

**Westboro School Council
Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2019**

Welcome and Introductions:

Called to order 6:32 pm (Amy Churchill).

Present:

Janeen Bielby, Karry Biri, Matthew Bissett, Amy Churchill, Krystal Gibson, Leah Hesson, Annette Hubick, Debbie Klita, Mike Lastiwka, Courtney Richard, Jacquie Surgenor, Erin Tomkins, Chantel Werner

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was amended to reflect Amy Churchill as Chair of the meeting on behalf of Krystal Gibson. Jacquie Surgenor moves to accept the amended agenda, Karry Biri 2nd. All in favour: “Yes.”

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Janeen Bielby moves to accept the minutes from December 6, 2018, Matthew Bissett 2nd. All in favour: “Yes.”

New Business:

A.) Logos Report

Janeen Bielby presented the Elk Island Logos Society report.

- A family night has been scheduled for February 22 with location yet to be determined.
- An Easter chapel has been planned for April 16 at Sherwood Park Pentecostal Church.
- A Nitza’s Pizza fundraiser is being considered for possibly early May.

B.) COSC (Committee of School Councils) Report

Jacquie Surgenor presented the following report from the January 9th meeting.

Experiences of those who attended various Results Reviews were shared around the table. Jacquie attended for Westboro Elementary School and truly enjoyed the morning. There were lots of great ideas and she feels it’s always nice to be able to share a parent perspective.

Jacquie shared a conversation with a parent from Pine Street Elementary School who loves our parent literacy videos and said their school council is going to work on parent numeracy videos.

The Alberta School Councils' Association annual conference is scheduled for April 26-28. The theme is "School Council: Building Bridges" with Dr. Jodi Carrington as the keynote speaker. More information can be found at: <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/annual-conference>.

Superintendent Mark Liguori presented the "Elk Island Public Schools Combined Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report 2017-2018" which is a compiled look at results for the entire school division. The 56 page report can be found at: <https://www.eips.ca/download/144487>.

Much of the meeting time was spent discussing how various schools promote physical activity. Refer to agenda item 4. D) for more details.

The Board is developing a student use personal device policy and will be engaging students, staff and parents soon.

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

C.) Sherwood Heights Junior High School Replacement

Sherwood Heights is the designated junior high school for Westboro students, both in the regular and Logos programs. It is one of the older schools in the division, opening to students in September 1959 and last modernized in 1997. The board is required to submit a capital plan each year to the government and this school was pushed to the top of the capital priorities for Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) last year. Alberta Education/Infrastructure has toured the school to assess it. If the cost of another modernization was deemed to be greater than 75% of the cost of a new school, they would re-designate as a replacement school. After the assessment, Sherwood Heights came in at 72% so it was kept on the province's list for modernization.

The board, and in particular, Chair Trina Boymook, advocated zealously for a replacement school. There were some key components which were deemed to be repairable that, when examined closer, were not in fact repairable which then bumped it over the magic 75% number. Chair Boymook has also worked on developing some partnerships for this project. Strathcona County has agreed to partner with EIPS on all future school builds to help further their Recreation Master Plan. EIPS has also set up a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club to build onto the new school building. The provincial government wants to see these types of partnerships so there is hope a new school will be announced in the spring budget.

While Sherwood Heights is an awesome school with amazing staff and caretakers who do a fantastic job, there are key challenges with a building as old as it is. Parents are encouraged to contact the Sherwood Park MLAs as well as the Minister of Education to express their concerns about the school and their support for a full replacement rather than a modernization. Even if the announcement is made this spring for a replacement school, with the upcoming election it will be important to continue with public pressure in order to protect the project and keep it moving forward.

Sherwood Park MLAs:

Annie McKitrick sherwood.park@assembly.ab.ca

Estefania Cortes-Vargas strathcona.sherwoodpark@assembly.ab.ca

Alberta Minister of Education:

Honourable David Eggen education.minister@gov.ab.ca

D.) Don't Walk in the Hallways Initiative

Jacque shared 2 videos showing initiatives in other Canadian schools to improve physical literacy and activity. Movement is encouraged rather than discouraged throughout the school day. Mike has already been thinking about this concept and wants to encourage staff to try it with our students (with or without the decals).

“Don't Walk in the Hallways at Ecole Barrie Wilson”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vF3SmdaHM-g&feature=youtu.be>

“Sensory Path at Roland School, Manitoba”

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/physical-activity-guidelines-children-1.4932070?cmp=FB_Post_News&fbclid=IwAR1VeU3Xt1VyRStzEuA_KHvC2bF6mnUecjMgp_Z_7pPtIiFHOpKdeYr1-Fg

E.) Open Questions

A question was brought forward via email from a parent asking if field trip forms could be posted on the school website and teacher weebly pages so they can be signed electronically and sent back via email or link. Mike explained at this time, the school is not putting forms on their website because EIPS is already developing this concept for the entire school district. Forms will likely be set up in PowerSchool for parents to access in future.

School Report:

A.) Principal's Report

Mike Lastiwka shared the following:

- They are working on innovative ways to get parents to read more details in the monthly school newsletter.
- He presented a detailed account of the accountability pillar survey results.
- They are continuing to work towards staff and students being proud Westboro Warriors.
- The new draft Kindergarten to Grade 4 curriculum is available for parents to view at new.learnalberta.ca.

B.) Teacher's Report

Erin Tomkins shared information about 2 literacy events happening at our school. She can be contacted at erin.tomkins@eips.ca with questions or to RSVP for either event.

The next We Read Volunteer training session is happening on Monday, January 21, from 6:30-7:30pm for anyone in the division interested in the program.

Erin has organized a fun family night on Tuesday, February 26, from 6:00-7:15pm (doors open at 5:45pm). This is for students in kindergarten, grade 1 and grade 2 with their families. The theme is "Mystery Night" and there will be games and stories at four different stations for students with ideas for parents on how to help develop their child's reading skills. The event ends with refreshments!

C.) Trustee Report

Annette Hubick shared the following report.

Cell Phone and Personal Device Use

The board has tasked administration to investigate whether and how the division should address the growing challenge of managing the use of personal devices in our schools. In addition to reviewing research, the board has approved a comprehensive public consultation plan has been developed to collect input from three key audiences:

1. students (in divisions II, III and IV); Students representing all EIPS schools will participate in a student forum on February 28th. Trustees will attend in an observation role.
2. parents and guardians – via an online survey (early March)
3. teachers and school administrators – via an online survey (early March)

The results of the consultative processes will be provided to the Board of Trustees for our consideration in terms of enhancing existing Policies and Administrative Procedures (slated for April 2019).

2019-20 Division Calendar

- The calendar is now online.
- Because of the when Labour Day falls, we're able to start school after Labour Day AND have a November break.
- The kindergarten calendars are changing to Mon/Wed & select Fridays and Tue/Thurs & select Fridays.

2019-20 Registration

For the 2019-20 school year, the Pre-enrolment Process has been renamed the Returning Student Registration Process. For planning purposes, this process will start one month earlier than it did in the spring of 2018, but last two weeks longer.

All registration for the 2019-20 school year including kindergarten, returning students, and new students at their designated or non-designated schools will take place online commencing on February 1, 2019.

- Returning Student Registration commences on February 1, 2019 and closes February 28, 2019.
- Kindergarten and New Student Registration starts February 1, 2019 and stays open year round.
- Parents/guardians can expect a response to their kindergarten calendar preference and out of boundary exemption requests around mid-March. Final dates are being determined and I've asked that this info be included in the FAQs.
- Closed boundary schools for 2019-20 are: Ecole Campbelltown, F.R. Haythorne Junior High and SouthPointe School.

French Immersion – Sherwood Park

- To address enrolment pressures in French Immersion in Sherwood Park, the board is seeking to establish a second program site in Sherwood Park.
- Administration will be presenting its recommendation report at the January board meeting.

Accountability Pillar Surveys

Parents of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 will receive the survey in the mail. Please complete it. The results of the surveys are used as a key measuring tool and help shape future education plans and strategies at the school and division levels.

- New this year: the option to complete the survey online. Hopefully, this will improve response rates.
- Survey deadline is February 22, 2019.

Wye School Renaming

- In the fall, EIPS conducted a survey to determine if the community wanted to keep or change the name of Wye Elementary when it opens in its new location in 2020. It also asked respondents to suggest names.
 - 2/3 of the 286 respondents favoured a name change.
 - At the December 20 board meeting, the board agreed to the name change process.

- A second survey is now open to ask people to weigh in on a shortlist of possible names, which are:
 - Heritage Hills (School or Elementary)
 - Heritage Hills Park (School or Elementary)
 - Heritage Point (School or Elementary)
- After the survey closes on February 15, a report will be prepared for the board and it's expected that a decision will be made at the March board meeting.

Andrew Consultation

EIPS will be returning to Andrew on February 20th to share the results of Phase 1 of the consultation process, present options for high school programing and gather feedback.

Election 2019

Advocacy efforts are ramping up in preparation for election. On January 18, I'll be attending the Alberta School Boards Association's Zone meeting to participation in a session that will help inform the creation of a document titled "Let's Start the Conversation", which will serve as a tool for trustees, boards and community members to use when engaging with political candidates.

S-Endorsement Program

EIPS has 121 staff and volunteers who are transporting students to field trips and sports events for our schools using division owned multi-function or yellow school buses. To date, we have 24 individuals who have completed the S-Endorsement program. We have a further 55 registered in upcoming courses. All staff and volunteers will be required to complete this training by July 2019. The program consists of 16 hours of in-class and 2 hours of on-road instruction. A shortage of endorsed drivers could have a significant impact on these programs, e.g., cancellations, increased costs for transportation, etc.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 6:30 pm

Adjournment: Krystal Gibson moves to adjourn at 8:02 pm.