

Westboro School Council

School Council Minutes- November 19, 2024

6:30 p.m. School Library

**Indicates written report/attachment provided*

Attendance

Parents: Christan Rasmussen (Chair), Hilary Schmidt (Vice-Chair), Christine Cooper, Andrea Thibert, Kate Weberg, Mallory Jackson, Judy Anderson

School Staff: Shelby Labrecque (Principal), Chris Kryslar (STEPS)

Others: Trina Boymook (EIPS Trustee)

- 1) Call to order at 6:30 p.m.
- 2) Review of the Agenda
Agenda approved as presented.
- 3) Approval of the minutes from October 8, 2024.
Minutes approved as distributed.
- 4) New Business: Christan Rasmussen
 - a) School Council Engagement Grant
 - A \$500 grant for School Community Engagement is available. It was suggested that we bring Dr. Kate Randall back to speak on another topic after our successful turnout from her ADHD/Anxiety seminar last year.
- 5) EIPS Trustee Report: Trina Boymook
**See attached*
- 6) Administration Report: Shelby Labreque: Principal
**see attached*
- 7) Teacher Report: Chris Kryslar (STEPS)
 - Gave demonstration of devices used in the STEPS program for student communication. The iPads and programs used by the children allow them to more easily communicate with the people around them.
 - Chris also shared an anecdote regarding a student whose communication skills improved dramatically through using these tools, allowing the student the freedom to better express his wants and needs.
- 8) Open Discussion
 - A question was raised regarding swimming lessons. Previous survey results have been less than positive, resulting in the decision for no lessons through school at this time.
 - There has been a request to re-visit In-School Swimming Lessons
 - Questions were raised about a possible ski trip for the older grades.
- 9) Adjourn 7:44pm
- 10) Next Meeting is January 14, 2025

Trustee Report - Trina Boymook

A calendar survey has been sent out to parents/caregivers and staff to gather thoughts on 2 options, which closed October 21. We 4027 people provided feedback about the strengths, weakness, possible ways to improve these two ideas. The Board will make a decision at our December meeting.

A survey for the naming of the Sherwood Park replacement school went out mid-October and closed on October 31. The Board will approve the name at our December Board meeting.

At the October 17 Board meeting the Board approved the following:

- Approved our modular request to the government which include GoA cover the cost to relocation of 6 modulars from West Hostford to Forst Saskatchewan and demolition of 2 Wesboro modulars.
- Trustee Shotbolt, Trustee for Fort Saskatchewan, served notice of resignation on October 7. Her last day on the board will be October 31. The Board has decided not to hold a byelection and have assigned her duties to the remaining of the Board. The Board will function with 7 Trustees until the general election next fall.
- Governance budget surplus of \$39,592 has been reallocated to leveraging student achievement funds bringing up a total of \$388K being available for the 2024-25 school year. The majority of the funds will be used to address hotspots at the junior high level, with the remaining targeted work within the French Immersion program.
- The Board of Trustees direct the Superintendent to create a draft Administrative Procedure that outlines processes and guidelines for the accumulation, use and carry-over of school generated funds, to be brought to the January 9 Caucus Meeting for feedback.

At the end of October, the Board sent a letter to the Minister of Education to provide feedback on the Weighted Moving Average(WMA) funding model. The way the WMA model works, funding does not align with the needs of current students in schools where growth either remains level or has grown significantly. The Minister did share with a meeting with Board Chairs and Superintendent, that changes to the funding model would be released with the upcoming budget announcement.

School Assurance Review are Starting this week. Westboro is this Friday at 9am. Pine Street will be hosting.



Westboro Elementary School Council Principal Report

November 19, 2024

1. Welcome & introductions!
 - a. Welcome to Trustee Boymook!
 - b. Welcome to Judy Anderson – Executive Director Division Supports, attending in accordance with *Elk Island Public Schools Administrative Procedure 409: Staff Growth, Supervision and Evaluation* as a part of my principal evaluation process this year
 - c. Welcome to our School Council Executive: Christan Rasmussen, Hilary Schmidt, and Carrie Bounds! I wanted to thank you for generously volunteering your time and for all your efforts to work collaboratively as we all know the positive impact this has on student success.
 - d. Welcome and thank you to Kate Weberg, Treasurer! (Thank you so much for accepting being our new Treasurer!)
 - e. Welcome and thank you to Kris Chrysler for being our staff representative this month!
2. Kudos!
 - a. A heartfelt thank you to all our Westboro families who were able to connect with staff at the student/parent/teacher conferences on October 23 and 24! I am happy to share that in our grade 1, 2, & 3 classes we had 98% of families attend and in our 4, 5, & 6 classes we had 86% of families attend. 92% of our system program families also attended. In kindergarten, we had to reschedule the date due to staff illness, and we still had 91% attendance. We know the importance of working collaboratively to support our students and we appreciate the opportunity to work together.
 - b. I would also like to say how much we appreciate all the volunteers that came to school during the past month! From Halloween parties, to reading with students, to cutting out laminating, it is so kind of you to share your time assisting students and staff. The sense of community this builds in our school is incredible.

- c. Thank you goes out to the Remembrance Day Committee for organizing a beautiful event honouring our military! Kudos to our student MCs who were amazing, as well as our Westboro choir for doing such a beautiful, heartwarming performance.
3. Restorative Practice Implementation Team Update
- a. As one of the mental health flagship schools this year there is professional learning that the team attends and then brings back to our school. The team consists of Erin Desautel (gr. 5), Andrea Perrotta (PLACE), Tracey Prouse (Assistant Principal), and me. Our counsellor, Dianna Graziano, is an honorary Westboro team member attending on behalf of Uncas Elementary as she is the counsellor there too.
 - b. As we delve further into the teachings of restorative practice in schools the discussions around circles have become a focus for the Westboro team. Circles are a foundational element in restorative practices, promoting community building, open communication, and conflict resolution. The use of circles goes back in the ages and is deeply rooted amongst Indigenous communities. However, since the early 1990's circles have been used as part of restorative practices.
 - c. **What is being practiced in Circles?**
 - i. **Respect:** each voice is given an opportunity to speak, and each person is listened to with focused attentiveness.
 - ii. **Equality:** no one is more important or has more rights or power than anyone else; even if they choose not to speak, no one is invisible.
 - iii. **Empathy and emotional literacy:** we are nurturing and developing our capacity for empathy and our capacity to mirror others.
 - iv. **Problem Solving:** every participant has something to offer, and the presence of every participant is important for the good of the whole.
 - v. **Responsibility:** it is a space for practicing responsibility with both words and actions. The physical structure of a circle encompasses a non-verbal kind of accountability.
 - vi. **Self-regulation and self-awareness:** everyone must wait to speak, listen without responding immediately, and delay their own need to speak. This requires self-discipline.
 - vii. **Shared Leadership:** the circle allows the gathering of differences, holds space for multiple perspectives, and recognizes the existence of multiple truths. Every member is a leader, and every member owns the decisions of the Circle.

This information comes from p. 23-24 Circle Forward Building A Restorative School Community by Carolyn Boyes-Watson & Kay Pranis Living Justice Press 2015

- viii. As it can be a roadblock to try to create a circle of chairs in classrooms, the team has set up a classroom specifically for this purpose and it is already being used regularly.
 - d. Tamia Richardson, our Supports for Students consultant, has also started training our Assistant Principal and Counsellor in 'Playshops'. This is a program whereby students learn about their brains and what happens to their brain when their nervous system becomes dysregulated. Through several sessions, over the course of the year, students and staff will learn about the importance of using small doses of co-regulation multiple times throughout the school day to maintain a calm nervous system, which will positively impact student success academically, socially, and emotionally.
 - e. We are also setting up a sensory room for students who need brief sensory breaks embedded into their school day to support their regulation and then their learning.
4. Assurance Review
- a. As you may know, all school authorities are responsible for providing assurance they are fulfilling their responsibilities with the goal of success for all students. As part of Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) continuous improvement cycle, one way we communicate our results from the past year and our plans for improvement moving forward is through annual assurance reviews. This allows us to review data, reflect upon our past goals and the strategies used to attempt achieve them. Also, we are then able to take this information and create a road map for the upcoming year related to our School Education Plan (SEP) goals. I shared these at our October School Council Meeting, and they are also available on our school website (www.westboroelementary.ca). Sharing this information with stakeholders ensures our transparent accountability and keeps them informed. It also allows opportunity to identify shared areas of concern amongst schools in which stakeholders can then advocate on our behalf. Christan has kindly agreed to attend as our parent representative.

Overall, we feel there was understandably a significant impact on our school community with the moving of the Logos program. We are currently in a rebuilding phase and have an action plan to move forward in a positive direction.

Related to our goal around resiliency, as I have mentioned before, we are participating in the Restorative Practices Implementation Team to build positive mental health and regulation strategies to support students, families, and staff.

An example of this is the Playshops training provided by our Supports for Students (SFS) consultant, that is currently occurring to help students and staff learn about the brain, how it reacts to stress, and ways in which one can help oneself in calming the nervous system. We believe this, coupled with Restorative Circles Practices, will rebuild the sense of safety, kindness, and consideration for each other that we wish all stakeholders feel daily.

The results related to our growth in numeracy goal are generally positive, although we may not have achieved a full year of growth for all students as evidenced by our STAR Math results. The same is true of our literacy growth, but there was growth, nonetheless.

Moving forward, we are planning to continue to use Collaborative Team Meetings and School Support Meetings to collectively create action plans to directly support student success. As a school we have committed to 'Fact Friday' to strengthen basic math skills, 'Love of Literacy' moments daily where students are engaged in activities meant to build their love of literacy, a numeracy/literacy family night is being planned for January, and assemblies with SEP related themes are just a few of ways we are continuing to highlight these goals.

The final part of the assurance review allows schools to share areas where we want to see our school board advocate for positive change. Classroom complexity and funding continue to be pivotal areas in which we hope to see these positive changes through this advocacy.

5. Student Advisory Committee Feedback

- a. This year, to gain student insight and feedback meant to inform decisions that I may need to make, we formed a Student Advisory Committee. This consists of two students from our grade 3 through 6 classrooms and we meet approximately every 6 weeks at lunch recess. The students had much

to say in response to the question I asked. Below is a summary of the feedback they provided.

- b. What is your favorite thing about being a student at WBO?
 - i. All the teachers – they are super kind, and this is the best school ever
 - ii. I love all the stuff the school shares – Mrs. Komant class gave us an extra ball because they weren't using it.
 - iii. How much the teachers care about students.
 - iv. Everyone helpful – teachers and students help each other
 - v. I love how everyone is helpful
 - vi. All the teachers are kind
 - vii. All the opportunities we have or have had in the past
 - viii. The teachers they make it fun and easy for us to learn – they feel more like friends than teachers; it feels like a community
 - ix. Mrs. White our librarian; she always makes me feel relaxed and I find her very supportive to me
 - x. All the activities we get to do, like learning activities

6. Alternative Calendar Survey Results

- a. The survey has now closed and will be determined at the December 19th Board Meeting. Stay tuned!

7. Since our last meeting we had Bus Safety Week & Media Literacy Week October 21 – 25; Veterans' Week November 5-10; Métis Week November 10-16; and of course, this week is Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. Our counsellor, Dianna Graziano, will be going to classes to read the book *Be a Bridge* by Irene Latham and Charles Waters. Students will then make their own paper person. All these 'paper people' will be displayed to create a visual representation demonstrating how we are all connected and how important it is to be kind to each other. Dianna is also providing a variety of activities to teachers to continue the conversation in their classrooms throughout the week.

8. Just prior to fall break out grade 4, 5, and 6 classes participated in a weeklong program called Project 5 whereby former news anchor Carmen Liebel came to teach students about public speaking. The culminating activity was having Mayor Rod Frank come and share his experiences and advice with the students related to public speaking. The feedback from students and staff was overwhelmingly positive and watching their confidence grow was heartwarming!

9. Food Bank Drive

- a. Thank you to all WBO families who donated to our first food bank drive of the year! We brought in 188 lbs. of food for our community members in need! Way to go Westboro!