

**Westboro School Council  
Meeting Minutes  
February 16, 2017**

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Called to order 1:02 pm (Jacquie Surgenor).

**Present:**

Colleen Alpern, Trina Boymook, Amy Churchill, Jeff Dickey, Krystal Gibson, Leah Hesson, Debbie Klita, Jacquie Surgenor, Heather Wieler

**Approval of Agenda:**

Amy Churchill moves to approve the agenda, Krystal Gibson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favour: “Yes.”

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Krystal Gibson moves to accept the minutes from January 18, 2017, Amy Churchill 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favour: “Yes.”

**New Business:**

**A.) Logos Report**

Amy Churchill shared the report on behalf of Logos. There will be no pizza sale fundraiser this year but a “no fuss” fundraiser is being organized for late March. The Annual General Meeting is coming up so watch for further information.

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

Jacquie Surgenor shared her report.

Constable Helgeson of the RCMP presented on the topic “Get Cyber Safe”. A few of his key points included:

- The SnapChat app has no educational value and is often part of conflicts and issues. It is being used to get girls to send semi-nude and nude photos, then using them to blackmail the girl to send more.
- PhotoVault is an app that is used to hide photos until you enter a code.
- Children will download an app on the way to school and delete it on the way home so their parents don’t know they have it. A tip is to check battery usage to see what apps have been used and if the app has been deleted to help you know what your child has been up to.
- Tell children to never send a photo to someone that they wouldn’t show their grandmother.
- ConnectSafely.org is a website which gives Parent Guides to SnapChat, Facebook, Instagram, cyberbullying, etc.

- If inappropriate photos of a minor are found on a child's phone, the parent is actually the owner of the phone. Police can get a search warrant for all other electronic devices the parents own.
- Make sure "location services" is turned off for camera apps or others can see where a photo was taken. People have found out where their victims lived that way.
- It is important to talk to your children so they know they can trust you and that they can always tell you anything.

Superintendent Liguori suggested that as school councils we should go back to our schools and ask about the following two things:

- What are we doing around digital citizenship and how are we reinforcing it?
- Start the conversation about handheld devices in school and what the policy is.

He also talked about how children are addicted to their phones (they can't ignore the buzzing/notifications) and how there needs to be a bigger discussion around rights and responsibilities. He mentioned a really interesting article from "The Atlantic" about breaking people's addiction to their phones <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/11/the-binge-breaker/501122/>.

Colleen Alpern said the school handbook on the school website has a section on the electronics policy. It is also discussed directly with students in Grades 4, 5 and 6.

Other resources for parents to help guide us with technology and our children that were shared from attendees were:

- TED Talks (<https://www.ted.com/talks>)
- [www.commonsemmedia.org](http://www.commonsemmedia.org)
- Outsmarting Your Kids Online: A Safety Handbook for Overwhelmed Parents by Amber Mac and Michael Bazzell (2016)

### **C.) Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation**

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) was explained by Colleen Alpern. It is a federal law that requires Elk Island Public School (EIPS) division to request direct consent to continue to communicate with families via e-mail. If you unsubscribe or do not respond to the February 15<sup>th</sup> e-mail the division has sent, you will no longer receive school or EIPS e-mails that are not regarding emergency situations or financial matters.

Things to be aware of are:

- You will be asked to subscribe or unsubscribe with every e-mail address you have provided to the school.
- If you have more than 1 student or students in multiple schools, you will only need to subscribe or unsubscribe a single time for the same e-mail address.
- If you change your e-mail address at any time, it's important to inform the school.
- In future, receipts from fees paid via the Parent Portal system will be mailed to families as they can no longer be communicated via e-mail.
- The "Remind" app which Westboro School teachers utilize is not impacted by the EIPS subscribe/unsubscribe process. It is a separate sign-up process done each year at the beginning of school with each teacher who chooses to use this app to communicate with parents. Parents actively give their information so it is exempt from CASL

To subscribe or unsubscribe, please follow the link:

<https://www.eips.ca/contact/synrevoice>

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

Heather brought forward the "Representing Student Diversity through Parents on School Council" survey. The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) board is bringing awareness to school councils about Alberta Education's focus on inclusive education; on increasing the achievement of First Nations, Metis and Inuit students; and on education for students with complex learning needs. The questions were completed verbally by those in attendance and results will be submitted back to the ASCA board on-line.

#### **E.) What Do Parents Want to Know?**

A discussion occurred about how Westboro School Council can provide support to its families and students. One suggestion was better use of agenda communication from classroom to parent via the child who takes responsibility for entering the information into their agendas. Parents also asked for resources and support for how to help teach their kids about using agendas. First Nations, Metis, Inuit is another area parents were interested in learning more about.

#### **F.) Open Questions**

There were no open questions.

## **School Report:**

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

Colleen Alpern shared the following report.

#### **Activities and events in our school over the past month**

- Crazy hair / crazy bread day
- Penny Carnival
- Alberta Opera
- STAR reading assessment administered in Grade 1
- Teacher's Convention
- CASL

#### **Activities and events coming up**

- PD day on February 17 (literacy scope and sequence; numeracy)
- Pink shirt day on February 22

### **B.) Trustee Report**

Trina Boymook presented her report.

On January 26, the Board approved covering the registration fee for one Westboro School Council representative to attend the ASCA Conference and AGM being held in Edmonton on April 28-30. Krystal Gibson will be attending.

At today's Board meeting, they approved the new elementary report card template. This is the one Westboro piloted in 2015-2016 and is currently using. Only this report card will be used in the future.

The boundary exemption request process is underway and parents have until April 7 to submit their exemption forms.

Ministik School public consultations have been completed. The earliest a decision will be made about a possible school closure is March 16<sup>th</sup> but a decision will need to be made by the Board before the end of June.

Sherwood Park school attendance boundary review is on-going. The second open house is February 16<sup>th</sup>. Three proposed map options that are being discussed at the open houses are available to view at:

<https://www.eips.ca/schools/newschoolsandmodernizations/sherwood-park-k-6-located-in-davidson-creek-boundary-details>

Trina clarified that families who reside in Westboro, Village on the Lake and Broadmoor Estates are still designated to attend Sherwood Heights Junior High

on all three proposed maps.

An information night for parents and students entering high school is scheduled for Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 7pm at the Sherwood Park Alliance Church. High school open houses are also scheduled in March. The list of dates is available at: <https://www.eips.ca/parents/registration/high-school-in-eips>.

**Next Meeting Date:** March 15, 2017 at 6:30 pm

**Adjournment:** Amy Churchill moves to adjourn at 2:30 pm.