

**Westboro School Council  
Meeting Minutes  
September 26, 2018**

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Called to order 6:30 pm (Krystal Gibson).

**Present:**

Janeen Bielby, Matthew Bissett, Amy Churchill, Krystal Gibson, Bernie Hansen, Leah Hesson, Annette Hubick, Lesley King, Debbie Klita, Mike Lastiwka, Mishy Mziray, Kim Scott, Jacquie Surgenor, Ayshea Thornton, Georgina Traxel, Chantel Werner, Jenn Wolfe

**Approval of Agenda:**

The agenda was amended to add “School Council Engagement Task Force” as item 4.d) and alter numbering in New Business accordingly, and to also add “Teacher’s Report” as item 5.b) and change “Trustee Report” to item 5.c). Matthew Bissett moves to approve the amended agenda, Amy Churchill 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favour: “Yes.”

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Matthew Bissett moves to accept the minutes from April 18, 2018, Bernie Hansen 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favour: “Yes.”

**New Business:**

**A.) Logos Report**

Janeen Bielby shared words from Brooke Hartum, president of the board for 2018-2019, then presented the Elk Island Logos Society report.

The Logos Society is a separate overseeing body that is made up of committed parents and staff, much like yourselves, that want to see our program thrive. We realize what a blessing it is to have this program and are dedicated to making sure we represent it well and have a strong, healthy working relationship with our schools, admin and staff. Our program does not receive extra funding and is required to raise money to provide Christian materials for our classrooms and library as well as busing for different Logos activities throughout the year. Two main fundraisers, as well as a \$20 family membership fee, makes up the majority of our yearly budget. We look forward to another successful year and appreciate the cooperation and support of Westboro Elementary.

- The annual apple fundraiser has just finished.
- First chapel of the year is Thursday, September 27.
- The October 31<sup>st</sup> fall alternative event has been booked.
- The Logos Society will purchase the turkey for the Christmas staff luncheon.

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

COSC is the umbrella group for school councils in the Elk Island Public School (EIPS) district and Jacquie Surgenor represents Westboro at the monthly meetings. Their first meeting is Wednesday, October 3, at EIPS Central Administration Building Boardroom. It will begin with a Mix & Mingle event starting at 5:30pm (pizza and refreshments will be served) with the scheduled meeting to begin at 7pm. Each school council is encouraged to send a representative or two.

Jacquie will be attending a workshop on October 16<sup>th</sup> about School Council Purpose being presented by Alberta School Councils Association.

A regular communication to educate parents on internet safety that was discussed last year is happening this school year. SAFFRON Sexual Assault Centre will be creating articles which schools can share in their newsletters, with the first one available in October. Watch for these articles in the Westboro monthly school newsletter.

More information on COSC and their monthly meetings can be found at: <https://www.eips.ca/parents/committee-of-school-councils-cosc>.

## **C.) Traffic Safety Task Force**

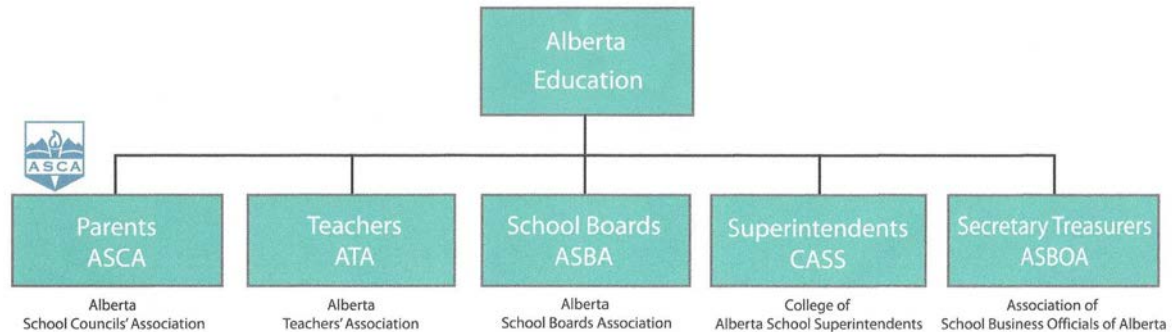
The traffic safety task force is a partnership between Strathcona County, Enforcement Services, EIPS, Elk Island Catholic Schools and New Horizons School initiated a few years ago. Jacquie will follow up to see if they are still active and if a parent representative from Westboro could attend meetings.

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

The Alberta School Council Association Board (ASCA) has decided to continue this process again. Throughout the school year, there will be questions on a pre-determined topic to bring to school councils for their discussion and feedback. Those present decided we would also continue to participate as it is another way for parents to communicate and help advocate at a provincial level. Bernie Hansen will be the contact for Westboro.

Jacquie also described how ASCA interacts with the minister of Alberta Education, as illustrated with this organizational chart.

ASCA Organizational Relationship at the **provincial level**  
with education partner organization Boards and Executives



It was asked how to become a member of COSC and ASCA. Members of COSC are representatives of their school council. Many school councils have a COSC representative as a position they fill along with their chair, vice chair and secretary. Some councils do send more than one representative, or they have different representatives share the position. If a parent wanted to be the COSC representative, they would speak to their school council chair. EIPS buys memberships in ASCA for each of their school councils. Historically, the EIPS Board of Trustees has sponsored representatives to attend the ASCA conference and Annual General Meeting.

**E.) What does resiliency for your child look like to you as a parent?**

The above question was posed to those present to start a conversation about resiliency that could help develop the next School Education Plan (SEP). Ideas shared were:

- confidence to ask for clarification/ability to advocate for themselves
- knowing it's ok to fail
- after identifying a problem, being able to independently solve it
- knowing its ok to have dialogue with a teacher to help find other resources to help or other ways to complete a task
- being able to handle constructive criticism

It was asked how families can access our school counsellor. Mike Lastiwka explained she can be contacted directly by e-mail at [dianna.graziano@eips.ca](mailto:dianna.graziano@eips.ca) or by calling the school office at 780-467-7751 to have staff assist with contacting her.

Another question asked was if our students know they can access the counsellor. Mike hopes that by teaching our students to advocate for themselves in all aspects of their school day, they may recognize they need the help and that the school counsellor is another staff member who could provide it.

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

A parent asked if more information, such as details on extracurricular activities open to Division 2 students and letters to parents from the school, could be provided on the school website. Mike will try to create a section for this.

A few parents requested a common platform from the division to communicate with parents instead of the multiple apps that parents are being asked to currently use (which can be different between schools and even between teachers within the same school).

It was asked if parents could choose which Synervoice or emails they received. Mike explained that with the current system, this is not possible. However, the division has just implemented a new communication system called School Messenger so perhaps there may be more flexibility for parents to program their preferences. He will share information as it becomes available.

Another question asked was if there is food available for students in need. Last year, Westboro Parents Group provided a weekly supply of fresh fruit for the school office staff to use at their discretion and this program will start again next month. The office staff also have other food items to give to a student as needed. Nothing more formal than this is in place as confidentiality is an issue for some students and families.

## **School Report:**

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

A SEP is an "action plan" that guides what happens at the school. Mike is drafting the SEP for the next 3 years, with resiliency being one of it's goals. He shared the following portion of the draft document.

Students at Westboro are goal setters who are learning about resiliency.

Strategies:

- Students identify a way they would like to contribute to society when they finish school using their All About Me digital portfolio.
- Parents and staff members begin to work on strategies to help teach student to be resilient.
- Parents create resiliency tips and strategies and communicate these strategies on school website and newsletter as well as other social media.
- Staff to attend a professional learning session with Dr. Jody Carrington.

- Staff and parents to attend Restorative Justice information seminars. March 8<sup>th</sup> has been scheduled for staff.

Performance Measures:

- Each student has identified how they would like to contribute to society when they finish school on their All About Me profile.
- School council will develop a list of tips for parents on how to help their child become more resilient.

The current Westboro Elementary School SEP can be viewed at:

<http://westboroelementary.ca/about/our-school> (scroll down to Education Plan).

It was asked if circles will be happening again this year. Chantel Werner confirmed they will be running this program again and will be changing the group participants a few times throughout the year rather than keeping the same circle members for every circle time.

### **B.) Teacher's Report**

Lesley King shared the following report about school activities and events.

- Terry Fox run occurred this month with some students completing their run inside the school while others did the run outside.
- Orange shirt day is Friday, September 28.
- Lesley applied, got accepted and is very excited to take her 1R class to the Edmonton Valley Zoo for a week long program called "Zoo School". She will be organizing a fundraiser to support this initiative.

### **C.) Trustee Report**

Annette Hubick shared the following report.

#### **Let's Connect**

- Like my Facebook page: @hubickEIPTrustee
- Follow on Twitter: @annettehubick
- To ask questions, offer suggestions or voice concerns: Annette.Hubick@eips.ca

#### **Over the Summer**

- Facilities department completed over 200 projects throughout schools, ranging from routine maintenance to school builds.
- In June, Chair Boymook was elected to vice president of the Alberta School Boards Association.
- Attended the sod-turning of the Wye replacement school in Heritage Hills on August 29.

## **Back to School**

- At the August 30 board meeting, the trustees re-elected Trina Boymook as Chair and Heather Wahl as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees.
- I will continue to serve on the Advocacy committee, co-chair the Teacher-Board Consultation Committee and represent trustees on the Partners in Education Foundation.
- Davidson Creek Elementary opened on time. Looking forward to its grand opening in October.
- Trustees will continue to serve as liaisons to the same schools as last year.
- Board retreat happened September 18-19, where we delved into deeper discussions about some “big picture” issues.

## **Coming Up**

- Public board meeting on Thursday, September 27. Anyone can attend to observe.
- On Wednesday, October 3, the board is hosting a COSC Meet and Greet, inviting school council representatives and principals, board trustees and central office leadership for pizza and conversation from 5:30-6:45, followed by COSC meeting at 7:00 pm.

## **FYI: Bussing**

- EIPS Transportation fielded over 1100 calls in the last week of August, resulting in routes being distributed to drivers on Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, and calls to riders not taking place until the long weekend.
- Transportation funding and fees:
  - Alberta Education provides funding for students who reside over 2.4 km from their designated schools.
  - It does not provide funding for those less than 2.4 km OR those attending a non-designated school, i.e., “school of choice.” These are services that EIPS offers but are not mandated to do so and for which it receives no funding.
  - There is often discussion about the cost of bus fees to families. To give context: the cost of an urban bus route with an 82-passenger capacity is \$55,000. Total Payride revenue generated with 82 students registered is \$34,000, therefore operating at a shortfall of \$21,000 (this does not take into account those who may be eligible for funding or paying additional “choice” fees, but you get the idea.)
  - Transportation is under review by Minister Eggen; he has stated that new regulations will be announced this fall and would take effect for the 2019-2020 school year.

## **Parent Information Sessions (Free)**

Elk Island Public Schools, Elk Island Catholic Schools, and Family and Community Services are collaborating to offer a series of sessions for parents and students throughout the 2018-2019 school year.

## **Cannabis 101**

Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Time: 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Location: Rudolph Hennig Junior High School library, Fort Saskatchewan

Pre-register: <https://www.eips.ca/download/138816>

This session is for adults only, with a focus on caregivers of students in grades 7-12.

**Parenting Teens in the 21st Century: Respectful Limit Setting with Adolescents**

Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Time: 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Location: Strathcona County Family & Community Services, Sherwood Park

Pre-register: <https://www.eips.ca/download/138817>

This session is for adults only, with a focus on caregivers of students in grades 7-12.

**Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, November 1, 2018 at 6:30 pm

**Adjournment:** Jacquie Surgenor moves to adjourn at 8:07 pm.