

## Wes Hosford Parent Council Meeting

March 18, 2021

Google Meet

Attending: Amy F, Colleen S, Loretta C, Kerry Lyn H, Laura J, Caitlin H, Kim O, Kristi F, Lorelee R, Kya M  
Staff: Sue F, Patti B, Nicole H, Nicole N, Shannon P, Kristi F  
Trustee: Don I.

1. Welcome and Call to Order – Caitlin called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
2. Adoption of minutes from last meeting.
  - a. Motion to accept minutes by Kerry H.
  - b. Motion seconded by Laura J.
  - c. Motion carried, minutes from January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 approved.
3. Trustee's Report – Don Irwin
  - a. 2021/2022 Budget – the budget for the province and education was released on February 25 and the total amount for education is the same as last budget which is good. We still have to see what the envelopes are within the budget but it looks like a good news budget. We have a number of extra meetings in March to work out all the budget details.
  - b. The capital budget for the province (i.e. new or renovated schools) was released last week and despite all our planning and lobbying efforts we were not yet successful on receiving funding for a Sherwood Heights replacement school. Only 14 schools were funded in all the Province.
  - c. Technology Fee – this was discussed further at this month's Committee of School Councils (COSC) meeting but the final decision will be made based on how much technology funding we receive within the new budget.
  - d. 2021/2022 School Year – we are working to make next year as normal as possible. One decision that we have made already is to go back to a semester system in high school and we will be reviewing all other areas between now and the Fall to attempt to get the schools back to as close to normal as possible.
  - e. Next Public School Board Meeting is Thursday March 18 - 10am. We invite you to listen in on the EIPS.ca website for all meetings (the agenda is posted Mondays at noon).
  - f. Child Care Benefit – The Working Parent Benefit was announced on February 24<sup>th</sup> by the Government of Alberta. The working parents benefit provides a payment of \$561 per child to parents who used licensed childcare between April and December 2020. Deadline to apply is March 31. More information about eligibility and application process is available at <https://www.alberta.ca/working-parents-benefits.aspx>

- g. Working for you to continue to provide the best education experience for your children. Elk Island Public students consistently rank highest on standardized testing and provincial exams in all of Alberta and rank high in International rankings.
  - h. Questions / Input – please feel free to phone or text (587 986 3900) or email ([don.irwin@eips.ca](mailto:don.irwin@eips.ca)).
  - i. Q&A
    - i. Question from Kerry – what happens when all the planning and lobbying for the school by the board and the province shuts down funding?  
Don: School board hasn't been successful YET. Still working. Parents can help by writing to MLAs, minister of education, premier, helping with the lobbying efforts.
4. Principal's Report – Patti B
- a. Spring has come early. Puddles accumulate, wet clothes may be coming home, send extra clothes. Hopefully dried up after Spring Break.
  - b. Sue Freiheit will be new Principal for September! Unusual to have announcement so early but great benefit to school community as they have time to transition. Congratulations Sue!
  - c. Welcome Ms. Niles, Ms. Hansen, and Ms. Pasma – our grade 2 teachers joining tonight. All teachers have done a great job getting digital report cards prepped for Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. School celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a wear green day. Staff had Covid friendly staff lunch. Was great to be able to carry out the baked potato lunch tradition by getting individual lunches delivered.
  - e. Supply Lists are being updated – EIPS is adding white board markers and post-it notes. Teachers can take away from EIPS list, but not add to it. Write-on Stationary fundraiser still an option for this year, will be discussed at Fundraising Meeting following this meeting.
  - f. School Fees recommendation made in January with no increases for next year due to unknowns for next year. A survey was sent out for concerns, no major concerns reported. Fees will be confirmed with Superintendent tomorrow.
  - g. Budget – As Don reported, it looks like a good news budget. Budget “envelopes” have been announced so far so we're not sure what the per student allocation will look like. Schools will not get budgets until April 23<sup>rd</sup>, with feedback returned to EIPS on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Then the school can decide on staffing, number of class configurations we can afford, and those details. Enrollment has gone down a bit for this coming year. Re-registration in February helps with planning. Enrollment has declined over the last few years, as families in the area age.
  - h. Q&A
    - i. Question from Kerry – do we know who our new Vice Principal will be?  
Patti – we don't know yet. Could be much later in June before that position is filled.
    - ii. Comment from Caitlin – kudos to new Grade 2 teacher, Nicole Hansen for stepping in part-way through the year and doing such a great job in a

challenging time!

5. Vice Principal's Report – Susan F
  - a. Looking forward to being principal next year and stepping into Patti's big shoes to fill. Wes Hosford is a great school, with great staff and community.
  - b. Thank you to parents for following protocols.
    - i. Pick up time waiting in cars, wearing masks, keeping things going smoothly.
    - ii. Only one class had to isolate for a couple of weeks, so protocols are working and we've been lucky to have minimum disruption.
  - c. Kindness Week and pink shirt day at the end of February a great success.
  - d. Assurance Framework is the new name for Accountability Pillars. Using all the same questions plus a few new ones, including questions on Covid and how families approached Covid. Access codes for online survey will be mailed to parents. It will be sent to all parents, all teachers, and students in grade 4. Deadline April 23<sup>rd</sup>. More than one child will get more than one access code. Paper copies can be requested. Responses not saved until you hit SUBMIT. All responses are anonymous.
6. 2021 Parent Council Update and Elections – Caitlin
  - a. Vice Chair position open for May as Kim Oliver is leaving at the end of the year. Any interest or recommendations, please contact Caitlin.
7. Other Business
  - a. Parent Council Events – no events scheduled due to Covid-19 restrictions.
8. General Questions & Discussion
  - a. Teacher Lunches - Kim O disappointed to not be able to do the teachers lunches this week. Caitlin and Laura will do the teachers lunches next year.
  - b. Next meeting – May 27, 2021.
9. Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm by Caitlin.