

Westboro School Council

School Council Minutes- March 13, 2024

6:30 p.m. School Library

**indicates written report/attachment provided*

Attendance

Parents: Christan Rasmussen (Chair), Hilary Schmidt (Vice-Chair), Carrie Bounds (Secretary), Mallory Jackson (Treasurer), Allison McColl

School Staff: Mike Lastiwka (Principal), Tracey Prouse (Vice-Principal), Lindsey Stephen (STEPS), Trina Boymook (EIPS)

Others:

- 1) Call to order at 6:34 p.m.
- 2) Review of the Agenda
Agenda approved as presented.
- 3) Approval of the minutes from Jan 17, 2024.
The minutes were approved as distributed.
- 4) New Business:
 - a) We have invited Pediatric Neuro-Psychologist, Dr. Kate Randall to come speak to any and all parents on April 8th from 6:30-8:30 in our school gymnasium. There she will be discussing ADHD, anxiety, and regulation amongst children, as well as how best to help your child find success in school. You can read more about her at <http://www.greymatterng.com>.
- 5) EIPS Trustee Report: *
- 6) Administration Report:
Mike Lastiwka
 - On our Westboro School website, a Literacy Learning at Home link was added today. It is for at home use, and focuses on fluency, high frequency words, vocabulary, etc and includes sound videos and instructional pictures. Younger kids need to practice sounds and memorize words for early success. Reading with your kids daily is important!
 - With 40% parent feedback on our recent school survey, we received overwhelming support for an increase in fieldtrip fees. Additionally, most families were on board with paying all fees at once at the beginning of the year, and many families were willing to even increase their payments to ensure more options were available to their kids.
 - There will remain a payment plan for those who want or need to modify their yearly school payments.
 - Westboro may consider doing more pay-as-you-go fieldtrips throughout the year so that we can expand our options over and above our original field trip budget.
 - This said, we will increase field trip fees by \$3 next school year.

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- School field trips have a large impact on learning. Many adults who have been questioned about field trips taken as children could surprisingly remember many specific details about their experiences.
- Cost for noon hour supervision will not go up at this time.

Tracey Prouse

- More field trips are taking place, and that has been very exciting for the students.
- Hockey Hookie was a lot of fun- the ENTIRE school was able to leave for the whole day to support the Sherwood Park Crusaders.
- We've had no shortage of amazing parent volunteers for hot lunches and field trips.
- Family Games night last month was a huge hit! Every single nook and cranny of the library was filled with families, friends, and games. We even had a students' grandfather (who is a professional clown) volunteer to come make balloon animals for everyone. Thank you to Mr. Almer!
- Having kids play board games is incredibly regulating. It is a break from screen time, and learning how to win/lose and use their imaginations is so important.
- Fridays we will start to play games at lunch hour for those interested.
- On PD day, teachers got to do a Brain Architecture workshop to learn about the structure of kids' brains and how positive/negative life experiences can shape them.
- AMA made a new patrolling video using our Grade 6 patrol team!
- Kindergartens Mrs. Wheeler entered her class in the Oil Kings "Shoot to Read" contest and won! It was exciting to have the kindergarten families come together for that.
- This Friday the 15th is our "Sing for Spring" with Mrs. Richard, also out at the Oil Kings game.
- Our Westboro Pep-Rally got to send our track team off with lots of energy and excitement. The team did amazing in their events and even qualified for the finals in a few.
- The Grade 6's are still doing their popcorn fundraiser for their year-end trip to Birch Bay. Remember- purchasing is one bag per kid.
- National Cereal Day brought in 153 boxes of cereal to donate. Way to go Warriors!
- We have many current and upcoming clubs here at Westboro. Christian club, book club, choir, board games, and Pals are all options for the kids over their lunch hours. We are also making a literary space if kids want to come and read or swap books with other students.
- The Run Wild cross-country race will be hosted on a Saturday and is optional. As more and more schools become involved, we can start challenging THEM.
- To address concerns with socializing-esp. for grades 5/6- and to support kids with their mental health, we have booked the Mental Health Capacity Builders. Their sessions will have the kids reflect on how they interact with one another. Our hope is to bring Ezma (from capacity builders) on board for the next 3 years to be with us and create positive relationships with the kids.

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Teacher Report: Lindsey Stephen (STEPS)

- A big Thank You from Courtney Richard for the \$325 contribution from the Parent's Society towards student yoga mats (and storage containers). We use these mats for gym and music.
- After the success of our Cinderella 80's musical theater production earlier this year, we would now love to have the Bev Facey high school drama department come and do THEIR version of Cinderella Big Foot on April 12. This will tie into our Grade 5 drama curriculum.

7) Open Discussion- none

Adjourn 8:13 p.m.

Next meeting Wednesday, April 17, 2023 at 6:30pm.

- At January 25 Board meeting the Board approved a solution to address the anticipated enrolment pressures in Ardrossan, enhance French Immersion program retention and balance senior high enrolment in Sherwood Park:
 - relocate EIPS' senior high French Immersion program, grades 10-12, to Salisbury Composite High—effective when the new Sherwood Park replacement school opens, expected in the 2026-27 school year;
 - adjust Strathcona County's senior high attendance boundaries for Lakeland Ridge to be redesignated to Bev Facey Community High—effective when the new Sherwood Park replacement school opens, expected in the 2026-27 school year; and
 - adjust the French Immersion junior high attendance boundaries for Cambrian Crossing, to be redesignated to Sherwood Heights Junior High—effective in the 2024-25 school year.

Senior administration will begin working a transition plans. Parent engagement will take place to inform the development of this plan.

- The Board approved to spend up to \$5000 to cover ASCA Conference and AGM registration for interested school council members who are members of ASCA. This opportunity is limited to only one per school council.
- The Board approved the 2024-25 School Fee parameters. Parameters allow for a maximum of 5% increase, with 7% for food courses. Anything above will require special approval by the Superintendent's office.
- The Board Chair attended a meeting on the draft Social Studies curriculum. At this meeting they shared the scope and sequence. Without the details, it is difficult to determine in what ways it has been adjusted and where concerns may lie. The Chair and the Superintendent participated in a second session yesterday. We continue to monitor the curriculum develop work closely.
- Boards and senior administrators were invited to a meeting with the Education Minister on the recent Premier announcement on future legislation on pronouns and transgender youth. The minister intends to engage Boards in conversations to inform legislation and policy development. The Board is currently developing a letter to the minister to express our initial concerns, share our lived experience, the importance of engaging school boards for the interest of student safety and our interest to participate in future discussion.
- The Board has introduced a "Did You Know?" series to highlight those things we think parents might want to know. February's message was "Section 58.1 of the current Education Act, already requires school boards to notify parents and caregivers when courses, programs of study, instructional materials, and instruction or exercises contain subject matter that deals primarily with human sexuality. Included in this notice is always and opportunity for parents and caregivers to opt out of instruction without academic penalty to the student. It's a practice that has been in place since 2014 and one that EIPS has consistently followed." There seems to be a misconception in the community that this sensitive topic is being covered without parents' knowledge. If you

ever want to learn more about what is covered and the materials used please speak to your classroom teacher or principal.

- The Budget was released on February 28th. The education budget has increased by 4.4% to cover growth and inflation. Caution to fully cover anticipated growth and inflation would of required around 6% increase. Private schools have seen their funding increase by 13.5%. At this point we don't know what this budget will mean for EIPS until we get the Budget manual and funding portfolio. The Board have a number of budget working sessions scheduled as we work towards establishing the 2024-25 budget.
- Sherwood Heights/Ecole Campbelltown replacement school has gone out to tender. We are expected to be in the ground this summer.
- The Board is expected to approve the reallocation of surplus dollars for its original purpose at our March 21 Board meeting. We will also be approving the Three Year Capital Plan.