

**Westboro School Council
Annual General Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2017**

Welcome and Introductions:

Called to order 6:36 pm (Jacquie Surgenor).

Present:

Colleen Alpern, Trina Boymook, Amy Churchill, Jeff Dickey, Tanya Fisher, Krystal Gibson, Crystal Herbert, Leah Hesson, Sandra Hryhirschuk, Debbie Klita, Matt Matheson, Jacquie Surgenor, Heather Wieler

Approval of Agenda:

Crystal Herbert moves to approve the agenda, Jeff Dickey 2nd. All in favour: "Yes."

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Debbie Klita moves to accept the minutes from the May 18, 2016, Annual General Meeting, Krystal Gibson 2nd. All in favour: "Yes."

New Business:

A.) Logos Report

Krystal Gibson presented the Logos report on behalf of Rachel Milne.

- The Logos Society Annual General Meeting (AGM) date has been changed to Wednesday, June 14 at Brentwood Elementary School starting at 7pm. Lynda Miller has agreed to remain the Board President for 2017-2018 but they are looking for school reps for both Westboro Elementary and Sherwood Heights Junior High schools.
- Last chapel of the year is the ice cream chapel on Tuesday, June 6.

B.) COSC (Committee of School Councils) Report

Jacquie Surgenor shared the following report.

The budget report was presented. There are some challenges with this budget, especially at the high school level where funding for CEUs drops from a maximum of 60 to 45. More budget information will be shared during the Trustee report.

Those who attended the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) conference and AGM shared their take aways and experiences which were very positive.

There was also a discussion about Bill 1 and what fees parents are and are not willing to pay for. As we do not know what the regulations will contain, the conversation was more general, and not about the regulations specifically.

- If it's transparent, parents will be more supportive of paying a fee. This is especially relevant for junior high parents who pay more fees than elementary.
- Parents also want the ability to pay to augment their child's education (eg. if they are making a birdhouse in Construction class, parents want to be able to pay to build a different project if desired or they want to be able to pay for their child to have experiences such as field trips).

C.) ASCA Conference

Krystal Gibson attended the ASCA Conference and AGM on behalf of Westboro School Council at the end of April and shared the following report.

Radtagz, a vendor at the conference, has a product which Krystal recommends investigating further for our school community this fall. (citizenrad.com)

The ASCA resolutions we discussed at our March meeting were voted on and the results can be found at:

https://c.ymcdn.com/sites/albertaschoolcouncils.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/conf_17/Advocacy_policy_passed_at_20.pdf

Krystal participated in a blanket exercise and recommends planning one in the next school year for Westboro parents and our supporting community to educate and bring more awareness regarding the Aboriginal experience in residential schools.

D.) Curriculum Redesign

Jacque Surgenor shared the following update on Alberta Education's process of curriculum redesign.

Alberta Education is revamping K-12 curriculum in Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Sciences, Arts and Wellness Education. They are currently collecting feedback on the proposed Scope and Sequence (what they teach and when) for each of these subjects through an online survey. EIPS is hosting a session on Thursday, May 25 which will go into more depth to better prepare parents to complete the survey. Jacque has been invited to attend a 2 day session on curriculum redesign in the junior high social studies focus group.

The provincial survey is open until Friday, June 2 and can be found at:
<https://education.alberta.ca/curriculum-development/take-the-spring-2017-survey/everyone/spring-2017-curriculum-survey/>

E.) Open Questions

It was asked when the proposed improvements to the area around the westerly school crosswalk would be happening and when our crosswalk lines will be painted. Jacquie will follow up with Strathcona County on both issues.

F.) Elections

Westboro School Council advises and provides input into school direction and activities such as the School Education Plan, transportation issues and building community. The three executive positions are elected parent volunteers for a term of 1 year.

Krystal Gibson moves that for the 2017-2018 school year, Jacquie Surgenor continues to serve as Chair, Heather Wieler continues to serve as Vice Chair and Debbie Klita continues to serve as Secretary. Crystal Herbert 2nd. All in favour: "Yes."

A succession and transition plan was discussed for the 2018-2019 school year. Sharing positions for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary is feasible if volunteers are interested. Please feel free to approach any of the executive or e-mail us at westboroparents@gmail.com if you have questions or would like more information.

School Report:

A.) Principal's Report

Colleen Alpern shared the following report.

Activities and events in our school over the past month

- EIPS long service and recognition for staff event on May 2. Congratulations to the following staff for reaching milestones in their careers!
 - 5 years: Billie Jean Mephram and Karen Stocks
 - 15 years: Leah Canning and Wendy Oake
 - Completion of School Leadership Development: Tamara Martin-Spady
 - Completion of Masters of Education: David Hay
 - Completion of PhD: Colleen Alpern
- ECS information night on April 26. 20 students registered in regular program, 25 registered in Logos.

- Elder Wilson Bearhead came into the school for 2 days at the beginning of May and, with Mrs. Richard, taught lessons during music class around First Nations culture (song and dance).
- Emergency drills are now complete: 6 evacuations, severe weather, hold and secure, lock down. Parents can refer to the EIPS website for further information on what each of these drills entail (<https://www.eips.ca/parents/emergency-preparedness>).
- Budget submitted and should be approved by the Board by May 29. Numbers are pretty even for next year. More details will be presented at the October School Council meeting when numbers have been finalized.
- The following information regarding student agendas has been shared with staff and will go out in the June newsletter.
Over the past several months we have had numerous discussions with members of our school community, including parents and staff, about what the best course of action is regarding moving forward with student agendas; should we continue to charge for agendas at all grade levels, should they be required at only some levels, or should they be eliminated entirely? There are passionate voices on many sides of this issue, and as a school, we have listened to them all.

Another contributing factor to the decision making process is Bill 1. There was some initial confusion about what schools could and could not charge for as a fee. Initially the school was asked to hold off on continuing to have agendas as one of our fees; recently, as clarification around the bill has emerged, we have been instructed by Elk Island Public Schools that:

“For 2017-2018, schools can charge for agendas however they have to be clearly identified as “optional”. Parents should have the choice of providing their own agenda or purchasing one from the school. If schools require students to have the school agenda then it needs to be provided at no cost.”

With all this in mind, and in an effort to do what is best for our students, next year at Westboro we will be doing things differently than in the past.

In grades 1-4, student agendas will be organized by the school, specifically by the homeroom teacher. Teachers will determine the style of agenda they will be using, will photocopy the pages, and they will be fastened in a duotang or something similar. The school will provide the pages throughout the year, and will use the supplies provided at the beginning of the year. Teachers may copy agenda pages one month at a time, and remove the pages at the end of a month in order to keep the size of the agenda manageable.

The expectation is that every student in grades 1-4 will consistently use their agenda. This is something that will be reinforced through daily routines in the classroom, and should be supported at home through regularly checking the agenda for important information, teacher notes, etc.

In grades 5-6, students will be given the option of using a method they prefer to stay organized. They will have had many opportunities to use a variety of different methods from grades 1-4, and they should choose the option that works best for them. This may include an electronic organizer (Google calendar, homework app, etc.) or some kind of more traditional paper agenda or organizer. In any case, whatever the option chosen, parents will be asked to provide it. These may be free or require some cost; that is up to the parents.

It is our hope that this decision will provide our students with an opportunity to grow in responsibility and accountability, while at the same time providing parents with choice as to how this is accomplished. If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call the school to speak to either Mrs. Alpern or Mr. Matheson. Thank you.

Activities and events coming up

- Gymnastics week May 29 – June 2
- Courtyard clean-up on Saturday, June 3. Parent volunteers will work alongside 4-6 bank employees who are volunteering their time as well as the bank donating \$1000 towards the project.
- Ice cream chapel on June 6
- Mary Lambert (singer) to visit on June 8
- Grade 6 trip to Camp YoWoChAs on June 8
- Volunteer thank you coffee on June 9 (weather permitting)
- PATs the week of June 19
- Aboriginal Day event at Victoria Park in Edmonton on June 21 for grades K to 5. Each classroom will need a large number of parent volunteers in order to be able to participate.
- Last assembly and Grade 6 farewell on June 29

It was asked if emergency procedures are talked about or explained to the students (ie. how do you find your parents after a fire). Drills are explained to the students but Matt will draft up more procedure information for the staff to be shared with the students.

It was asked if they were any staffing changes to report. None have occurred as of yet and staffing is an on-going process at this time of year. If any changes will be happening, they will be shared in the school newsletter.

B.) Trustee Report

Trina Boymook presented the following report.

Fees for the 2017-2018 school year were approved at the April 20th Board meeting. There were no increases in student transportation fees and the Learning Resource Fee has been eliminated due to Bill 1. Bill 1 “An Act to Reduce School Fees” has received royal assent and is expected to be proclaimed this month. The Act includes the elimination of supplies and materials fees such as textbooks, workbooks, photocopying and printing or paper. Also included are fees for instructional supplies and materials which were charged to an entire student body or grade cohort. Bill 1 eliminated student transportation fees for those students attending their designated school who reside more than 2.4km away. EIPS has never charged a fee for this in the past so our parents won’t see a change. Pay-for-ride and school-of-choice families will continue to be charged a fee. School Boards do not receive funding for students living less than 2.4km from their designated school who attend their designated school. They also do not receive funds for students attending a school or program of choice. These fall outside the mandate of student transportation and therefore are considered parental choice. Bill 1 allows for the charging of fees for programs or schools of choice.

Policy 23 “School and Administrative Fees” is currently being drafted and will be approved at the June 15th Board meeting. It is due to the Education Minister by June 30th. The Board commits to take Policy 23 to the October COSC meeting for parental feedback that will be brought into the Policy review process for amendments. The policy will include the following statements: “parents will be consulted before fees are set”; “fees will be communicated before registration”; “payment plan will be offered”; “waiving process will be in place”.

The Board is in the middle of the budgeting process. The provincial budget did not provide any increases to the per student grants for K-9. Boards did not receive any dollars to address increased costs or paying the carbon levy. A number of additional efficiencies have been made centrally. In order to protect learning in the classroom, the Board has approved the use of \$800,000 from reserves to cover an 2017-2018 operating budget shortfall. Fees and Budget Allocations to schools and departments were approved at the Board’s April 20th meeting. Allocations to schools have increased by 0.9%. The Board is expected to approve the 2017-2018 budget at its May 29th meeting. This is one of two evening Board meetings and the public portion of the meeting will begin at 6pm.

It’s municipal election time this fall. EIPS Board of Trustees consists of 9 members: 3 in Sherwood Park, 2 in Fort Saskatchewan, 1 in Strathcona rural north of Wye Road, 1 in Strathcona rural south of Wye Road, 1 in Lamont County and 1 in Vegreville (western portion of Minburn County). Those considering running for school trustee can find information on the EIPS website

for how to do this as well as the electronic copy of the candidate's handbook. There is a lot of valuable information on the requirements and process for running in the election. (<https://www.eips.ca/trustees/election-2017>)

The new teacher's agreement was ratified today. The province is providing a one-time \$75 million investment of which \$1.99 million will be made available to EIPS. A committee will be created to decide how the money will be invested and more information to parents will be available this fall.

The question was asked what would happen if EIPS did not approve a budget. Trina discussed the budget approval process and associated deadlines.

A question was asked about the current status of the nutrition administrative procedure. Administrative Procedure 164 has been amended and approved and can be found at: <https://www.eips.ca/download/102162>. EIPS is hosting an event on May 31 to connect hot lunch committees with local vendors to educate them about the new guidelines. It was asked if this amended document affects our hot lunch program. Yes, it will but the vocabulary is not as rigid as previously proposed. Another question asked was are we still able to organize our annual pancake breakfast and the answer is yes!

Trina would like the families of Westboro to enjoy the many celebrations taking place at our school over the final weeks of this school year and she looks forward to seeing us again this fall.

Next Meeting Date: September 20, 2017 at 6:30 pm

Adjournment: Krystal Gibson moves to adjourn at 7:48 pm.