

**Westboro School Council
Annual General Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2019**

Welcome and Introductions:

Called to order 6:31 pm (Krystal Gibson).

Present:

Janeen Bielby, Matthew Bissett, Krystal Gibson, Crystal Herbert, Leah Hesson, Annette Hubick, Debbie Klita, Mike Lastiwka, Kim Scott, Jacquie Surgenor, Chantel Werner

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was amended to have item 5. a) "Trustee Report" presented before New Business. Jacquie Surgenor moves to approve the amended agenda, Janeen Bielby 2nd. All in favour: "Yes."

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Kim Scott moves to accept the minutes from the May 30, 2018, Annual General Meeting, Jacquie Surgenor 2nd. All in favour: "Yes."

School Report:

A.) Trustee Report

Annette Hubick shared highlights from the following report.

Budget 2019-2020

- The new UCP government has advised that there will not be a budget until the fall 2019. This means that all school boards must prepare 2019-20 budgets based on assumptions.
- The Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) 2019-20 budget is being prepared very conservatively, e.g., anticipating no increase in per student funding, no funding for growth or special grants, e.g., nutrition, Classroom Improvement Fund (CIF) funds (\$1.9 million), nor any additional dollars to costs relative to the new collective agreement.
 - On June 10, Alberta Finance Minister Travis Toews announced that the government is fully funding new students going into grade school classrooms this fall. This is welcome news as it means that EIPS's Kindergarten students will now be fully funded (which was where we had anticipated a growth funding shortfall). However, the current budgeting process will not be adjusted until there is confirmation of other funding envelopes (we don't know if there will be reductions elsewhere in order to fund growth).

- The last time the board received any notable funding increase was in 2011, other than the exception of covering two teacher salary increases (1% and 2%) in that time period.
- Even with a “status quo” budget, EIPS has to incorporate mitigation strategies to offset the funds we have been using from reserves, staff grid movement and inflation. Grid movement and collective agreement costs are estimated at \$1.5 million next year. Bottom line: schools and central departments will be dealing with decreased revenues and increased costs.
- The board held a special board meeting on May 29 to establish budget assumptions and allocations. Schools received their budgets the next day—per student allocations to schools were reduced by 1.1%. Central office is also exploring cost reduction opportunities and is planning a reduction in Supports for Students staff (2.7 FTE reduction). Completed budget will go the Board on June 20 (for the first review) and June 25 (final review and approval).

Education Act

On June 5th, the Amended Education Act was introduced by Education Minister LaGrange. Thankfully, it amended the 2012 version of the Act, deleting the problematic and costly clauses regarding increased age of access (from 19 to 21) and establishing residency by a student’s address. There are still many changes that require clarification and these will be revealed in the supporting regulations. I participated in a webinar on June 12th and there were no further details provided or answers to many of the participants’ questions.

The greatest challenge is that the government intends to put the legislation and regulations in force by September 1st, and that it will consult with stakeholders over the summer. So, watch for any announcement of public/parent surveys. I anticipate additional board meetings over the summer.

Sherwood Heights Junior High Replacement School

Chair Boymook has already hosted newly elected Sherwood Park MLAs Jordan Walker and Nate Glubish on a tour of Sherwood Heights.

Board Meeting Highlights - May 22, 2019

Administrative Fees: The Board voted to approve: No changes to fees for Student Transportation, School Facility Rental Rates and Partners for Science.

Grandfathering for French Immersion: The Board voted to approve: grandfathering for re-designated École Campbelltown students entering Grade 6 in the 2020-21 school year, that this exception not be extended to siblings and that choice or choice/payride transportation fees would apply.

Classified Staff Compensation: The Board voted to approve: That the compensation changes awarded to certificated staff (teachers) through the recently ratified Central Table Agreement be extended to classified staff effective September 1.

Policy 24 – Personal Communication Devices:

The Board voted to approve Policy 24, which will come into affect September 1st. Personal Communication Device (PCD) is defined as “personal digital devices that connect to the internet through WiFi, cellular network or other mobile devices.”

With the exceptions of diagnosed medical conditions and identified inclusive educational needs ...

- Grades K-6 shall not access a PCD at school.
- Grades 7-12:
 - Use of PCDs to be restricted to educational purposes in the classroom, with permission of the teacher—schools to develop a plan detailing the specific curricular circumstances.
 - Shall not have a PCD on them during class and shall store a PCD according to the school’s plan.
 - Can access PCDs during break periods (including spares for high school students).

2018-19 EIPS Parent Survey

There were 3,713 responses from parents and guardians across the Division. This was a 27% increase in responses from 2,918 in the previous year. Thank you to all who took the time to respond! Overall, the feedback was very positive, although there are always opportunities for improvement. Complete results are posted on the EIPS website <https://www.eips.ca/about-us/planning-and-results/parent-survey> and each school’s results are posted on its own website.

Andrew School Closure of Grades 10-12

At a public meeting held on May 9th in Andrew, administration presented its recommendation to the public and members of the public were given the opportunity to make comments and ask questions (I attended).

At a special board meeting on June 6th, administration presented a comprehensive report to the board. After questions and debate, the board voted in favour of closing grades 10-12 at Andrew School and redesignating those students to high schools in Vegreville and Lamont where the board believes the students will have the opportunity for a much richer and more robust educational experience. This decision is effective for the 2019-20 school year.

*I wish you a successful end of the school year and a fantastic summer break!
Follow me on Facebook @hubickEIPStrustee*

New Business:

A.) Logos Report

Janeen Bielby shared the following report.

- There will be a popsicle party for 4L who sold the most pizza during their fundraiser.

- At the Elk Island Logos Society Annual General Meeting last night, Michael Schnell was elected president.
- June 20th will be the last chapel of the year and is the ice cream chapel.
- Gifts are being organized for the Grade 6 farewell.
- Janeen is leaving the school community this year. A new Logos rep is still being discussed.

B.) 2019-2020 Meeting Dates

Krystal shared the scheduled meeting dates for the 2019-2020 school year are returning to the third Wednesday of the month. Meetings run from 6:30-8:30pm in the school library and all parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

September 18, 2019

October 16, 2019

November 20, 2019

January 22, 2020

February 19, 2020

March 18, 2020

April 15, 2020

May 27, 2020 Annual General Meeting

C.) ASCA Conference

Krystal Gibson, Amy Churchill, Kim Scott, Karry Biri and Jacquie Surgenor all attended the April Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) Conference. Some of them shared their experiences from the conference.

The ASCA resolutions we discussed at our February and March meetings were voted on during their AGM and the results can be found at:

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/files/86058>

D.) Open Questions

It was asked what changes in staff are expected for the next school year. Due to low enrollment of STEPS students, this class is being combined with PLACE1, with Margo Komant as the teacher. Parents were informed by letter and a meeting took place on Monday. There is a decrease in the number of kindergarten Educational Assistants due to a change in funding allocation. Other movement of staff was announced in the school newsletter. Mike explained 95% of our Westboro school budget is spent on staff salaries, leaving only 5% for everything else. He expects a decrease in spending on supplies and services (i.e. furniture) and also noted that some money the school received from the Board is no longer available.

It was asked if our school could have a staff person dedicated to numeracy, similar to the person we have dedicated to helping our students with literacy. Mike does not have a concrete budget to work with yet so this would be something to consider in the future.

It was asked why morning announcements are referring to the regular program classes as “C” rather than “R”. After Mike had a conversation with staff a few months ago where they were considering a name change from “regular” to “community”, some staff began to use the “C” designation. However, at the most recent staff meeting, it was determined to continue using “regular” or “R” for our school terminology.

E.) 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.

Jacque Surgenor moves that for the term June 12, 2019, to May 31, 2020, Krystal Gibson continues to serve as Chair, Kim Scott is appointed as Vice-Chair and Debbie Klita continues to serve as secretary, Janeen Bielby 2nd. All in favour: “Yes.”

We would like to acknowledge Amy Churchill who was our Vice-Chair for the past 1.5 years. We thank her for her time, energy and dedication to help build our school community!

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 6:30 pm

Adjournment: Jacque Surgenor moves to adjourn at 7:07 pm.