

Wes Hosford School Council – Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 13, 2025

Hybrid Meeting - School Library & Google Meet

Attendees: Courtney Kohlruss, Kilby Ritchie, Tawnia McQueen, Loretta Campbell, Chantelle Auclair, Rebecca Ross, Amy Power

Virtual Attendees: Chelby Tait, Danielle Sawatzky

EIPS Staff: Susan Freiheit, Ralph Arndt, Don Irwin, Jennifer Pederson

1. Call to order & Welcome

- a. Tawnia called the meeting to order at 6:33
- b. Land Acknowledgement by video of students F. Ritchie and B. McQueen
- c. Introductions
- d. Meeting Procedures

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. Any additions to the Agenda? No
- b. Kilby motioned to approve Agenda.
 - i. Courtney seconded the motion.
 - ii. All in favour. Yes
 1. Agenda approved.

3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2025

- a. Loretta motioned to approve minutes from January 16
 - i. Kilby seconded the motion.
 - ii. All in favour. Yes
 1. Minutes approved.

4. For Information: the following was included with the Agenda.

- a. [COSC Meeting Notes- March 2025:](#)
 - i. - Trustee Elections & Questions
 - ii. - ATA Concerns with Provincial Budget, Curriculum &
 - iii. - Assessments
 - iv. - Alberta Education Assurance Survey (Gr. 4) Mar 21/25
 - v. - School Fee Development
 - vi. - Transportation Fee Changes
 - vii. - Caregiver Education Series

5. Trustee's Report - Don Irwin

- a. Courtney asks about changing the bussing fees. Don lets us know that it was a provincial government decision, not EIPS.
- b. Each year the Board attends the symposium on rural education in early March with this year's theme being ensuring equity among of opportunity among all rural and urban students and schools.
- c. Classified staff we're giving a 3% salary adjustment in March.
- d. We are trying three new programs for the fall to being S.T.E.M (science, technology engineering and mathematics) full-time kindergarten at West Hosford School and Mundare and a full-time kindergarten French immersion in Fort Saskatchewan.
- e. We are conducting our annual survey of parents to get your valuable input into current and future programs in the district.
- f. Transportation Grant is changing as the government is increasing the minimum distance to 1.6 km before funding any transportation up from the current 1.0. this will affect rates for the new for the next year.
- g. The Alberta school council association (ASCA) is conducting their annual conference with registrations being paid for by your School District and all sessions online. Half day April 26 with AGM.
- h. Check out the March caregiver series which offers many courses helpful to parents. **CAREGIVER EDUCATION SERIES: March**
- i. Recovery Alberta is hosting a series of virtual caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. Session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency and more. [Learn more](#)
- j. The new Junior high curriculum will be piloted in some schools this fall.
- k. The Forest Grove school project is progressing well and you can see the progress on a monthly basis on the board on the east website.

6. Principal's Report - Susan Freiheit

- a. STEM Kindergarten pilot is a go ahead. Not sure what composition is going to be yet for part time kindergarten. Sue didn't have any input on the program coming to WHF. A Central office employee is coming to the kindergarten open house to tour. EIPS is paying for furniture and supplies for that new class.
- b. Parent Teacher Interviews went well. Teachers are happy with turn out.
- c. School fees discussion. Sue is presenting the fees discussed to the board.

- d. Kilby asks if we can add more skating field trips. Sue will bring to the teachers.
 - i. Chelby inquires about skating lessons since we are in close proximity to GARC. Sue mentions there might be some limiting factors to consider.

7. Vice Principal's Report - Ralph Arndt

- a. Ralph showed the attendees our new Lego sets that were supported by the Fundraising Committee (2 purchased). Ralph is doing "Lunch and Learns" with staff for Lego sets.
- b. Connection to the Land Club going well for self identified students.

8. Teacher's Update - Jennifer Pederson

- a. Re: Skating - the teachers book through country for free ice time
- b. Clubs
 - i. Running club just finished and completed the Running Room Games. Well done students!
 - ii. Coding Club Mr Arndt on Fridays
 - iii. Ms. Manchur inturamurals for divion 2
 - iv. Ms. Daly did volleyball and possibly a future badminton club
 - v. Ms. Oviat doing choir
 - vi. Running club will resume in the Spring
- c. Thank you for the Field Trip bussing money!
- d. Book fair was well received, excellent to see new books in library
- e. Thank you for attending Parent Teacher Interviews.
- f. Thank you Sunshine Committee for potluck lunch.
- g. Thank you for the kindness week suckers and stickers.

9. School Council Old Business

- a. ASCE Grant. Is there any preference? Perhaps math.
- b. Teacher appreciation lunch went very well. Thank you Chelby!
- c. Book fair brought in \$5,2223.86.
- d. Executive Elections will take place at AGM in May. Needs to be posted 14 days in advance minimum.

10. School Council New Business

- a. Sunshine committee Update:
 - i. Candy grams for kindness week was well received by students.

- ii. Looking at a back to school Meet The Teacher night on August 27th, 2025 6-7pm. Maybe food trucks etc.
 - iii. Volunteer appreciation date TBA
 - iv. April 26 COSC meeting . Does anyone want to attend? Reach out to Tawnia McQueen if so.
- b. April 24th 6:00-7:00 pm Kindergarten info night at WHF. Kilby and Tawnia to attend.

11. Adjournment

- a. Tawnia adjourned the meeting at 7:28pm
- b. Next meeting on May 15th at 6:30pm (AGM)