

# Wye School Council

## Thursday, September 13, 2018 @ 6:30 pm. Regular Meeting

Submitted by: Michelle Beck, Chair Wye Council 2018

### Attendees:

Families represented: Michelle Beck (Chair), Sarah Witholt (Vice Chair), Sue Shwaga, Christi & Matthew Ross, Marlene Crippin, Sarah Lazzer, Kim Derewianka, Elizabeth Friesen, Lori Tootosis-Friesen, Rachel Wittmeier, Amanda Heinrich

By phone: Chelsea Pearman, Sherri Naslund Dawson

School Trustee: Jim Seutter

School Administration: Bill Schlacht, Kyle Samaratunga

Teacher: Theresa Wells-Taylor

1.0 Call to Order at 6:30 pm by Michelle Beck, Chair

2.0 Agenda was approved as written with the addition of the Running Club.

### Call for WSC Secretary by Mr Schlacht

- No parent interested in the Secretary position
- Mr Schlacht asked for a parent to take minutes for this meeting only, no parents interested
- Chair of WSC taking minutes

3.0 Approval of AGM minutes to be done at next AGM.

4.0 Confirmed 3 WSC Subcommittees

- a. Playground Committee: Co-Chair Cindy & Rob Craig. Parent Advisors: Sue Shwaga and Craig Stirling
- b. Student Wellness Committee. Co-Chairs Sherri Naslund Dawson & Cindy Smith. Parent Advisors: Chelsea Pearman and Amanda Heinrich
- c. Staff Appreciation: Chair Wendy Brown

### 5.0 Principals report, presented by Bill Schlacht, Principal

5.1 September Update:

- #1 Focus is Literacy in the school. Admin and teachers are reading one book a day to every class, made readers/writers workshop aprons to identify the readers easily. PD Day prior to school start to Indigo where each teacher picked 3 books for the class and library. Lots of energy around this important initiative.
- Enrollment: 391 Students registered, down 29 from last year. Drop primarily due to the large grade 6 class outgoing (73) and small ECS class incoming (42).
- Classes: 18 classes included 2 ECS. Grade 6 classes focus on social and science where teachers specialize in the topic, enables expert teachers in topic areas as well as student transition to Jr High. Same is occurring in grade 1 with Ms Dayman who is teaching social for a few grade 1 classes, as a trial.
- Staff: Lots of new staff, Meet The Teacher night on Tuesday the 18th to introduce the staff and administration. Usually well attended by parents and students.
- Early sharing of student class information for new year: In the past Wye school has shared new teacher information a week or so before school starts and then full class list on the first day of school. Considering the emotional drain on students around the first day of school, administration will be considering changing the process so that students can learn their new teachers earlier than September, and possibly their classmates. Students should feel confident, fresh and excited on the first day of school, not anxious due to lack of information. Mr

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Schlacht clarified that this will not mean changes to classrooms will occur if parents want their child to be with other friends, this is the primary reason parents ask for a change. There is lots of work that goes into setting classrooms by the teachers who consider things like who learns best together, teacher/parent dynamics, students in the classroom and learning supports, etc. There is an in-depth process, so even one change means the door is open for others, and that disrupts the classroom set up. Mr Schlacht also connected with multiple schools to confirm their process around sharing information and there is no one consistent way, it's all school specific.

**Action:** Mr Schlacht to consult with his teachers and review the possibility of a change to the process to ensure student mental health and wellness is considered first and foremost on the first day of school.

- Academic Results last year are excellent. Increased in every single category. 100% in the SE level for all 4 core subjects in grade 6. Far above EIPS average and also Provincial results.
- Results review for all schools. Commenced last year and occurs in November, dates not yet determined.
- Library. Ms Wells Taylor provided an update. The library should be the heart of the school. New Teacher/Librarian Ms. Wells Taylor. The key is to connect literacy to the library. The learning commons (library) has received an overhaul, including the books within the school. Many books were old and outdated messages. Now each classroom has its own collection (teachers not expected to spend their own money to buy books), there are new guided reading books, new book series and studies. Classroom collections are provided for a month/6 weeks, equal access for all kids and then the class can take out a new set. Thank you to Marlene and Christi for volunteering their time to help sort out the learning commons and book room. For reading success, one key is to get students hooked on a series, and they will love to read the story itself. The learning commons is also a safe place for other things like learning about augmented reality, investigating the space maker tools, Sometimes it takes students time to learn what their 'reading identity' is, spending time in the learning commons can get students comfortable doing other things besides reading. First week of October is Reading week.

#### 5.2 New School Progression

- Ground breaking ceremony during the last week of August was well represented, and well documented in the media. Dr Boyer and the ukulele students played a number of songs at the event. A success!

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- Playground Committee Co-Chaired by Cindy Craig and Rob Craig, has had its first meeting to set the stage, second meeting planned on October 1st. Its confirmed that we have the \$250,000 grant from the province, and also confirmed that the small playground at the current site will remain (swings have already been dismantled). The skating arena will be set up across the street. So far there has been a fair amount of room dedicated to play areas for the children. Its expected that a playground that will fit with the school design will cost more than \$250,000, fundraising is key, as is planning a multi phased build. Aiming to dedicate the fundraising from the casino in January to phase 1 of the playground.

#### 5.3 Wye School Education Plan (SEP)

- Literacy and Numeracy are overarching goals. There has been increased instruction with staff on literacy teaching practices, consultants have provided time to teach new skills to teachers. Key to focus on literacy resources.
- Main Goals: 1 Year increase in growth in literacy. Active citizenship and leadership. Mastery in grade basic math facts. Intent is to tweak the strategies but keep the goals the same. Discussion about measurement for the goals and whether they are enough. Current measurement of success include STAR program for literacy, MIPI for numeracy, Citizen & Leadership measured through leader in me school, Me to We activities. Mr Schlacht will plan to clarify the measurements in the SEP, along with the academic results.
- SEP goals and priorities will remain on the WSC agenda monthly
- Update to current SEP is due by October 15th, its on the website. Parents invited to review current SEP and provide feedback to Mr Schlacht by the deadline.

**Action:** Michelle to post the SEP on FB site and invite parents to comment directly to Mr Schlacht.

#### 6.0 Parent Survey 2017/18 Results and Discussion of key items

- Strongly Agree and Agree together should be more than 80% to be a decent score.
- Excellent results in some key areas like - school cares for the students, numeracy support, students encouraged to do their best, literacy support.
- Room to improve in:
  - Communication in the school, between school and home, etc.
  - 20% of respondents 'don't know' the teaching material for our indigenous classes

**Action:** WSC to post the link for the free online class for parents around Indigenous classes.

**Action:** WSC to provide a 'blanket exercise' or similar for parents to experience the culture.

- Leadership in the school was rated low. Discussion on the hot topics for last year, as well as the definition of 'leadership'. Parents answers were varied from administration to teachers to leadership opportunities for students. Discussed need for clarity around some questions including this one.
- Adequate Resources? Also scored low. Parents provided feedback to Mr Schlacht that in some cases there are too few resources like teachers for large classrooms and in other cases there are too many resources provided (like

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technology), and that the word 'resources' should be clarified - is it staff, books, tools ? No opportunity for parents to write comments within the survey itself.

**Action:** Mr Schlacht to connect with Central and determine how parents can provide feedback for the questions themselves.

- Discussed some factors that brought down some of the scores like the bell schedule adjustments originally planned, two large grade 4 classes. Group diverted to a discussion about the bell schedule - we have the longest day in the district as we are tied to transportation/bus schedule. There will be a change in the bell schedule in the new school - the start and end times will be dictated by the County primarily around the traffic flow in the community, as well as bus schedules. The school & parents will have control over the schedule within the day - recess, lunch, etc. Mr Schlacht intends to communicate with parents as information arises and intends to consult with the parent group.

**Action:** Mr Schlacht would like to see one question from the parent survey brought to the WSC table monthly for parent discussion. This will help discussion and focus on key topics.

- Mr Schlacht spoke to the need to spend time and energy focusing on communications this year within the school and between school and parents. Parent suggested a Communication Subcommittee of the council may be appropriate.

**Action:** WSC to research and bring to the table next meeting the option of a Communications Committee or Communications Officer.

**Action:** Parent asked Mr Schlacht to bring a summary to the table next meeting around the 'profile' of students selected for the multigrade classes.

#### **7.0 School Board Update, Jim Seutter**

- Board highlights attached
- We have 17,150 students across EIPS this year, similar to last year
- New School: Contractor not yet chosen for the new school, all bids came in higher than allocated funding. Working through next phase now - either allocations dollars need to go up or contractors will need to come down.
- Boundaries. No discussion at the school board yet, lots of factors will determine whether the school boundaries will change. An election is coming up as well. Current Wye students base is 391 and the new school is built for 664.
- Digging will start soon, and still intended to finish on December 2019
- Name of the new school will be discussed at the Board level, with a plan to engage stakeholders in the process (community, parents, staff)

**Action:** Lori Tootosis-Friesen asked for a copy of the contractors who provided bids. Mr Seutter to to send.

#### **8.0 WSC Subcommittee Updates - to start next month.**

#### **9.0 Call for WSC Secretary by Mr Schlacht - as noted above**

#### **10.0 Additional agenda items**

- Running Club, Amanda Heinrich. Require parent volunteers to step in as coaches, else the clubs will be closed at end of calendar year. All teacher coaches gone from last year. Currently have Drew from Grant McEwan teaching the kids. First races coming soon.

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**Action:** post on social media Wye FB site and see if any parents can step up. And, add a hand out in the kids agenda.

- FAWS. Next meeting will be Tuesday 18th at 1:30 to 2:30

10.0 Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next meeting of WSC. TBD