

# Wye School Council

## Monday, May 6, 2019 6:30 pm. Regular Meeting

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

### Attendees:

Families represented: Michelle Beck (Chair), Sarah Witholt (Vice Chair), Sue Shwaga, Larissa Fadish (Virtual), Cindy Craig, Sarah Lazzer, Marlene Crippin, Sherri Naslund Dawson (Virtual)

School Trustee: Jim Seutter

School Staff: Theresa Wells-Taylor, Diane Reinich

School Administration: Bill Schlacht, Kyle Samaratunga

- 1.0 Call to Order at 6:30 pm by Michelle Beck, Chair;  
Review of agenda
- 2.0 Previous minutes - approved as is.
- 3.0 Parent Updates
  - 3.1 School Trustee Update.
    - Reviewed high-level summary of EIPS parent survey results, final report can be found on EIPS website.
    - Discussed draft cell phone policy for elementary/junior and senior high schools, across the district. This is for any technology that connects to wifi, not just cell phones. Likely access at recess. Currently at Wye the Parent handbook states technology can be used 'at parents discretion'. At Wye, there are no overuse issues or discipline issues relating to tech. Across the district parents, staff and students were surveyed, students in older grades expressed value in having tech in class. Parent comments: generally follow along the line of "no need for tech in schools". Bring your own device (BYOD) schools are in conflict with the draft cell phone usage policy at district level. School Board meeting on May 23rd will review the final draft and choose to keep working on it or endorse it. Research supports the damage tech is doing for kids.
    - Andrew: Reviewing High School future only. Jr High and Elementary will stay open. It's possible the high school kids will move to Lamont or Vegreville, the bus ride would be very long.
    - Campbelltown: School Board will likely pass the request to grandfather any grade 6 students going into Campbelltown for the 20/21 school year, but not siblings. This is the major comment from parents coming out of the survey.
    - Teachers contracts have been finalized for further benefit support, maternity leave benefits, substitute salary adjustments. Contracts are not finalized for teacher salaries - they are still frozen.
  - 3.2 Principals Update. Key points noted:
    - Budget: The budget has not been provided by AB Education. It's usually given to schools by now. New government shared that the budget will be provided in the Fall. EIPS will be giving schools a 'fake' budget by the end of May to get started.

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CIF funding will likely be removed, this was funding that was taken from high schools and given to other schools, and now will be taken away all together, in essence reducing the overall school budget. Confirmed that there will be no extension of probationary staff. Continuous contracts will be placed first and likely not known until late summer.

- Registration numbers as they stand today: ECS 33/Grade 1 42/Grade 2 53/Grade 3 52/Grade 4 54/Grade 5 55/Grade 6 56. Total 345.
- First Day of school info: While the school was looking at different ways to communicate with parents earlier about classes and teachers, given the late budget information it's not possible to share in June. The school will look at sharing classes/teachers a few days before the school opens in September.
- Heritage Hills Elementary School: the outdoor classroom is framed. Brick is starting on the outside. Parents requested clarification on the online updates that refer to 'division 1, 2 3'.. It refers to parts of the school not the grade level of the students.
- Before and After school care. Mr Schlacht will be meeting with the Boys and Girls club in September to get the ball rolling again.
- Wye School parent survey results: the focus on literacy and numeracy is showing with very positive results from parents. The communication needs to improve and Wye School Weekly News should help with that, already positive feedback. The full survey will be posted on the website.

#### 3.3 WSC Chair Update.

- Noon Hour Club: volunteer feedback was positive. Support for shorter timeframes and two sessions. Would like to see March timing continue but April timing likely can change. Positive feedback on communication process with volunteers and students. Thank you to Ms. Wells Taylor for being the school lead on NHC.
- WSC AGM will be next month. Expect to elect executive positions (Chair, Vice and Secretary) plus Past Chair continues in exec role if wanted. Expect to elect sub committees where school needs them.
- Funding for student/parent special events. This is not something that will be finalized at this point, although there is one special event books to capture early bird costs. There is a process to follow to endorse use of parent fundraising dollars. If there is a Student Wellness committee, the Chair will decide next steps along with Admin.

#### 5.0 Committee Updates

##### 5.1. Playground Committee.

- Strathcona County has definitively said 'no' to any other flooring than sand.
- Will be applying for future grants in the coming months

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- EIPS communications will manage the public mailouts and Wye/Campbelltown communications, supported by the Playground Committee
- Donation for a tax receipt are possible if they go through EIPS (Wye School FAWS does not provide tax receipts)
- There will be an information table at the Carnival for the playground

8.0 Adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Next meeting will be June 10th followed by AGM