

**Westboro School Council  
Meeting Minutes  
February 21, 2018**

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Called to order 6:32 pm (Jacquie Surgenor).

**Present:**

Karry Biri, Matthew Bissett, Sherry Cameron, Amy Churchill, Krystal Gibson, Bernie Hansen, Crystal Herbert, Leah Hesson, Annette Hubick, Debbie Klita, Mike Lastiwka, Matt Matheson, Rachel Milne, Jacquie Surgenor

**Approval of Agenda:**

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

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Krystal Gibson moves to accept the minutes from January 17, 2018, Crystal Herbert 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favour: “Yes.”

**New Business:**

**A.) Logos Report**

Sherry Cameron and Rachel Milne shared the following report.

- This month’s chapel is 1pm on Thursday, February 22, at Westboro Elementary School. It is being hosted by the Grade 3 and 4 classes and will feature Michael Schnell as a special speaker.
- An Easter chapel will be hosted by Westboro on Thursday, March 22.
- Michael Schnell is shadowing Brooke Hartum in preparation for becoming the Logos Society president next year.
- The Logos Society Board members attended a developmental workshop.
- Families are asked to pray for Mrs. Bouwers who is currently on sick leave.

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

Jacquie Surgenor shared the following information from the February 7<sup>th</sup> COSC meeting.

They had a great session sharing ideas about engaging parents who don’t come to meetings. Many of these ideas are currently being done at Westboro. Jacquie will share the list of various types of parent engagement at our school council next meeting. When Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) begins the pre-

enrollment process in March, there will now be an option to sign up for your school council e-mail list as another way of connecting with parents.

Jacquie has been invited by EIPS to provide a parent perspective at a February 22 session hosted by Alberta Education about the Assurance Model. She will be attending with several school principals, the EIPS Board Chair and Associate Superintendent. Alberta Education is moving from an Accountability Model to an Assurance Model and she will share more information as it becomes available.

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 there has been a change in the production crew helping to create our videos. As soon as the next video is finalized, it will be available on the school website at:

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

Other schools are starting to utilize these videos and share them with their parents. We are receiving lots of positive feedback about them!

The videos continue to be created about once a month. If a parent and their student would like to volunteer to be filmed for a video this year, please contact Jacquie at [westboroparents@gmail.com](mailto:westboroparents@gmail.com).

### **D.) ASCA School Council Engagement Task Force**

Bernie Hansen brought forward the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) "Request for input about ASCA School Councils Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) participation" survey. The 10 questions were discussed verbally and will be submitted back to the ASCA Board on-line.

### **E.) ASCA Conference & AGM**

For the April ASCA conference and AGM in Edmonton, EIPS will be sponsoring up to 12 parent representatives from our district to attend. The consensus was to put forward Krystal Gibson's name to represent Westboro School Council for a board-sponsored registration. Once the Board has decided which parents they will be sponsoring, we can then consider if additional Westboro parents can attend and if this could be funded by Westboro Parents Group.

## **F.) Parent Engagement**

Ideas for ways to engage parents in a social setting were discussed. An adult-only build-a-terrarium night at Wild Wing was suggested and Krystal will look into the details. A concept for a family garage sale was suggested and may compliment the spring Shop Til Ya Drop event currently being organized by Amy Churchill. A family farewell-to-school event was also discussed to potentially happen on a Friday after school in June. It could be picnic-style or pot luck with the possibility of a food truck in the staff parking lot. Jacquie and Mike will discuss a date and more of the details needed to run an event like this.

## **G.) Open Questions**

It was asked if our students could participate in the EIPS Battle of the Books next year, a reading club that starts in the fall and could lead to a trivia-style division-level competition in the spring. Sherry suggested talking with Mary Christenson about her experience trying to organize this in the past.

## **School Report:**

### **A.) Principal's Report**

Mike shared the following information.

He has been working with staff on mental health issues with training happening at their February staff meeting and more to come on their March 2<sup>nd</sup> professional learning day. The focus is on effects of trauma on the developing brain as well as anxiety. He is putting together a presentation on this information to share with parents at a future meeting.

The Winter Olympics Committee is planning hard for the special school-wide event this Friday. He expects a very exciting afternoon.

He very recently learned that next year's school supply lists are going to be standardized across the division for elementary students. It's possible that items such as scissors may be provided by the classroom rather than the student. He will provide more information as it becomes available.

Parent-teacher-student conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, and Thursday, March 8, from 4-7pm each evening. Information on how to book your appointments on-line is available on the school website at:

<http://westborelementary.ca/download/123480>.

The booking portal will close at 3pm on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Parents of current kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 students will be surveyed to determine if there is still enough interest in the school arranging for swim lessons for Grades 1-3 this fall. The survey will be sent out after March 15<sup>th</sup>.

At the March school council meeting, Mike will be presenting information about 2018-2019 school fees. Highlights include:

- having a government approved field trip cost of \$60 which will allow the school to charge parents per trip, up to a maximum \$60 per year, and
- possibly increasing ski trip fees by 5% (\$2-\$3).

It was suggested that parents of Grade 4 and 5 students also be surveyed about enough interest in the Grade 5 and 6 ski trips as this seems to be decreasing each year.

Matt Matheson shared that Pink Shirt Day is happening on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. This is a nation-wide initiative to increase awareness of bullying in all aspects of our lives. Instead of sending an anti-bullying message to our students, the school will focus on spreading “drops of kindness” which was discussed with students during circle time last week. Students will be sharing positive thoughts with each other and staff will ensure each student is acknowledged in a positive way. Matt has tweeted out some of these “drops of kindness” and may do others as well. More information on Pink Shirt Day can be found at: <https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/>.

## **B.) Trustee Report**

Annette Hubick shared the following report.

### **Strategic Plan**

The board has drafted new foundational statements, i.e., the Mission and Values statements. It also decided that it would not make any changes to the Priorities and Goals in the strategic plan as the work continues and we want to remain focused. The board also changed the term of the plan from 3 to 4 years to reflect the actual term of the trustees.

### **ASCA Conference Funding**

At its January board meeting, the board passed a motion to approve the sponsorship of one school council member per school, to a maximum of 12, to attend the ASCA & AGM, April 20 - 22, and that the deadline for submission align with the ASCA conference registration timeframe. I did ask why the recommendation was to cap it at 12 and the response was that it would be fiscally prudent to limit this expense and allow for budget planning. More importantly, in the last several years, the amount of school council members sponsored was 9-10 and did not exceed 12.

### **Funding Allocation (re: junior highs)**

At the February 15, board meeting, the board considered a motion being brought forward to increase the per pupil funding rate for junior high students so “that the junior high per pupil percentage of funding received from Alberta Education and allocated out to schools be adjusted over a three-year period to match the per pupil percentage as Early Childhood Services, elementary and senior high students.” Note that in order to increase junior high funding, elementary and/or senior high funding would have to be cut to make up the difference. After quite a lengthy discussion and debate, the motion was defeated.

### **Public Engagement**

The board hosted two public information sessions on the Wye Elementary School replacement project (February 13 and 21). This was the third round of public consultation. Feedback will be considered and presented to the board before moving to the final design and tender stages.

### **Reminders**

- Accountability Pillar Survey – deadline is Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>; parents of students in grades 4, 7, and 10 are encouraged to complete the survey as the results have influence on school education plans. The Alberta Education survey is currently only available in hard copy; however, the department is currently testing an electronic version in four districts.
- The online pre-enrollment process will run March 1-15. Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> is a hard deadline for registering at a non-designated school.
  - Closed-boundary schools are: Win Ferguson Elementary, Wes Hosford Elementary, F.R. Haythorne Junior High and Ecole Campbelltown.
- Students in grades 8-9 and their families are invited to attend this year’s High School Information Evening. Those who attend will learn about EIPS senior high instruction, programming, course offerings, diploma requirements, extracurricular opportunities and much more. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions and speak with representatives from EIPS and each senior high school.

Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2018  
Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Location: Strathcona County Community Centre Agora

### **Parent Seminars (free)**

- Webinar by Learning Network Educational Services:  
*Vaping and Electronic Smoking Products: What You Need to Know*

Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2018  
Time: 1:00-2:00 p.m. AND 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- Eastern Edge RCSD (Regional Collaborative Service Delivery) presents:  
*More than Just a Bad Day: Understanding and Supporting Youth with Depression and Self-Injury (Grades 7-12)*

Date: Thursday, March 1, 2018  
Time: 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Location: Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School  
Note: Adults only  
Pre-register: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EasternEdgeCaregiverSeries>

**Next Meeting Date:** March 21, 2018 at 6:30 pm

**Adjournment:** Crystal Herbert moves to adjourn at 7:51 pm.