

**Westboro School Council  
Meeting Minutes  
April 24, 2019**

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Called to order 6:30 pm (Krystal Gibson).

**Present:**

Janeen Bielby, Karry Biri, Matthew Bissett, Stacey Bouwers, Krystal Gibson, Annette Hubick, Debbie Klita, Mike Lastiwka, Kim Scott, Jacquie Surgenor, Chantel Werner

**Approval of Agenda:**

The agenda was approved by consensus.

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Karry Biri moves to accept the minutes from March 14, 2019, Janeen Bielby 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
The minutes were approved by consensus.

**New Business:**

**A.) Logos Report**

Janeen Bielby shared the following report.

- Some executive positions for the Elk Island Logos Society are needing to be filled for next year and are being discussed at their meetings.
- There was an Easter chapel for both Westboro and Brentwood Elementary Schools on April 16<sup>th</sup> at The Park Church.
- A Nitza's Pizza fundraiser will be happening May 1 to May 15. Order forms will be available just outside the school office.

**B.) COSC (Committee of School Councils) Report**

Jacquie Surgenor presented the following report.

At the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the proposed Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) advocacy resolutions were debated and discussed. Trina Boymook, board Chair, and Mark Liguori, Superintendent, also presented information on how education is funded so that we understood in light of the (then upcoming) election. The presentation and more information on COSC and their monthly meetings can be found at:

<https://www.eips.ca/parents/committee-of-school-councils-cosc>.

At the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, there was a presentation on the new curriculum and what it will mean for students. The curriculum is moving away from being

content driven to more concept-based. There are overarching questions which will be asked and delved into as a way for students to gain understanding.

Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes	Concept-based
Is based primarily on topics, skills, and facts.	Focuses on the transfer of the important conceptual ideas of a discipline.
Content focuses on facts that are often isolated and disconnected. Knowledge is fragmented.	Concept-based focuses on making sense of facts and the world around us. Knowledge is presented as a “whole.” Understand the relationship between individual facts, principles, or generalizations.
Verbs are used to tell students what to know or do.	Concept-based is a thinking curriculum. The verb describes the ways through which we come to understand the concept.
Represents a two-dimensional design model that includes process and content knowledge.	Has a third dimension-conceptual understanding.
Content-based teaching may not get beyond the transmission of superficial learning.	Concept-based curriculum focuses on critical concepts and processes students will be able to transfer to new situations.
Asks teachers to cover long lists of content and skill objectives ... but knowledge expands exponentially and there is not enough time to cover everything. Simply covering information does not result in deep understanding.	Key concepts (ideas) of a discipline become the “drivers” for learning, leading students to deeper understandings that transfer across different situations.

In addition, each outcome has direct ties (wherever possible) to competencies, literacy and numeracy. Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is working now to develop support and resources to implement the curriculum as resources have not yet come from Alberta Education. Our current curriculum ranges from being 8 to 35 years old. A new curriculum of this scope – multiple grades across 6 subjects – has never been created before. There will be more flexibility in content with the new curriculum. It is based on all the work that was done in the early 2000s on Inspiring Education.

The newest Saffron Cyber Second was shared as well.

### **C.) Executive Transition**

Krystal Gibson explained that at this time, we are looking for a parent volunteer to put their name forward for the Westboro School Council Vice Chair position for the 2019-2020 school year. The executive will transition at the May 30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. If you have any questions about Vice Chair position duties and time commitment, please contact her at [westboroparents@gmail.com](mailto:westboroparents@gmail.com).

## **D.) Open Questions**

It was asked if Friday morning video announcements could be viewed outside of the school. At this time, they are not available but the possibility for this option is being considered for the next school year. Parent permission of students being videoed is an important factor in making these live announcements public.

It was asked if AMA patrollers have improved their attendance and if the monthly patroller lunch gathering is still taking place. Attendance has gotten somewhat better and monthly gatherings continue to happen. A year end celebration is being planned for the patrollers which will be organized by the school instead of attending the June AMA function.

## **School Reports:**

### **A.) Admin Report**

Mike Lastiwka followed up with results of last month's on-line survey about payment preference for fieldtrip fees – pay full fee up front (as in past years) or pay each fee individually when requested (as for this school year). Sixty-two percent preferred paying the full fee up front. Mike is still considering the process for next year and may possibly offer 2 options for payment.

He also shared a video “Westboro Spring Update” which can be found on the home page of the school website.

It was asked why the Clover Bar Junior High School band performed at a recent assembly and not the band from Sherwood Heights Junior High, which is our feeder school. Often, the performing group contacts our school to ask if they can come and if time permits, an assembly is organized.

Chantel Werner shared the following report.

- Our basketball teams played in a Saturday tournament at Lakeland Ridge. Mike organized the entire event!
- Chantel and Ms. Young have recently organized a cross-stitch club for Grade 6 students.
- Kindergarten Information Night is Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> starting at 6:30pm.
- Grade 1 regular class attended zoo school for a week. Grade 1 Logos did their annual day trip to Italy.
- Westboro Parents Group hosted the annual family dance.
- There was an assembly for Earth Day.
- Our gym was used as a polling station for the provincial election.
- Hold and secure, as well as other safety drills, will be occurring throughout the spring.

- Elder Wilson spent a full day with students on April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Next week is Education Week, with our school using The Love Boat as a theme.
- The first of the Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Tests (ELA Part A) is scheduled for Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Four of our teachers attended new curriculum planning meetings to help learn the curriculum and set up unit and lesson plans.

## **B.)Trustee Report**

Annette Hubick shared the following report.

### **Election 2019**

I, along with Trustee Irwin, attended the Strathcona County Chamber of Commerce all-candidate forum on April 4<sup>th</sup>. We distributed a non-partisan handout regarding education issues and asked questions of the candidates. EIPS trustees attended every candidate forum in our district.

### **Budget Planning**

The election has resulted in significant delays to our budget planning process.

- ▶ The UCP cabinet will be sworn in April 30.
- ▶ The first legislative session will launch the third week of May.
- ▶ No budget until the first legislative session.
- ▶ Soonest would likely be May 16 (a Thursday).
- ▶ Completed budget will go the Board on June 20 (for the first review) and June 25 (final review and approval). For the past few years, this part of the process took place in May; prior to that it was in April.

The 2019-20 budget will be prepared very conservatively, e.g., no growth or Classroom Improvement Fund (CIF) funds, nor any additional dollars to cover curriculum implementation or costs relative to the new collective agreement.

The Division has used reserves to fund operations over the past number of years.

- ▶ Draw from reserves over the last three years to fund operations:
  - ▶ 2016-17           \$1,750,000
  - ▶ 2017-18           \$1,150,000
  - ▶ 2018-19           \$1,350,000
- ▶ No longer sustainable and this year we have hit our threshold of 2% in unallocated reserves of budgeted expenses (\$4 million).
- ▶ Even with a “status quo” budget, we would have to incorporate mitigation strategies to offset the funds we have been using from reserves.
- ▶ We do not have a “status quo” budget and need to find even more than the \$1,350,000 used last year.

### **Junior High Challenge**

At the direction of the board, EIPS central administration has been developing a system-standardized junior high challenge program, featuring common requirements, selection process, projects and PD. It's a school-based decision whether to use the program. For 2019-20: Sherwood Heights, FR Haythorne and Ardrossan Jr/Sr.

### **Andrew School**

At the April 18<sup>th</sup> board meeting, administration presented a recommendation for the board to consider the possible closure of grades 7-12 at Andrew School. Trustee Holowaychuk made a motion to amend the original motion to consider the possible closure of grades 10-12 only. A majority of trustees voted in favour of the amendment, after which the board unanimously voted in favour of the amended motion. Reducing a school's grade configuration by 3 or more grades is considered a school closure and so the division has now commenced the process per the province's Closure of Schools Regulation.

### **Personal Digital Device Policy Update**

- Key themes from the **student forum** discussions:
  1. Whether they supported the use of personal devices in schools or not—generally agreed that policies governing how personal devices are regulated in schools should be age specific.
  2. Because of the pervasiveness of personal devices, more education and guidance from parents and teachers.
  3. The nature of the impact of personal devices on their lives largely depends on self-regulation and their personal choices in how these devices are used or not used.
  4. Participants consistently reiterated their desire to remain digitally connected with family and friends and that there was a sense of safety in these connections.
- The preliminary results of the **student online survey** were shared with the board at our April 4<sup>th</sup> Ed Committee meeting.
  - 6682 students responded
  - Common themes I observed from high school student responses:
    - Students in high school split between “regulate them” and “they’re only hurting themselves so let them live with the consequences.”
    - Many stated there should be exceptions during “work time”, options and DPA walks.
    - Several cited listening to music as an important educational use that isn't served by school-provided devices.
  - Contrary to popular belief, a surprisingly low number reported that they'd been a victim of cyberbullying (20%).
- There were 3923 responses to the **parent survey on personal devices**. The board will receive the results of these, as well as the other questions on the EIPS parent survey and the staff survey, at its May Ed Committee meeting.

**Free Seminar**

**Vaping 101**

Thursday, May 23, 2019          6:00-7:30 pm

Lakeland Ridge School, 101 Crimson Drive

*For parents and students*

For more information and to register:

<https://www.strathcona.ca/recreation-events/festivals-and-events/event-calendar/?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D132154149>

**National Volunteer Week**

April 7-13<sup>th</sup> was National Volunteer Week ... thank you for contributing your time and input with School Council and a myriad of other ways parents ensure our school communities thrive and provide exceptional educational experiences for our students!

It was asked if the personal digital device policy will apply to staff. Annette was unsure of that level of detail at this time.

**Next Meeting Date:**

Thursday, May 30, 2019 at 6:00 pm  
Annual General Meeting

**Adjournment:**

Karry Biri moves to adjourn at 7:26 pm.