

**Westboro School Council
Meeting Minutes
March 17,2021**

Welcome and Introductions:

Called to order at 6:40pm (Karry Biri)

Present:

Karry Biri, Crystal Hebert, Don Irwin, Mike Lastiwka, Theresa Mackenzie, Courtney Richard, Kim Scott, Jacquie Surgenor, Erin Tomkins, Desiree Williams

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was amended to have Don Irwin present the Trustee Report after the approval of previous minutes and Teacher report be added to the agenda and finally that Jacquie present information on Sherwood Heights. Motion made by Crystal Hebert, seconded by Courtney Richard. All in favour "YES"

Adoption of previous regular meeting minutes:

The minutes were reviewed, and it was agreed that the minutes needed to be changed. Minutes were amended as requested. Motion to approve minutes as amended made by Courtney Richard, seconded by Crystal Hebert.

Kim Scott joined the meeting, and the chair was returned to her.

Trustee Report:

Welcome to warmer weather although I am not saying it is spring yet but it is coming. My wife tracks minutes of daylight and we can say we are up about 3 and a half hours. Good news.

2021/2022 Budget

The budget for the province and education was released on February 25 and the total amount for education is the same as last budget which is good. We still have to see what the envelopes are within the budget but it looks like a good news budget. We have a number of extra meetings in March to work out all the budget details.

The capital budget for the province (i.e. new or renovated schools) was released last week and

despite all our planning and lobbying efforts we were not yet successful on receiving funding for a Sherwood Heights replacement school. Only 14 schools were funded in all the Province.

Technology Fee

This was discussed further at this month's Committee of School Councils (COSC) meeting but the final decision will be made based on how much technology funding we receive within the new budget.

2022/ 2023 School year

We are working to make next year as normal as possible. One decision that we have made already is to go back to a semester system in high school and we will be reviewing all other areas between now and the fall to attempt to get the schools back to as close to normal as possible.

Next Public School Board Meeting - Thursday March 18 - 10am

We invite you to listen in on the EIPS.ca website (the agenda is posted Mondays at noon).

Questions / Input

Please feel free to phone or text (587 986 3900) or email (don.irwin@eips.ca).

Working for you to continue to provide the best education experience for your children. Elk Island Public students consistently rank highest on standardized testing and provincial exams in all of Alberta and rank high in International rankings.

Don Irwin
School Trustee
Sherwood Park

Logos Report:

Theresa Mackenzie gave the following Logos report

Logo's meeting was tabled last month, and the next meeting is TBA.

Chapels are Virtual in Google Meets and the Easter chapel is coming up and will be announced when it is.

Any Logos questions/support requested by staff, please send requests to Theresa (westbororep@elkisland.ca)

COSC Report:

Theresa Mackenzie gave the following COSC report:

The last meeting was March 3. Mark L. talked on why tech fee is proposed. Parents are looking for timeline, but there is no firm answer.

ASCA update:

There is a rally to fundraise. ASCA is looking for donations or share how ASCA has benefited them.

There was discussion about the ASCA conference and that schools should send a representative. Kim will be our representative.

Webinar Wednesday's great information on topics. We should include it in the weekly newsletters.

Admin Report:

Mike Lastiwka gave the following report:

There is a survey launching Friday. It is only digital but if needed contact Mike to get a paper copy.

The budget is coming out soon, April/May and we can schedule education plan for May meeting and have a consultation with parents then.

The pizza fundraiser made just over \$300. The money will be put towards books and there are talks to do it again.

Resiliency Discussion:

- having parents as partners!!
- Discussed the book – Drop the Worry Ball by Dr. Alex Russell
- We need to work together with parents and school to make sure children succeed.

Sherwood Heights:

This is the 50th anniversary of Sherwood Heights. The school is old but has the most outstanding staff making the best out of it, but mechanical challenges that affect the students. The building is not conducive to learning. It is grossly inadequate. There was a plan in place to build a new

school in the same location, however, the government is not funding it. The school board has done everything they possibly can to get the new building. The community and parents need to get organized and push MLA's and education minister to act. Jacquie is going to meet with Treena B and will come back with thoughts and ideas that we can do to push for a new school. There is a need for an engagement campaign.

Teacher:

- We have seen a lot of student engagement with the Dance and Drama program implemented in this school year and are excited to continue to offer it next school year. Mrs. Richard wants students to have the opportunity to learn from multiple Fine Arts disciplines, creating curricular connections within each. Students will continue to receive 90 minutes/week of Fine Arts instructional time.
- FNMI
 - Mrs. Richard is working on setting up some virtual workshops for June leading up to National Indigenous Peoples' Day.
 - Connie Kulhavy, the Métis knowledge keeper that Westboro entered into relationship with, made a large donation to the school in the fall of materials and resources. Together with videos Mrs. Richard worked on with her in the spring this will enable her teachings to continue at our school.
 - The school has worked to collect some tangible items for students' learning which they are continuing to add to this year. These are being put together into an EduKit to be kept at the school. The most recent addition was authentic Inuit snow goggles.
 - There has been movement of some resources back into regular library circulation. While Westboro will continue to share teachings on residential schooling, we want for their to be a focus on celebrating First Nations, Métis, and Inuit cultures through lessons and resources that positively share elements of these cultures.
 - Some of our classes are working on land-based learning, which will continue into the spring.
 - In previous years, Westboro has worked towards helping students develop a foundation understanding to continue to build upon. This year, Westboro implemented one lesson/week devoted specifically for Indigenous learning in Kindergarten to help establish some foundational learnings early on. This extends beyond what students are working on in their regular classroom. So far this year, a glimpse into these Kindergarten lessons include learning about: the buffalo, animal tracks, forest animals cross-curricular, celebrations, "Good Day" song with Elder Wilson, and land-based learning
- Residency
 - The school has been participating in an artist in residence program with Garth Prince, which began on March 16 and will extend until March 25. This was funded 50% by a grant that the school received from Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

- Students completed various different activities in their classrooms leading up to the residency so they could draw from previous experiences during the residency, creating many robust learning opportunities.
- While the residency was previously planned to be in-person, due to COVID restrictions it was modified this year to a virtual residency. One advantage of this is that students were able to share some of their teachings with families through videos that could be worked on and shared with families at home.
- The artist, Garth Prince, offered a discount to Westboro families for purchasing his book and/or CD during the residency.
- Information about the residency has been shared with families through the school newsletter and the parent Facebook page.
- While a concert cannot take place this year due to COVID, parents will have the chance to see what students took part in by viewing a video post-residency that our artist is creating with footage taken during the residency.
- Mrs. Richard expressed her beliefs on how valuable these types of learning opportunities are for students at Westboro.

ASCA RESOLUTIONS:

Kim brought up the ASCA resolutions so we as a council can discuss how we feel about the resolution.

Resolution 1:

We support it as it stands.
Equality across schools

Resolution 2:

COSC is not mandated in all divisions. We want to make it consistent.
We are for it, but there may be more resolutions that are more of a priority.

We tabled the rest of the resolutions to next agenda and are going to put them in the agenda so that parents can see them.

Open Questions:

It was asked that Sherwood Heights be put into next months meeting.

Next meeting date: April 21,2021 at 630pm

Motion to adjourn by Karry Biri at 8:46pm