

Wye School Council

Thursday, March 7, 2019 6:30 pm. Regular Meeting

Submitted by: Michelle Beck, Chair Wye Council 2018/19

Attendees:

Families represented: Michelle Beck (Chair), Sarah Witholt (Vice Chair), Marlene Crippin, Lori Tootoosis-Friesen,

School Trustee: Jim Seutter

School Administration: Bill Schlacht, Kyle Samaratunga

Staff: Theresa Wells-Taylor (by phone), Suzanne Cleet

1.0 Call to Order at 6:30 pm by Michelle Beck, Chair;
Review of agenda

2.0 Previous minutes approved with one change requested by Lori Tootoosis-Friesen noting that the name of the new school was also not discussed as Mr. Seutter, School Trustee was not in attendance.

3.0 Parent Updates

3.1 School Trustee Update. Report on website. Key points are the new name for Heritage Hills school to be released on March 14th. Transportation coverage continues for the German Program at Mills Haven. New calendars for the 2020/21 school year is on EIPS website and 21/22 approved in principle, and in both years school will start early September and xmas break will start on wednesday. Andrew school situation is under thorough review with a variety of drop in session for parents and students. New training requirements for bus drivers (MELT) will implement in September and will cost EIPS \$77,000 to implement .

3.2 Principals Update. Key points noted: PT interviews coming up for term 2. We have had 40 indoor recesses so far due to bad weather. New curriculum focuses on the 'why' and completely concept based. Admin is still learning the roll out plan and whether Wye school will be a pilot roll out in the 19/20 year. Will discuss more next WSC meeting. AB Ed has hired many new people to help implement this new curriculum. The key issues will be how our teachers will be trained. Open house at Campbelltown was well attended, Mr Schlacht attended as well to discuss in person any questions parents had about the new dual track school in Heritage Hills. Wye school also had an open house with EIPS central staff and had about 20 people in attendance with active questions from parents and teachers. Social media presentation with Jon Thomas next week, parents welcomed from across EIPS. Teachers have had a virtual tour of the new school which has created lots of excitement. February enrollment numbers are in, and we are down again - 346 kids. We have been steadily dropping over the last 3 years - 441 to 420 to 389 this year to 346 enrolled for next year. The numbers will change over the summer we hope for more ECS students as today we only have 31 registered. (31 ECS, 38 grade 1, 57 grade 2, 51 grade 3, 54 grade 4, 57 grade 5, 58 grade 6)

3.3 WSC Chair Update. Chair shared some key political question that EIPS central provided parents as the election approached, these questions may help with the discussion about education. School Photo survey from parents discussed and reviewed.

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School Photography Committee next actions discussed - decision by committee and school admin to continue with Studios photography for one more year. Studios asked for a 3 year contract and WSC has declined that. Contract will be fully revisited as the new school opens, by school Admin. Parents are generally happy with the quality, poses, sibling pictures, value and improvements will need to occur in timeliness and communication around delivery. Studios finds providing the plastic library cards for all kids cost prohibitive and have asked for a cost increase, Mr Schlacht has agreed to cover the cost. There will be no cost increases for parents for the following year. Grade 6 farewell and KG graduation pictures will be offered in the Spring. There is a Heritage Hills traffic safety review occurring in preparation for the new school. The Community is invited to an open house on March 22nd, and a survey to follow.

4.0 Parking at Wye School. After a review by EIPS/Strathcona County of our visitor parking it is noted that we require 2 disabled parking spots for every 11-25 visitor spots. As this parking lot has 18 spots, 2 disabled spots are required.

5.0 Committee Update

5.1. Playground Committee. Meeting in February with Kim Street the grants writer. We need to apply for grants now, ahead of any political changes to follow. Applied for a grant with Investing in Canadian Infrastructure (ICIP). We have \$250,000 from the Province in funding, as do all new schools. We are looking for upward of \$500/750,000 for multiple playgrounds given the layout of the school and ease of access for our students from the building to the play areas. We hope for grant funding. Parent requested that we connect with families who are coming over from Campbelltown when our playground specific fundraisers occur next year.

5.2 Wellness/Wellbeing Committee. Merger of parent Wellness and school Wellbeing committee. Met a few times together. Noon Hour Clubs are well underway and organized by Michelle Beck, supported by 25 volunteers. Early feedback is very positive. Keeping the clubs to 4 weeks and 2 sessions. Facility space is available and the clubs are reasonable sizes. Students have been stepping into clubs and asking to join, and volunteers have been very welcoming. Also older students are stepping in to clubs and asking if they can help, which has been impressive! Ms. Wells Taylor is the school liaison and has been extremely helpful getting things organized. We have over 250 students in noon hour clubs.

5.3 Staff Appreciation Committee. Read a letter from Wendy Brown and Annette Macpherson our parents who have organized the staff appreciation this year. The indepth week was welcomed and appreciated by staff, culminating in a full staff lunch supported by parents doing noon hour supervision, provided free by Nitzas.

5.4 FAWS - not available

6.0 School Field Trip Fees 2019/2020. Busing has gone up in price for next year, so this means higher fees for many grades. In some grades, the enrollment is down, and as bussing is

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a fixed fee, the price per student has gone up as well. Prices in activities has also caused fee increases. Field trip costs to parents are expected to be cost coverage only. Basketball and volleyball are expected to be just grade 5 and 6. Running club may be covered by the casino sponsor. Ukulele will require coverage for the 3 trips - bus, substitute teacher for Dr Boyer when she is away. Grade 6 leadership activity will be fully included in the school fees as cost recovery, there is no expectation that fundraising from parents will cover this particular activity. The key premise for field trips should be. Educational and Fun. Final school Fee review will occur in the April meeting.

7.0 ASCA Proposed parent advocacy resolutions. Wye school vote based on parent discussion. Key points noted below. Pre-voting to be done on line by Chair by March 22nd, and full voting will occur during the ASCA AGM on April 28th.

- Support for proposal for more funding for physical and facility environments to support daily physical Activity policy 19-01
- Support for preservation of locally elected school boards 19-02
- General support from parents around the required increase in funding to support mental health of our students, and full recognition that this is a cross ministerial responsibility between Alberta Health and Minister of Education 19-03, 19-10, 19-19
- Support for implementing EA quality standards 19-04
- Support for capping of maximum ride times (Thorhild)19-08
- Support for recommendation to change the funding model for rural schools 19-09
- No support for requiring permission for GSA activities 19-12
- General support for 19-13 Student Education Advocate
- Support for penalties for traffic violations around school buses but full acknowledgement that this is already in place and needs to be followed up by the right levels, beyond schools. 19-20
- Equality of CEU for special needs students is not something EIPS has a concern with as special needs students within EIPS are well funded. This seems to be a Peace Wapiti district issue. No support. 19-21
- All other policy recommendations were lightly discussed.

8.0 Adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Next meeting of WSC. Thursday, April 4th, Thursday May 2, and AGM on Thursday, June 13th