

## West Meadow School Council Minutes

Thursday October 22, 2020 8:00pm

In Attendance: Principal Sean Latta, Ceri Penner, Rachel Smith, Kim Gugala, Gwynne Orsten, Chery Starling, Marlee Sears, Shannon Zemlak, Leni Patterson, Sara Schuler, Jen Martin, Brad Toone, Karen Baker, Amber Peatman, Heather Stonehouse, Kendra Pittman, Sherri Steeves, Brandy McLean, Biz Sabey.

Approval of Agenda: Rachel Smith seconded by Marlee Sears

Approval of Minutes from last meeting: Gwynne Orsten, seconded by Rachel Smith

Business arising from minutes:

- Staff Appreciation – Rachel planned for Chinese food from Moon House Restaurant and cookies from Cookie'd Claresholm for the Staff meal for 3-way conferences. Staff felt very valued and thanked everyone. Thank you, Rachel, to setting all of this up! ; they are also able to lobby the Government. Parent Council can advise and consult with the principal, division and province. There are bigger pictures as to what Parent Council can do, it is not just BBQ's. It is important to do big these as well as the little things to support the school.

New Business:

- School Council Purpose – Rachel Smith attended a webinar regarding what the roles are for parent council and what is off the table for us to participate in. Parent Council is to advise the principal of what they hear and what they would like to see happen at the school
- Mission Statement – Parent Council should/could be reviewing this each year. Ceri wants everyone to think about our current mission statement and brainstorm what we could look at changing. What would we like to see in it? Key words? Do we want to change out mission statement? Please take some time to brainstorm some ideas; it would be nice to have something that is less wordy and more concise.
- World Ag Days Committee Update – February 2021  
A few people have contacted Marlee with ideas.  
Leni Patterson – Looking at getting workbooks from the Government, as well as having tractors come to the school.  
Lettie Croskery – Speak about career opportunities around Agriculture.

Marlee is looking for information outside of just farming; there are lots of areas to cover. Marlee is also looking at creating videos to show at the school in the classrooms if there are still Covid restrictions around having visitors coming into the school.

- Book Study - Kids These Days by Dr. Jody Carrington

Prologue & Introduction

What jumped out with you in the video clips?

- She emphasizes the point wired to do hard things, wired for connections; it's really important. We're all walking each other home.
- Coming from a non-educator perspective – attention seeking to connection seeking
- Connections at school – they spend more time at school, sports etc. they spend less time connecting with parents at home.
- Biologically wired for connection. Most connected we've ever been, yet most disconnected we've ever been.
- How do we make sure we're staying connected with our kids?

Next Meeting, we will discuss Chapter 1.

Trustee Report – Brad Toone

- Presentation at their last meeting
- Transportation – 47 routes, 1600 kids.  
Covid – Physical distancing challenges, but everyone has stepped up.  
No deficit this year – hiring divisional mechanics has helped to bring costs down.
- Board supported motion to take \$500 from each trustee's PD fund and carry it over to next years board. This will help the next board with their training.

Principal's Report – Mr. Latta

- Looking for direction/decision on use of Seesaw portfolio system; Grades K-3 are currently using this.  
Originated from council in September last year. Really like Fresh grade for Grade 1's, but they weren't ready at that time to roll it out in more grades.  
The school will get parents feedback in about May regarding Seesaw – Do you feel like you get the information required on the app?  
Report cards for these grades will be based around the Seesaw app. There will be paper report card section around behaviour. But it is too hard to do both, it is too much work for the teachers.
- 3-Way Conferences – total of 182 conferences; up from lats year when people would come in to do the conferences.

Teacher's liked the process.

There will likely be a choice of the 3 different options going forward – opening it up to all options for families.

- Athletics/After school activities – WMES is pushing everything back to the new year, no school sports will be starting before then.
- Regional Council Meeting – Was on doing council meetings virtually. We have been doing all of the things that they taught about.
- Principal's challenge – 64 children have signed up. A whole new set of books had to be added to keep up with the children's reading interest.  
This has created a culture of the children talking about books at school.
- Going to have a principal's learning to read challenge for grades K-3. They will be able to read to themselves, with a parent, or with a sibling; prizes for every 25 nights they read.
- Playground – Rubber matting, the company is going to come and look at it to fix the holes, but it has to wait until spring when it is warmer.
- Career Fair – There will be a virtual career fair for Grades 4-6 on Tuesday November 24, 2020. The careers will be Health Services focused.
- There will be a pumpkin carving contest for Halloween, as well children will be able to dress up in Friday October 30<sup>th</sup>. There will not be big parties happening this year.

Question:

- Can we please look at an option for pick up at the end of the day for Grade 1's, as when there is a snow storm, they are the only families that have to wait outside to pick up their children.
- Snow Removal- on the east side of the street by the football field. Look at this again as to who is responsible for having this cleared.
- Send out a reminder to parents regarding parking at the school; parents are not to be crossing the yellow lines when parking.

Next meeting: Thursday November 26, 2020 via Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned 9:09pm