [Advocating for Education Funding: Information sheet](#) (includes questions to pose to candidates)
  - [Advocating for Education Funding: Background Information](#)
  - [ATA Forum on Public Education Funding \(video\)](#)

### **New Business:**

#### **A.) Logos Report**

Janeen Bielby shared the following report.

- A Nitza's Pizza fundraiser will be happening May 1 to May 15.
- Easter chapel is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup> at The Park Church.
- A small teacher appreciation is being organized after spring break.
- The staff appreciation lunch is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **B.) School Fees**

Mike Lastiwka presented a preliminary outline of 2019-2020 school fees. It proposed that all fees remain the same with possibly 4 additional fees for the extracurricular activities of basketball, volleyball, WISEST Conference and Battle of the Books.

There was discussion about fieldtrip fees and the preference of which process for payment – pay full fee up front (as in past years) or pay each fee individually when requested (for the current school year). Mike will arrange a survey to get feedback from as many parents as possible.

It was asked if refunds were allowed for missed fieldtrips. Each fieldtrip form will indicate whether a refund is allowed or not and those that do are being refunded.

Feedback was given that the prorated Family Noonhour Supervision fee is unfair to families who have only 1 or 2 children and are required to pay the supervision fee in full for each of their students.

Mike discussed the possible effect of increased bussing costs on future fieldtrip plans. As transportation costs increase, it gets harder each year for staff to plan for the same number of fieldtrips so there may come a time when fieldtrip fees or the number of trips each grade takes may need to be adjusted. He also suggested Westboro Parents Group consider a casino as a future fundraiser to help offset the transportation costs of fieldtrips. This idea will be further discussed at the May 30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

## **C.) ASCA Advocacy Resolutions**

Krystal revisited the member sponsored proposed advocacy resolutions for the Alberta School Council's Association (ASCA) 2019 AGM. The ASCA advocacy efforts are informed and shaped by provincially relevant resolutions that parents on school councils bring forward, debate and pass into policy each year. The remainder of the resolutions were discussed and those present gave their feedback which will help guide Krystal when she attends the April AGM on behalf of Westboro School Council.

The 46 page Advocacy Resolutions Package 2019 can be found at:

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/documents/60662>

## **D.) Open Questions**

It was asked what happens to the money from recycled milk cartons. It is being used to help with the upkeep of the courtyard and may possibly help the school purchase a popcorn machine.

**Next Meeting Date:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 6:30 pm

**Adjournment:** Karry Biri moves to adjourn at 8:47 pm.