

**Westboro School Council
Annual General Meeting Minutes
May 30, 2018**

Welcome and Introductions:

Called to order 6:37 pm (Jacquie Surgenor).

Present:

Karry Biri, Matthew Bissett, Mary Christenson, Amy Churchill, Krystal Gibson, Leah Hesson, Debbie Klita, Mike Lastiwka, Matt Matheson, Jordana Penney, Jacquie Surgenor, Heather Wieler

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was amended to have Krystal Gibson present item 4.a) Logos Report and to add “Trustee Report” as item 5.b) with Jacquie Surgenor presenting. Krystal Gibson moves to approve the amended agenda, Heather Wieler 2nd. All in favour: “Yes.”

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Matthew Bissett moves to accept the minutes from the May 24, 2017, Annual General Meeting, Heather Wieler 2nd. All in favour: “Yes.”

New Business:

A.) Logos Report

Krystal Gibson presented the Logos report on behalf of Rachel Milne.

- Registration for the kindergarten Logos class currently sits at 13 students.
- The Elk Island Logos Society Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Tuesday, June 12th, at Westboro Elementary School starting at 7pm.
- The annual apple fundraiser will be occurring again in September 2018.

B.) COSC (Committee of School Councils) Report

Jacquie Surgenor shared the following information from the May 2nd COSC meeting.

The bulk of the meeting was focused on the budget presentation. At the time of this meeting, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) was still working on a lot of the logistics. Funding rates from Alberta Education remain the same, even though costs have increased.

As a follow-up from “Cyber-World Awareness Night” last month hosted by Strathcona Christian Academy, in partnership with the Saffron Centre, a parent

resource package called “Finding Safety, Trust and Balance in a Digital World” has been made available in an electronic format and will be shared with our parents. COSC will be working with Saffron to create a Saffron Cyber Second section which schools can choose to put in their newsletters and on their websites. COSC members discussed coordinating future Saffron presentations so that they are different and open to all parents. They have worked over the past few years to open invitations to parents from other schools, and now want to take the next step to try to coordinate presentations so there will be a variety of different ones.

The provincial government is holding consultations on the new kindergarten to Grade 4 curriculum. Parent sessions for Edmonton are being held on Thursday, May 31st. Jacquie will be attending one session as a parent and one as an Alberta School Councils’ Association (ASCA) representative.

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

Mike Lastiwka shared that the last few videos are being finalized and will be made available on the school website at:

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

There are plans to continue building on the toolkit next school year with more promotion for teachers to utilize this toolkit in their classrooms.

Thank you to the parents who volunteered their time to read with their students in these videos!

D.) Alberta Education Transportation Survey

Jacquie shared that Alberta Education is conducting a Student Transportation Survey which closes on Friday, June 15th. They are looking at changing the regulations this fall, with implementation for fall 2019. A copy of the survey is available to download from the website if parents want to read through it before answering the questions on-line. The survey can be found at:

<https://education.alberta.ca/student-transportation/student-transportation/>

E.) 2018-2019 Meeting Dates

Krystal shared the scheduled meeting dates for the 2018-2019 school year. Meetings run from 6:30-8:30pm in the school library and all parents are welcome to attend.

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

Thursday, November 1, 2018

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

Thursday, March 14, 2019 (school council meeting only to discuss resolutions for ASCA Annual General Meeting)

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

Thursday, May 30, 2019 Annual General Meeting

F.) ASCA Conference

Krystal, Jacquie, Amy Churchill and Karry Biri and shared some of their insight from the experience of attending the April ASCA Conference.

The ASCA resolutions we discussed at our March meeting were voted on during their AGM and the results can be found at:

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/documents/49318>

G.) Open Questions

It was asked if our school will be participating in the EIPS Battle of the Books literacy competition next year. Mike confirmed our librarian will organize a program for our students to work towards participating in this division-wide event.

It was asked if the division had actually standardized school supply lists for elementary students for next year. Mike and Matt explained that our school supply lists were already streamlined enough that any division-level decisions did not impact us greatly. Watercolors will be the only classroom-provided items for us.

It was asked if any of our students participated in the feedback portion of the Sixties Scoop apology on Monday, May 28th, that occurred during the Alberta Legislative Assembly. Mike explained that the communication about this broadcast came to the school too late for teachers to prepare their classes to engage in it. It was asked if our current parent permission forms cover this type of interaction. Mike explained a different form would have been used if students were engaging in communication channels outside of our school (i.e. If a student is interviewed by Global News for the weatherman program, special forms would need to be used for this to occur.) More information about the Sixties Scoop apology can be found at:

<https://www.alberta.ca/sixties-scoop-apology-engagement.aspx>

H.) Elections

Westboro School Council advises and provides input into school direction and activities such as the School Education Plan, transportation issues and building community. The three executive positions are elected parent volunteers for a term of 1 year.

Heather Wieler moves that for the term June 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019, Krystal Gibson is appointed Chair, Amy Churchill continues to serve as Vice-Chair and Debbie Klita continues to serve as secretary, Matthew Bissett 2nd. All in favour: "Yes."

We would like to acknowledge the dedication of Jacquie Surgenor who was on both executives for the past 8 years, chairing both meetings for 7 of those 8 years. We thank her for her time and energy, her passion for empowering parents and her desire to build our school community!

School Report:

A.) Principal Report

Mike Lastiwka shared the following report.

2017-2018 Parent Survey Results for Westboro Elementary School

Areas of strength:

- Q4. My child is encouraged at school to do his or her best. 92% agree or strongly agree - last year result was 88%
- Q5. My child is demonstrating growth in literacy. 92% agree or strongly agree
- Q6. My child is demonstrating growth in numeracy. 90% agree or strongly agree

There are many other indicators with similar percentages.

Opportunities for growth:

- Q3. My child's individual needs are met. 17% disagree or strongly disagree - last year result was 22.73
- Q8. My child is being taught knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to be successful in life. 13% disagree or strongly disagree – n/a last year
- Implementing "All About Me" software.
- Q16. How satisfied are you with the resources available to support your child's learning? 13% dissatisfied or strongly dissatisfied – n/a last year
- We will be looking at the "Alberta Reads/Elk Island Reads" program next year. This is a structured way to have volunteers in our school reading with our students on a regular basis.

It was asked if the survey had comment boxes for parents to add to their answers. This year's survey did not.

Budget and Staffing Update

- Smaller than last year.
- Had to make some cuts to supplies and services but at this point they were relatively minor and we should see no major changes.
- Numbers are consistent from last year with the exception of ECS Logos.
- Staffing will not see any major changes other than Mr. Cooper (counsellor) moving on to Salisbury Composite High School next year and Mrs. Becigneul returning to the kindergarten classroom in October.

It was asked if there were less educational assistants in ECS Logos (because of the reduced enrollment), would this free up more funding to increase the hours our school has a counsellor. Mike answered that would not be a possibility at this point in time as our counsellor is a shared position with another school who would then have less time at the second school it supports. As well, fewer students means less money.

First Nations, Metis and Inuit Studies

- Mrs. Richard will be working with teachers on how to include First Nations culture into current lessons, e.g., an appropriate First Nations writing prompt for story writing.
- Will not include pull out from regular classrooms as was done this year.

School Education Plan

Literacy:

- Continued work on Guided Reading and Readers Workshop.

Numeracy:

- Continue and expand work on Guided Math.
- Introduce number talks.

Resiliency:

- Look at bringing in ideas/parent night from Jody Carrington.
- Restorative circles with a focus on students solving their own problems.
- Develop a communication plan so school and home have same vocabulary and works in the same direction to develop resiliency.

School Mission and All About Me

- Software for next year that will enable students from K-6 to start exploring careers.

- Will be a digital portfolio where students will be able to journal their thoughts about career pathways.
- Students will be able to take picture of their work to be able to document evidence of their learning.
- Parents will have access to their child's portfolio.

It was asked if parent volunteers could be utilized more often to assist students with literacy and numeracy. Mike thinks once the “Alberta Reads/Elk Island Reads” program is in place and parents have been trained, more parent volunteers will be found in the classrooms.

It was asked if students will be surveyed about how receptive they were to this year’s options and activities, and if options and activities will be happening in the next school year. Mike said no survey will be done but the “All About Me” software will be a tool starting next year that could provide that type of information. Circles will be an important school-wide activity again and they will also have the basketball teams.

It was asked if double-classes for music will be happening again (e.g. when 4R and 4L are in a music period at the same time). Mike answered that no significant changes to the timetable have been made other than discontinuing the weekly aboriginal studies class with Mrs. Richard.

B.) Trustee Report

Jacque shared highlights from the following report submitted by Annette Hubick.

2018-19 EIPS Budget

On April 26th, the board approved the division’s overall budget assumptions and allocations. As previously mentioned, the government is funding growth but the per student allocation has not increased, meaning the board’s budget has to cover inflation, salary grid movement, etc., while there are also other funding decreases. In order to balance the budget, some of the recommendations approved by the board include:

- Using \$1.6 million of unallocated reserves.
- Reducing the allocation to schools by 1% primarily due to:
 - An additional base allocation for the new Davidson Creek School (each school receives a base amount of \$300,000).
 - The addition of central office staff:
 - 3 consultants (2 math and 1 literacy) to increase the level of this high-demand service to schools (there are currently 2 and 3 respectively). These consultants will be working IN the schools, not at central office.
 - 1 curriculum and assessment consultant.
 - Assistant Director of Learning Technologies.

Bus Fees:

Due to the boundary changes resulting from the opening of Davidson Creek School, our transportation funding will be reduced by \$400,000 (because students who were eligible for funding will now be less than 2.4 km and no longer eligible; some may elect to use payride but those fees do not cover the costs). In addition, fuel prices continue to increase and the amount the government funds has been frozen for years and covers less than half of the fuel expense. In order to balance its budget, the transportation department recommended a number of changes:

- Reducing 8 buses.
- Increasing all fees by 5%.
- Removing the early payment discount. Very few boards, if any, offer this discount.
- Introducing a new \$125 Supplemental Address Fee for those students who access more than one bus route to receive service at an additional address (e.g., some days to home, some days to daycare). This service requires that a second seat be held for the student on another bus and there is an administrative cost to make these arrangements. The fee does not reflect the much greater cost of providing this service.

Important Notes:

- Without these changes to the fee structure, it was anticipated that 13 buses would have been eliminated.
- Student Transportation will continue to offer a payment plan for the 2018-19 school year to assist families with fees over \$400. Fee payments will be split over a five-month period starting in September and ending in January.
- Also important to note is that, although it is allowed, EIPS does not subsidize the transportation budget with classroom dollars.

At the May 30th public meeting, the board went through the draft budget line by line and approved it. The documents are, as always, on the EIPS website in the Trustees section.

The 2018-19 EIPS operating budget totals \$201.59 million drawing a total of \$3.27 million from reserves. Using reserves will allow the division to balance its budget and to support initiatives such as:

- Funds for schools to leverage student achievement.
- A full-day, every-day kindergarten program, for vulnerable children (one school).
- The “Off to a Good Start” program: Training for new staff by bringing them together with division consultants, prior to the start of the school year, to provide them with essential skills in the areas of numeracy, literacy, lesson design and planning, differentiation of discussion, and working with children with special needs.
- One-time items such as:
 - New/replacement school start-up costs (costs not covered by Alberta Education).
 - Records management project.
 - Enterprise Resource Planning start-up work.
 - New curriculum costs.
 - Mechanical cooling for modulars.

The board will be approving the final budget at its next public meeting on June 21, 2018.

CIF Dollars Reinstated

Alberta Education announced it will be providing Classroom Improvement Funds (CIF) for 2018-19. The Minister of Education emphasized that the priorities for these funds should be on retaining any staff hired with the last round of CIF dollars and addressing the needs of students with complex or special needs or English Language Learners. This is a departure from last year when districts, schools and teachers worked together to determine the best use of the funds. EIPS's CIF allocation amounts to just under \$2 million and was included in the May 30th draft budget. As the announcement came hours after the board approved the budget allocations on April 26th, CIF funds were not included in the amounts originally allocated to schools, i.e., more funds are coming to schools. The Superintendent has advised that, like last year, CIF funds will be allocated to schools based on FTE (full time equivalent) staff numbers.

It's important to note that the announcement included a reminder that the program is not planned for beyond the 2018-19 school year. This underscores the challenge of planning without predictable funding.

EIPS Parent Survey

The overall survey data summary represents 2,918 responses from parents and guardians across the division. This was an increase in responses from 2,678 in the previous year. You can see the complete survey results at www.eips.ca.

Despite significant satisfaction, many took the opportunity to use the one question that allowed for an open-ended answer (about information sought on the division website) to express their dissatisfaction with the lack of opportunity to explain answers and add comments. The board of trustees has directed administration to ensure that there were at least some opportunities to do so next year.

Transportation Survey

Currently, Alberta Education is conducting a survey regarding student transportation. The feedback received will help determine if changes need to be made to the distance criteria (2.39+ km current service limit), mandated service levels (special programs, choice) and the safety considerations. When completing the survey, keep in mind the government has stated there is no more money for student transportation which means if something new is funded, something else may be lost. The board responded to the survey collectively and also sent a letter to the Minister outlining EIPS's transportation reality and our concerns with some of the questions posed in the survey and the lack of background provided to respondents so that they could make informed responses. The survey closes Friday, June 15.

EIPS Board in the Community

- I enjoyed being a judge at the EIPS speech competition on April 26th – wow, some amazing talent and such a great opportunity for these students to develop skills that will serve them their whole lives.
- I attended the Wee Reads luncheon and was happy to hear that the program will be expanded to all EIPS elementary schools. The program involves community volunteers reading to Kindergarten and Grade 1 students for 8 weeks.

- On May 23rd, the board hosted a meeting with the three MLA's whose ridings exist within EIPS boundaries. We presented information to them on our top advocacy issues e.g., predictable, sustainable funding; the dire need for a replacement school for Sherwood Heights.
- On May 28th, I attended the EIPS Invention Convention. These junior high students certainly impressed with their ingenuity and presentation skills.
- On May 31st, the board's school tours continue with visits to Fort Saskatchewan, Bruderheim and the Scotford Colony.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 6:30 pm

Adjournment: Heather Wieler moves to adjourn at 8:02 pm.