

**Westboro School Council
Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2019**

Welcome and Introductions:

Called to order 6:29 pm (Krystal Gibson).

Present:

Karry Biri, Matthew Bissett, Amy Churchill, Veronica Dierich, Krystal Gibson, Crystal Herbert, Don Irwin, Debbie Klita, Mike Lastiwka, Kim Scott, Chantel Werner, Desiree Williams

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was amended to present the Trustee Report as New Business, Item a), for Debbie Klita to present the Logos Report as Item b), for Mike Lastiwka to present SEP and Results as Item c), Provincial Achievement Tests as Item d), Budget Update as Item e), to renumber Open Questions as Item f), and to remove Item 5. b) Teachers Report. Crystal Herbert moves to accept the amended agenda, Veronica Dierich 2nd. All in favour: "Yes".

Approval of Minutes from Previous Regular Meeting:

Amy Churchill moves to accept the minutes from October 16, 2019, Matthew Bissett 2nd. All in favour: "Yes".

New Business:

A.) Trustee Report

Don Irwin presented the following report.

Don.Irwin@eips.ca

I hope you and your family had a good fall break last week and we're back for the last push until Christmas.

Your school board has been busy this month and during winter fall break with many meetings and conferences.

Late October, we finally received our district budget and learned that there was reduction of 4 million in operating revenues and a 1.5 million additional cost for insurance for our facilities. The superintendent and finance administration have done an excellent job of preparing for this and we are pleased that we are able to cover this deficit with some budget adjustments in schools and all department budgets but the bulk of the deficit was handled by our operating surplus and not have to reduce staff or services. A new budget will be coming out in March with the new funding formula so we will have to begin again at looking at how we spend our set amount of money for student education.

Due to the budget adjustments, we have decided to postpone the individual school results review until the spring. Results for the district continue to be very strong in all areas well ahead of provincial averages.

This month as well we have responded to the government's request for input on choice in education and we fully believe that there is sufficient choice available in public education and that there should be no more funding for choices outside of public education as this would only weaken public education by having less available funding.

Please feel free to ask for further clarification or information on any of these items or any other items either at your parent council meetings or subsequently by text or email. It is my honor and pleasure to serve your parent council and school.

It was asked why the results review meetings were postponed. Part of the results review discusses going forward so with reduced budgets, schools need time to re-evaluate what can happen for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year and to begin preparing for the 2020-2021 year. However, the results themselves are posted on school websites.

It was asked why Sherwood Heights Junior High School did not make the list for a rebuild. The province did not provide the funding for it. It will stay on the EIPS plan so they will keep asking for the rebuild each year.

It was asked why our elementary students have access to YouTube on their Chromebooks instead of the YouTube Kids version. Don will check with staff at central office and report back at a future meeting.

B.) Logos Report

Debbie Klita presented the following report on behalf of Theresa Mackenzie.
westbororep@elkislandlogos.ca

A staff appreciation open house type of event was held in early November.

The Nitza's Pizza coupons fundraiser will run from November 20 to December 4 and will be sent out to the whole school.

Christian author Christie Thomas will be visiting Logos classes on November 22.

Next chapel is November 27 at 1pm in the gym with classes 3L and 4L leading. All are welcome!

C.) SEP and Results

Mike Lastiwka highlighted information found in the “School Education Plan and Results Report, 2018-22, Year 2” which can be found on the school website at <https://www.westboroelementary.ca/download/215306>. Parents are welcome to approach Mike at any time throughout the school year with ideas or feedback on strategies to meet any of the goals in this document.

D.) Provincial Achievement Tests

PAT results found on page 7 of the “School Education Plan and Results Report, 2018-22, Year 2” (<https://www.westboroelementary.ca/download/215306>) were presented by Mike.

It was asked how old the PATs are. They are revised every year.

It was asked if our elementary students have access to an exam bank. An exam bank is available but with very dated questions. One of our grade 6 teachers has access to something similar and will share that information with grade 6 families after Christmas break.

E.) Budget Update

Mike shared a presentation on details about the Elk Island Public Schools 2019-2020 budget.

F.) Open Questions

As a follow up from the September 18th meeting, did the staff provide ideas of how they could utilize more parent volunteers besides fieldtrips? If parents are interested in volunteering, they can start the conversation with their classroom teacher. If they are not needed in the classroom, they can also talk to Mike or Chantel. In some cases, a criminal check may be required.

Are parents able to view their student’s work on Chromebooks from home and if so, can the instructions be made available on the school website? Mike will check into this.

Has there been a change in the curriculum? There is still work being done on the new curriculum and it is moving forward but no details are available yet.

School Reports:

A.) Admin Report

Chantel Werner shared the following report.

- Our Westboro Warrior challenge to fill the marble jar was a success and resulted in a fieldtrip to see a Crusaders hockey game. A new jar challenge has been initiated with the second jar to fill sitting beside the first in the office.
- First term report cards will be available on November 28.
- November 29 is a PD day.
- Chantel and Margo Komant will be coaching 1 girls and 1 boys team at a volleyball tournament at Fultonvale Elementary Junior High School on November 29-30.
- The Elk Island Honour Choir is performing on December 6.
- Our annual Christmas concert for all students is December 10 at 6:30pm.
- Christmas giving initiatives happening are Strathcona Christmas Bureau, Mitten Tree and Making Christmas Merry.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 6:30 pm

Adjournment: Crystal Herbert moves to adjourn at 7:52 pm.