

## Wes Hosford Parent Council Meeting

September 16, 2021

Microsoft Teams

Attending: Tanya T, Caitlin H, Colleen S, Kerry Lyn H, Loralee R, Amy P, Kristi F, Loretta C

Staff: Sue F, Ralph A, Jennifer P

Trustee: Don I.

1. Welcome and Call to Order – Caitlin called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.
2. Adoption of minutes from last meeting.
  - a. Motion to adopt minutes by Colleen.
  - b. Motion seconded by Sue.
  - c. Motion carried, minutes from May 27, 2021 adopted.
3. Trustee's Report – Don Irwin
  - a. The board has been busy in August with school start up discussions and then bringing revisions later in August and early September as the fourth wave of Covid has affected schools and the community. We felt it wise to institute a full masking program until the number of cases turns around and this decision will be reviewed on a monthly basis.
  - b. Back to somewhat normal – field trips and sports program are proceeding as normal and other school activities still functioning. Last night's announcements from Government of Alberta only mean evening rentals at schools will have to be cancelled. Notices coming out directly to schools.
  - c. Municipal elections for mayor, council and school board trustees will take place on October 18, 2021. There are 3 board or trustee positions to be elected in Sherwood Park.
  - d. September 30<sup>th</sup> calendar change to include the non-school day for National Truth and Reconciliation Day.
  - e. \$200,000 added to home school option budget for this year.
  - f. The Board of Trustees has been working through the new Curriculum through the spring and summer. Will be sending feedback to the Minister of Education.

Question from Loralee – Are learning hours removed for the new September 30<sup>th</sup> holiday? Don responded that the 2021-22 school calendar had enough learning hours to meet minimum hours with Sep30 removed.

Question from Colleen – how is accountability handled on whether we strive for minimums or more? Don to follow up with additional info.

4. Principal's Report – Sue F.
  - a. Great start to the year, hosted Meet the Teacher early so it didn't have to be cancelled.

- b. Last year, lots of budget and budget cuts talks, Wes Hosford had a small surplus that was carried forward (only 1% surplus allowed to be carried forward but it makes a difference!)
- c. Student population down to 393 this year from 412 last year
- d. Final budget pending the reduction in student numbers but we are still in good shape.
- e. New restrictions – EIPS took a firm stance on restrictions from the beginning of the year which now means no real changes

Question from Colleen on hallway protocols and standard operating procedures. Sue responded that we follow the EIPS Covid procedures.

- f. Picture retake day is actually on October 13th.
- g. Focus on gratitude this year. Last year surrounded by negativity and the heaviness of Covid so our focus is to make the year more positive. Actions surrounding the be grateful theme include forms, bulletin boards, wordles and others.
- h. Key calendar dates:
  - i. Federal election September 20<sup>th</sup> – Wes Hosford is a polling station. People will be entering during the day to vote. Protocols in place include designated bathrooms, security on site, and mandatory masks.
  - ii. Terry Fox Run – September 29<sup>th</sup> will run the same was as last year. Classes out one at a time. Donations can be made on the website instead of sending cash to the school.
  - iii. Orange Shirt Day on Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>
  - iv. School closure on Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>
  - v. Thanksgiving, October 11<sup>th</sup> – no school
  - vi. Photo retakes on October 13<sup>th</sup>
  - vii. Civic election on October 18<sup>th</sup> is a PD day, no school.
  - viii. Bus evacuations drills – October 25<sup>th</sup>
  - ix. Remembrance Day – working on plan for virtual celebration. More details to come.
  - x. Fall break – November 8-12<sup>th</sup>

Question from Colleen on Halloween – Sue responded Halloween will run the same as last year – costumes on October 29<sup>th</sup> and personal snacks can be consumed in each classroom.

- 5. Vice Principal's Report – Ralph A.
  - a. Ralph shared his newcomer's perspective at Wes Hosford – thanks for warm welcome from staff, students and community!
  - b. STAR testing is the Reading Benchmark administered to students in Grade 1-6 three times per year.
  - c. MIPI – Math Benchmark program administered to students in Grade 2-6 once per year.
  - d. NSA – Numeracy Screening Assessment administered to Grades 2 and 3 to measure learning gaps due to the pandemic. Students were tested last week. Potential funding allocation still to be determined.

- e. Fit Kids – Mr. Arndt is enjoying teaching Fit Kids. This year includes a collection of Indigenous traditional games including kickball, slingball and hacky sack.
- f. Read in week is October 4-8<sup>th</sup>. The theme is “to each their own story”. Classrooms will be set up to connect guest readers virtually. Reading week committee is busy planning.
- g. Grade 6 classes will start the DARE program next month.

## 6. Fundraising

- a. Ongoing fundraisers that will continue this year include:
  - i. Skip the Depot - at home bottle collection using Wes Hosford fundraising code.
  - ii. Save-on Foods receipt collection
- b. Several new fundraisers were discussed with the fundraising committee and put forth as motions for approval by the Principal.
  - i. Blaze Pizza fundraisers were successful last year. Caitlin made a motion to host 4 restaurant-based fundraisers (Blaze Pizza or other) during the 2021-2022 school year. Kerry seconded. Sue approved.
  - ii. Read-a-thon – Colleen motioned to host a Read-a-Thon fundraiser this fall. Loretta seconded. Sue approved.
  - iii. Hot Lunch – Caitlin motioned to host one hot lunch per month starting in October. Tanya seconded. Sue approved with the note that we have to work on limiting the number of volunteers in the school. Committee will meet to put together a plan and calendar and review with Sue to confirm details and dates.
  - iv. 50/50 Raffle – Kerry has looked into online raffle options and found Raffle Box to be the best option. Lorelee motioned to hold a 50/50 online raffle this fall. Loretta seconded the motion. Sue approved.
  - v. Laura in contact with Qualico on a subdivision clean up – to earn \$5000. Caitlin motioned to do the subdivision cleanup. Lorelee seconded. Sue approved.

## 7. Other Business

Suggestion from Kerry – Saffron program used to do in-class programs on staying safe online. They are not doing in person anymore but there are videos online now. Would like to see these still shown in school.

## 8. Closing

- a. Next meeting November 18<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.