

## **Wye School Council Meeting**

Wye School Learnings Commons

Oct. 22, 2018

**Attendance:** Michelle Beck, Chair; Sarah Witholt, Vice Chair; Marlene Crippin, Sue Shwaga, Lori Tootosis-Friesen, Elizabeth Friesen, Sarah Lazzer, Michelle Purves, Jim Seutter, Trustee; Bill Schlacht, Principal; Kyle Samaratunga, Assistant Principal; Erin Clarke, Teacher.

**Virtual Attendance:** Sherri Naslund Dawson, Chelsea Pearman.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.
2. Michelle reviewed the agenda and it was accepted as presented.
3. **Approval of minutes** of September meeting as circulated moved by Sue, seconded by Sarah. **CARRIED**
  - 3.1 There weren't any outstanding action items.
4. Trustee Report – Trustee Seutter (copy of his full report attached)
  - The Board has undergone a review of the French Immersion program. A survey was conducted which found that 89 percent of parents were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of the program. A decision was made stay with the status quo and continue to offer the program as it is currently: Ecole Campbelltown, Sherwood Heights and Ardrossan Jr. Sr. High.
  - There were two Grand openings for new schools; Ardrossan Elementary and Davidson Creek Elementary.
  - Wye Replacement School
    - There is currently a naming consultation survey underway. Please go to The EIPS website and follow the links to take the survey until Nov. 9, 2018.
    - Clark Builders have been named the contractors to build the new school. The bid process took longer than anticipated due to all the bids coming in over the allowed amount (\$16 M). Needed Ministerial approval to go forward.
  - Trustee Seutter attended the Fundraising Fultonvale Dinner and Auction. Trustee Seutter mentioned that it maybe beneficial for Wye's Playground Committee to contact Becky Galbraith (Fultonvale) and/or Jackie Surgenor (SH. Hts.) to get information from them as both were instrumental in their school's playground builds.

## 5. Committee Reports

### 5.1 Playground Committee

No one from the committee was in attendance so Mr. Schlacht provided the update.

The committee Co-Chair Cindy Craig met with Strathcona County, EIPS Facilities, and Bill Schlacht to obtain some general information.

\$ 250,000 has been approved by AB Infrastructure for the playground build. When bids go out we will need all of our money in place.

It is important for us to build for the future and increased capacity.

If you build in different phases it will affect the lifespan of the playground.

Currently the expected life span is 25 years from the newest build. If we add more equipment in five years then it would be 25 yrs, however the older part would then be expected to last a total of 30 years.

It will be an RFP build.

EIPS will have a Facilities Project Manager in place.

The County has made no commitment on the skating rink.

### 5.2 Wellness Committee

Sherri Naslund Dawson was virtually attending and for ease of communication she asked Michelle Beck to give her report.

The committee held their first meeting of the year to plan and discuss fundraising.

They wish to continue with special events, recess buckets and the Christmas concert.

The Noon hour clubs are a go for this year. More information will be forth coming.

They plan on having a Wellness Week but the dates have not been determined.

The committee will have a student mental health focus.

Staff is to have a Wellbeing Committee and it was suggested that they two committees should have a joint meeting and work in collaboration.

### 5.3 Staff Appreciation

Michelle has planned to give WE Day bracelets and cards to teachers on World Teacher Day.

### 5.4 FAWS

The Fundraising Association of Wye School approved a budget for the upcoming year.

There was a \$3000 shortfall for Birch Bay Ranch, which is being made up by ?? Mr. Schlacht asked parents for fees to cover this???

Fundraising activities planned include Purdy's, Sobey's giftcards, Oil Kings, The Carnival is scheduled for May 31, 2019.

6. Open Discussion: Parent Survey Question: How satisfied are you with the resources available to support your child's learning?
- There were concerns with the poor wording of the question as it could mean a lot of different things. It could relate to the physical building and lack of water availability at all times. Or it could be related to how students are learning such as an over reliance on technology vs. one to one, person to person.
  - There were general concerns from the group as to class sizes which were deemed to be too large. There were government recommendations to have a student teacher ratio of 17 to 1 in elementary classes. However, the way that is calculated is different than what it seems. General consensus was smaller the classes the better.
  - Mr. Schlacht discussed his rationale in deciding how to staff the school appropriately based on budget constraints, school community's beliefs on split classes and educational soundness.
    - 96 % of the school budget can go towards staffing so can only hire so many teachers.
    - Small classes are better in lower grades (div. 1) due to better foundational learning.
    - Split classes can be beneficial.
  - We currently have true split classes in grades 3 / 4 and grades 5 / 6. A lot of thought was gone into deciding which students would be able to achieve in a split class.
  - One of the Grade 1 classes is being taught with split teaching. Each teacher does a couple of subjects which allows for less prep planning per subject. Research shows that split teaching can have a benefit in learning.
  - Parents seem to like the way the splits have been achieved and implemented.
  - Mr. Schlacht is trying to maximize the quality of resources not just the quantity. An example is looking at the classroom reading books; are they current?, do students want to read them?, are they the best examples of literacy material available?
  - Technology – the school has new iPads, Chromebooks. We need to start thinking that a Chromebook is like a dictionary for each student.
  - Trustee Seutter said that funding needs to get out to the school level to be most effective. Also our class size numbers are average within the District.

## 7. Principal's Report

### 7.1 October Update

- Busy at start up. Parent/Teacher interviews are coming up.
- Ms. DesRosier is our new part time (0.4 FTE) counsellor whom we share with James Mowat. She will be at the school all day Mondays and Wednesdays.

- Math Night on Nov. 6 this is way for parents to help their children with number sense by learning some skills and games. The new curriculum is hands on learning by doing.

#### 7.2 New School progression

- Paperwork is all done. The new possession date is Feb. 2020.

#### 7.3 School Education Plan

- The SEP is a fluid working document. The whole plan can be found on our school website.
- Mr. Schlacht complimented our teachers for the amazing PAT results.

**Future Action Item:** Mr. Schlacht to present the PAT results at the next council meeting.

#### 7.4 New K – 4 Curriculum

- A copy of the curriculum, timeline, resources etc. can be found at [newlearnalberta.ca](http://newlearnalberta.ca)  
So far there hasn't been any additional funding for implementation and PD for existing staff. It is estimated \$ 153 Million has been spent on the new curriculum.
- Rollout is Sept. 2020
- Is more hands on and doing, not just worksheets anymore.
- There won't be any textbooks for new curriculum.

8. Next Meeting Dec. 6, 2018 at 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Learning Commons.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

9. Alberta School Councils Association school engagement task force survey discussion with any members who wanted to stay and discuss. The group met from 8:00 to 8:30 pm. Michelle will forward the results to ASCA.