

**Wes Hosford School Council – Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 11, 2023**  
**Hybrid Meeting - School Library & Google Meet**

**In-person Attendees:** Amy P, Kilby R, Tawnia M, Kerry H, Colleen S, Loretta C, Courtney K, Kya M

**Virtual Attendees:** Chantelle A, Erin R, Trenna Violet S, Larissa H

**WHF Staff:** Susan Freiheit, Ralph Arndt, Nicole Niles (virtual)

**Trustee:** Don Irwin

**1. Call to order & Welcome**

- a. Tawnia called the meeting to order at 6:31pm

**2. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from March 16, 2023**

- a. Kerry motioned to approve minutes from March 16, 2023
- b. Colleen seconded the motion.
- c. All in favour. Minutes adopted.

**3. Trustee's Report - Don Irwin**

- a. We are starting to enjoy some spring weather and hopefully you were not directly affected by the wildfires.
- b. We are continuing to work on the budget which overall seems pretty level compared to other years. There are some increases that are offset by decreases in other areas. We have to reduce our reserves and with the repurposing of funds we do not have any reserve funds to use this year having to keep our reserves to a lower level.
- c. Allocations have been sent out to schools as they begin to work on staffing for next year.
- d. Last week was Bus Driver Appreciation week and we so appreciate the drivers and made a presentation to each driver at the start of their routes.
- e. Transportation fees have been decreased due to extra funding in this area. Details have been sent out to schools and parents.
- f. We continue to get input on the French immersion proposal and this is scheduled to be back at the school board on June 15.
- g. Public consultations will take place on May 31 and June 6 on the new Sherwood Heights/Campbelltown facility. The time is 5:30 and the location is to be announced. Please save the date.
- h. Annual reports are due from the School Council by June 27 to the Alberta School Council Association.

- i. The School Board continues to do School Tours and meet with municipal councils.
- j. Please feel free to send me or phone me if you have questions or comments about any of these matters or any other matters. Phone / Text - 587 986 3900.  
Email - [don.irwin@eips.ca](mailto:don.irwin@eips.ca)

#### **4. School Council Report - Tawnia McQueen**

- a. Transportation fees went down for the 2023-24 school year. Instead of within 2.4km of school for bussing, the distance to qualify has been decreased to 1km.
- b. ASCA Conference - Tawnia attended and networked with school council representatives from across Alberta.
- c. Readathon - key takeaways:
  - i. Funds raised \$3,469
  - ii. include bigger prizes for motivations next year
  - iii. Div 2 needs increased push for participation
  - iv. large variances even between graded classrooms
  - v. revisit holding this over Spring Break
- d. Parent Engagement upcoming events:
  - i. Monday, May 15 - 6:30-8pm - Purpose of School Council (Alberta Council of School Councils)
  - ii. Wednesday, May 17 - 5:30-7:30pm - No Such Thing as a Bad Kid (Strathcona Family and Community Services)
  - iii. June 1 - 7-8:30pm - School Council and Fundraising Societies Partnership Purpose (Alberta Council of School Councils)
- e. Dance - feedback and key takeaways:
  - i. Raised \$5,449.10 (updated Sep22-AP)
  - ii. ~\$112.00 needs to be returned and waiting on a few silent auction items to be picked up.
  - iii. Tawnia followed up with silent auction donors with a thank you letter
  - iv. Some auction items had expiry dates with very short windows, check on this for next year.
  - v. Aim to add a raffle next year with fundraising society.
  - vi. DJ Che the Producer was awesome!
  - vii. Balloons ended up all over field and playground. Maybe skip next year.
  - viii. Need guards at the doors; parents were dropping off kids. Reminder its a "family" dance.
  - ix. 8:30pm things got loud, garbage everywhere...might be time to shut down by 8:30pm.
- f. Bookfair - \$3747.90 raised! All proceeds used to purchase books for the library.

- g. Indigo Program - we received \$3,370 in gift certificates from the Indigo Love of Reading program. This was used to purchase 177 new books for the library.

## 5. Principal's Report - Sue Freiheit

- a. Goals – our current goals have been well received by professional development experts. They remain for the 2023-24 school year:
  - i. **Numeracy** – number sense is reviewed everyday, not just as a “unit” once a year
  - ii. **Literacy** – focus on foundations
  - iii. **Mental Health** – issues among anxiety had increased, working to make the school a safe and caring space.
- b. Classroom configuration – finalized as:
  - Kinder x2
  - Grade 1 x2
  - Grade 2 x1
  - 2/3 split x1
  - Grade 3 x1
  - Grade 4 x2
  - Grade 5 x2
  - Grade 6 x2
  - i. question on class sizes – heavy in div2, with ~ 30/class
  - ii. question: how do you assign who goes in what class? Balance of independent learners; input from teachers; kids who work well together; friendships.
  - iii. question: siblings together in the split? Could be a discussion with families.
  - iv. The school considers requests, but cannot guarantee them.
- c. Staff and parent survey results
  - i. Strong results, some areas like Indigenous history, some parents don't know.
  - ii. Some areas, like quality of education declining over the past 3 years, have to do with curriculum and funding
  - iii. Results will be posted
  - iv. Staff survey also resoundingly positive

## **6. Vice Principal Report - Ralph Arndt**

- a. Thank you for dance volunteers
- b. Assessment time –
  - i. PAT for grade 6 – Language arts, social, math and science coming up
  - ii. Govt assessments for grade 1-4 – lens, cc3,
  - iii. STAR math and literacy for 1-6
  - iv. Govt numeracy screening for learner funding
- c. Sport day jun16 – will need volunteers
- d. Thank you volunteers video from grade 6's (we watched a video that the grade 6's wrote, directed, filmed and edited thanking all the caregiver volunteers)

## **7. Teacher's Report – Nicole Niles**

- a. thank you for the pot luck meals at parent-teachers
- b. grade 2/3 split is exciting. Splits in schools are very common and a lot of positives come from them. It enhances non-cognitive learning – teamwork, perseverance, leadership, confidence, transition. Kids sometimes feel very special to be in the 2/3 split.
- c. There was great feedback and excitement around the dance.

## **8. Current Business**

- a. Kerry motioned to dispose of school council docs prior to 2015-16 school year as we no longer need to keep them.
  - i. Loretta second.
  - ii. COntirmation that they will be shredded.
  - iii. All in favour. Motion approved.
- b. School Council Bylaws - the existing bylaws and proposed update was circulated ahead of the meeting. The new bylaws were crafted from ASCA recommendations and verified against previous. Highlighted changes include updating mission statement, removing reference to treasurer since we have separate fundraising society, updated scope of chair and vice chair.
  - i. Kerry motioned to approve and adopt the new proposed School Council Bylaws as presented.
  - ii. Kilby seconded the motion.
  - iii. All in favour. Motion approved.
- c. School Council Executive Elections for 2023-24 school year

- i. Secretary - Tawnia nominates Amy Power for re-election. Amy accepts the nomination. No other nominations. All in favour, Amy is elected by acclamation.
- ii. Vice Chair
  - 1. Kya Martin is stepping down from her role as Vice Chair.
  - 2. Kya nominates Kilby Ritchie. Kilby accepts the nomination. No other nominations. All in favour, Kilby is elected by acclamation.
- iii. Chair – Kilby nominates Tawnia McQueen for re-election. Tawnia accepts. No other nominations. All in favour, Tawnia is elected by acclamation.

## **9. New Business**

- a. Fundraising budget requests: we are asking Fundraising Society for a small budget for teacher staff gifts for anyone leaving the school; a small budget for volunteer appreciation cake; and a budget for Meet the Teacher night to set up a table about School Council. The Fundraising Society will vote on these items in the meeting later this evening.
- b. Thanks to Kya for her years of service in the Vice-Chair role!

## **10. Meeting Adjournment**

- a. Tawnia adjourned the meeting at 7:44pm.
- b. Next meeting Sep21, 2023