

West Meadow School Council Minutes

October 28, 2019

Business Items:

- Approval of Agenda – Nikki Van Rootselaar, Seconded by Rachel Smith
- Approval of Minutes from last minute – Nikki Van Rootselaar, Seconded by Brandy McLean

Reports:

- Quinn Sampson – Family School Liaison Counsellor
 - Quinn's role is to help support students regulate social & emotional challenges. This is done through 1:1 sessions around feelings and coping skills that they can learn and apply. Pro-active work is also done in all of the classrooms with the children. There have been groups started with the children, Eg. Yoga, social groups, friendship groups.
 - If parents have any ideas for groups, they would like to see to help children with their social & emotional wellbeing please let Quinn know.
 - Referral forms are available to parents if they would like their child(ren) to work with Quinn, as parents must give consent for their child(ren) to talk to Quinn in private 1:1 meetings.
- Mental Health Presentation – Project 11 – Presented by Logan Kennedy & Kendra Selk
 - Project 11 is a Mental Wellness tool for the classrooms to help reduce and remove the stigma of mental illness.
 - Project 11 is a 15-week wellness program that will be introduced into the classrooms; this is not a mandatory program for the teachers to implement. If you want to know if you child's classroom will be participating, please contact their teacher to find out.
 - The program was originally created for grades 5-8, but in the past year a program for grade K-4 has been introduced.
 - Some of the goals of this program is to build a sense of community within the classrooms, increase student's ability to connect with one another, increase self-awareness of social, emotional and physical well-being. It will create a stage for compassion and empathy and create time for self-reflection.
 - Each grade level has 15 sessions with topics focused on various areas that are appropriate to that grade. K-4: Self-awareness, Friendships and Character Development. Grade 5: Friendships, Communication and Self-Reflection. Grade 6: Stress, Communication and Self-Reflection.

For more information regarding Project 11 you can go to the website www.projecteleven.ca

- The school is working hard to support the staff with their mental health as well, it is important for them to be at their best. We don't all need to be at our best individually but collectively. For World Teacher's Day there was a Wellness Cart that was taken around to the teacher's classrooms where they could choose items off it for themselves. This not only has a positive effect on the staff, but the children as well.
- A major school goal this year is the Wellness and Health of all staff and student. Division office has been a huge support of this.

Principal's Report

- There is currently approximately 75% of families using the new West Meadow App.

- We are working on strengthening the music program at the school, a new Choir has started this year.
- Chris Koch will be coming to speak to the children at the school at the end of November.
- The school is looking for a parent representative for the Two Schools, One Book Program.
- It Doesn't Grow on Trees – Post-Secondary Funding session, November 6th at the WCCHS 5pm-6:30pm.

Trustee Report

- Career Practitioner Report – The Career Practitioners for the schools in the Livingstone Range School Division are as follows: Lettie Croskery – West Meadow, Willow Creek Composite, Stavely AB Daley and JT Foster. Christy Bazell – Granum, WA Day, FP Walsh, Canyon and Matthew Halton. Jennifer Ziebert – Livingstone Horace Allen, Isabelle Sellon, and Crowsnest Consolidated.
- Enrollment Update – The division is up 67.5 students from the projected enrollment count. The actual enrollment count is 3671; this includes all Schools, Outreach Schools, Colony Schools, Home School Students, Teacher Directed Program Students and International Students.
- Transportation – 2018-2019 Accomplishments: 9 new buses, 2 oldest buses decommissioned. Radio repeater signal was boosted to allow for better communication for buses in the Crowsnest Pass and Lundbreck/Pincher Creek Areas. Transportation department has a part-time assistant, and there is a division owned repair shop with a certified and experienced mechanic. Future Initiatives 2019/2020 school year: Implementation of new software for fleet maintenance program. Train and execute the Trip Find software, complete Pincher Creek Bus Shop setup and Investigate possible route restructuring to reduce ride times.

Discussion Items

- Regional School Council – Ceri Penner, our Parent Council Chairperson, attended the meeting in Fort Macleod. She learned about operational procedures, which may lead to some amendments in the operating procedures of our Parent Council. The Parent Council is the bridge between parents and home for the school, so if you have anything that you want to discuss or ideas that you want to bring up please let Ceri or Mr. Latta know.
- Future Teacher Appreciation – Parent Council helps with dinner for the teachers during the 3-way conferences in March. The question was brought up if we should be doing something as well during Teacher Appreciation Week in May? It would be nice if there were some extras for the teachers during that week. People will always do more when they feel valued and cared for. Decision to make a committee for Teacher Appreciation week.
- 3 Way Conference Feedback – Mr. Latta wanted feedback on how everyone thought the 3-way conferences went.
Feedback – Goals are set at this first conference, then the next one in March the conference is student led; there is no follow up to the goals that are set. These goals are a big focus for the children so how can we follow up with these better.
More time for parent and teacher interactions; it would be nice if there was more time for parents to have in depth conversations with the teacher.
Booking online was easier for families to book their time slots and much easier for Karrie!

- Fundraising Society – Our school is set up with a Parent Council and a separate Fundraising Society; this helps to be able to apply for grants, casinos etc. The fundraising society currently has no board. The school relies on the fundraising society to help cover the cost of activities and needs. The existing board will help transition the new board, but they will not be continuing into the next school year. If you're interested in joining the Fundraising Board, please let Mr. Latta know.
- Playground Supervision – There are 6 supervisors outside during recesses and 1 inside. There's never going to be a way to put a stop to everything; 300 children in our school, which means that stuff happens, and staff do their best. Staff have decided this year to let the children learn their own boundaries; there is a bit more leniency to let the kids learn and make their own choices. They are letting kids be kids and dealing with things when they happen. There has been less office referrals from the teachers to date.
All parents are encouraged to contact Mr. Latta if they have any questions or concerns.

Next Meeting: Thursday November 28th, 2019. Fundraising Board 6:00pm and Parent Council 7:00pm

Adjourned: 8:45pm